

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

### PRESENT:

Cllrs H Lewis (Chair) R Arckless, M Horn, K Morrison and C Weir with E Brown, Town Clerk  
1 members of the public was present.

### Actions

**48: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs J Dargue, I Hinson and J Watson – Holidays.  
The apologies were accepted.

**49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

### 50. BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE

**West Ward vacancy** – The Clerk informed that no requests had been received for a by-election and the Council could now proceed with co-option. Members agreed that due to the holiday period, a co-option would be held at the September meeting of the Council with the end of August being the deadline for expressions of interest.

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**51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)** None.

### 52. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

**52.1:** To consider for approval and adoption the minutes of the meeting held 9th June 2016 – the numbering on the minutes required amending as it was out of sync. Subject to this amendment, the Minutes were accepted for accuracy and approved.

### 53. CLERK'S REPORT:

**That the Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions where necessary.**

**53.1: Notes of Parking and Traffic Flow meeting held 15th June (for information)** – The notes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Members queried whether Alex Thompson from NCC would be attending to further discuss the Cycle Friendly Amble initiative. The Clerk would query this

EB✓

**53.2: Amble Signage Audit** – to be discussed at the July Parking and Traffic Flow meeting. The Clerk would query with Neil Snowdon whether he was gathering information from Richard Mackenzie on what NCC would fund and request details be brought to the meeting to be held on 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**53.3: Repairs to Clock and War Memorial update** – Quotations were still being obtained. Members agreed that an update for public info. should be included in the next news page.

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**53.4: Information boards** were on order; proofs of the artwork were expected by end of July.

**53.5: Garden and Community Awards in summary** – The awards ceremony went well and was well attended. Members agreed to a £50 donation towards Alnwick Gardens 'Roots and Shoots' programme in gratitude for the provision of a judge for the day. The 'Super Gardeners' would be contacted and awarded £50 worth of garden centre vouchers each.

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The introduction of the Community Awards was well received with Amble Coastal Rowing Club and Amble Detachment of the Army Cadets winning the two categories.

**53.6: Update on status of the Gut** – Dave Green from FCERM had a meeting with Northumberland Estates regarding their responsibility to the Gut. He was still actively pursuing this.

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Mr Walters NE65 ONF – arrived late to speak in the public participation section. Members agreed unanimously to allow him to address the Council.

Mr Walters raised concerns regarding the state of the roads. He stated that Acklington Road to Central Avenue had a patch repair done in February and was now atrocious. There were potholes at the junction of Central Avenue.

He raised concerns regarding the dip in the A1068 between Radcliffe and Amble and further concerns regarding the junction of Kirkwell Cottages to Hauxley Lane (in Hauxley).

Cllr Arckless stated that £24m is required to improve all of the roads in the county but this is on a priority basis. He was currently speaking to Officers regarding these concerns as Mr Walters had made representations to him as County Councillor prior to the meeting.

Further to this Mr Walters raised concerns regarding the lack of street cleaning in the town and queried what happened to the Seasonal employee.

Cllr Lewis explained that there had been reductions in service provision in recent years and more reductions were expected in the next few years. The Clerk explained that due to delays the interviews for a seasonal work only took place last week but a start date was expected soon.

Cllr Weir praised the NCC workers for their hard work with increasingly limited resources.

Members all shared the concerns on the reductions in service.

**53.7: Audio recording equipment** – The Clerk should continue pursuing quotations for audio recording equipment but was requested to establish whether the Council was required by law to have it and whether recording could be used for own internal records only rather than being published in the public domain.

EB

**53.8: Good Young citizen award** – Cllrs Lewis and Morrison were to attend at 13.00 on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Amble Town Council had supplied the trophies as in previous years.

HL/KM

**53.9: Village Green pre-consultation** The Clerk had submitted the response.

**53.10: Street lighting additional items** - Costings had been sent to Members of the Council as agreed. Members would consider any additions at the next meeting.

**53.11: Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – Major Modification consultation – end date 27th July.** As the modification were not relevant to Amble Members agreed that no response was required.

**53.12: Remembrance Day meeting – notes for information** – The Notes had been circulated.

### **54. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

To receive the communications and report of the Chairman pertaining to Council Business:

The Chair had circulated a written report prior to the meeting.

### **55 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**55.1:** County Councillor Arckless submitted a written report which was circulated.

Cllr. Lewis requested if possible that Cllr Arckless to obtain more detailed information regarding costings for Dovecote Centre so the community could better consider its future.

RA

**55.2:** County Councillor Watson was not in attendance.

### **56. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS:**

To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (Cllr Reports)

**56.1: Cllr Morrison – Community Alcohol Partnership** – The report was circulated

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prior to the meeting. It was available on request.

**56.2: Cllr Morrison – Amble Youth Project** - The report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was available on request.

**56.3: Cllr Horn – Northumberland Association of Local Councils** – The Clerk would circulate the report. It is available on request. It was noted that the Government were looking at the potential to cap parish precepts.

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**56.4: Cllrs Horn/Weir – Amble (Home for Northumberland) estate inspections.** The report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was available on request.

56.5: Cllr Lewis had attended a Cllr training session which was a valuable update. She urged all Cllrs to attend future sessions.

ALL

### 57. FINANCIAL REPORT:

**57.1:** The accounts for payment (vouchers 54 – 119) were agreed and receipts (vouchers 1-32) were noted for information.

**57.2: The bank reconciliation to date.** Was presented for information.

**57.3: Accounts year end 2015/16** The Clerk was still working on the accounts and it was agreed to hold a meeting on either 20<sup>th</sup> July or 28<sup>th</sup> July to approve the accounts. It was agreed that once completed, the Clerk would meet with the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss the situation and possible future ways to ease it and report back to full Council.

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**57.4: Grant requests – Amble Youth Project** – Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 Members agreed to support Amble Youth Project with a donation of £400 towards summer holiday activities.

### 58. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

**58.1: To consider for approval and adoption the minutes of the meeting held 30th June 2016** – The minutes were accepted and agreed.

**58.2:** The next meeting of the Amenities Management Committee would be held on 28th July 2016 at 6pm preceded by a site visit of the West Allotments commencing at 5pm

### 59: PLANNING COMMITTEE

**59.1:** For information; planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month June 2016. The report was not available but would be circulated out of meeting.

VS

### 60: AGENDA ITEMS:

**60.1: To consider content for news page** – As agreed previously when dates did not coincide, the Content for the news page would be circulated out of meeting. Cllr Morrison would contribute to Councillors Corner.

### 61. COMMUNICATIONS:

**61.1: Homes for Northumberland - Walled area at St Cuthbert's Avenue** – A proposed scheme had been identified for possible regeneration works to a stone walled area within the grassed area at St Cuthbert's Avenue Amble, before commencement of any works the Town Council were requested to provide any information relating to its historical background. The Members were not aware of any historical significance as the wall was installed in 1986 and had been the subject of much contention since. Cllr Weir informed that a letter drop had been carried out amongst the nearby residents and no work would commence until funding was available; however it was noted that several residents would prefer it to remain but be improved.

**61.2: No Ball Games signage request** – Concerns had been raised by a resident regarding ball games on Gibson Street although the specifics were not known. The Clerk had responded stating that the Town Council were not responsible for 'no ball games' signage. Most Council's have discontinued the use of these signs as they are

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not enforceable. The playing of ball games on open spaces is not against the law it is however against the law to play ball games on adopted highways and this can include the verge and road islands.

Landowners have the right to dictate what activities take place on their property although the County Council also no longer install "No Ball Games" signs on open spaces, as these are not enforceable. Ball games deliberately and persistently played recklessly and leading to property damage can be classed as anti-social behaviour, something Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police takes very seriously.

**61.3: Grass cutting at Robson's Way** – The Clerk had been dealing with a residents query relating to grass cutting in Robson's Way. Whilst the open spaces and amenity land was still maintained by Taylor Wimpey's own private contractors, the verges were the responsibility of Northumberland County Council. The Clerk had requested NCC to commence the cutting of the verge in question.

**61.4: NALC – NCC Budget Review** – The Clerk had circulated information and a copy of a presentation recently given to the Town and Parish Liaison Working Group by a senior member of NCC's Finance Dept.

In stark terms, the County Council is projecting the need to make cumulative revenue savings of £20m in each of Financial Years 2019-2019 and 2019-2020.

These projections were discussed at the NALC County Committee on 9 July 2016. It is clear given the scale of budget reductions being faced by the County Council that all service areas will be under considerable pressure to identify savings, and from past experience those services which are not provided under statutory duties and hence their provision is at the discretion of the local authority are most likely to be the subject of further reductions. These service areas are likely to include green/environmental services (such as grass cutting, amenity land maintenance), public toilet provision, supported bus services and community group support.

Members considered it prudent to give early consideration on how they would wish to respond to service reductions in these areas. Members would consider their expectation in terms of level of service and discuss this at a future Council meeting.

Senior County Council members and officers wish to work with individual Parish, Town and Community Councils to explore whether there is an option for joint or shared working.

The NALC County Committee is anxious to give Member Councils as much time as possible to discuss the issues, and decide what is best for their area. By starting now, Councils should have around 18 months to investigate and implement options.

One question which will be posed is whether any funds will be transferred by NCC if Councils take on this work. Unfortunately this will be most unlikely as the service reductions at NCC are driven by the need to make revenue savings.

**61.5: Parish/Town Council Consultation - North Area Review of Supported Bus Services** - The 471/472 Amble to Alnwick is currently operated by Travelsure and provides an hourly service between Amble and Alnwick via Shilbottle. The service is funded by Northumberland County Council and is well used. However the extension of the Arriva commercial service X20 between Amble and Alnwick has reduced the need for the Council to continue to support the 472 service, continuing to support the 472 could undermine the commercial viability of the X20.

Therefore to ensure that NCC doesn't undermine operator's commercial interests whilst maintaining good transport links for communities not served by the X20 it is proposed that service 472 would be recommissioned to operate two hourly between Barrasdale in Alnwick and Amble. This would preserve all existing links (albeit at a lower frequency than now); furthermore the service would provide an enhanced Amble town service to provide new connections with Coquet Enterprise Park and the Percy Drive area of Amble. Buses do not currently serve the Enterprise Park or the bottom of Percy Drive, but would be popular additions to the service.

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Members requested more information regarding the proposed new route and the proposed times, if possible for the Amenities Committee meeting. It was noted that the Town Council held ring fenced funding from Persimmons for a new bus shelter at both sides of the A1068 (Persimmons/Coquet Enterprise Park). Discussions on bus shelters would be deferred to the Amenities Management Committee.

Amenities

**61.6: NCC – Local Transport Plan Programme 2017-18.** Members noted that the Councils three requests from last year (signage audit, long stay car park and resurfacing of Bisley Road) were not detailed. The Clerk would query this and this year's plan would be discussed further at the August meeting of the Council.

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**61.7: Moir Foods update –** Cllr Weir informed that NCC were actively monitoring the odour from the site and working closely with the business in the process. Complainants had been requested to fill in log sheets to help identify when the odour was particularly foul. Members noted this for information.

### **62. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

The Council noted the following information items.

62.1: NALC Enews 7 June 2016

62.2: NALC Enews 14 June 2016

62.3: NALC Enews 21 June 2016

62.4: NALC Enews 28 June 2016

62.5: NALC Enews 5 July 2016

62.6: AREA COMMITTEE SOUTH - 13 JULY 2016

62.7: NCC - Parish Training presentation: S106 agreements and planning enforcement

62.8: Amble Housing Officer – Change of details

62.9: Coastal Views June Issue

62.10: IMB Annual report

62.11: Learning points from the filming of Vera in Craster

All information items were noted and accepted.

### **63. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

63:1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at. 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

It was resolved under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

### **PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE**

#### **64: PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.**

**CoSH – Cllr Horn** had attended his first CoSH meeting and reported on information he felt pertinent to Amble. His report was circulated. He noted that the group would now meet bi-monthly.

Whilst Northumbria Police were not present he queried why the speed camera van is still being located at the South entrance when the new Persimmons Roundabout acts as a natural deterrent to speeding. The Clerk would investigate. It was suggested that a preferable site would be Percy Drive due to the complaints about speeding there.

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### **65: AGENDA ITEMS**

**65.1: CCTV information –** The Clerk had organised a meeting with a business to discuss CCTV needs. Other businesses would also be contacted and meeting set up to

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gather more information.

**65.2: Seasonal worker update** – The Interviews took place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> but the Clerk was still to be forwarded further information.

**65.3: Letter regarding land mater** – The letter was read for information.

**65.4: Meeting with solicitor re: tenancy agreements/ land issues – update** The Clerk had forwarded copies of all relevant info to the solicitor and was awaiting a meeting date to discuss further.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

### Acronyms:

NCC – Northumberland County Council

FCERM – Flood & Coastal Erosion Management

NALC – Northumberland Association of Local Councils

IMB – Independent Monitoring Board

CoSH – Community Safety Hubs

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