

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2014

At the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14th August 2014 in the Town Council Meeting Room, The Quayside, Harbour Road, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Weir(Chair) R Arckless, H Lewis, K Morrison, P Robinson, and J Watson. The Clerk Miss Brown.

J Willoughby – Northumberland Gazette

6 Members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Hinson- Illness, Cllr Dargue- Holiday. The apologies were agreed.

Actions

59. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Weir declared an interest in payment TC0516, his mileage expenses whilst conducting Council business.

60. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Mr Durham thanked the Members of the Council for their attendance at his open invite public meeting regarding sporting and recreational facilities in the Town where the Welfare and the area known as the Paddlers were discussed. Approx. 70 members of the public had attended also. Since the meeting Mr Durham had spoken to County Cllr Dickinson who had within 24 hours of their communication arranged for the Welfare to be cut by Northumberland County Council. Mr Durham questioned why Cllr Dickinson, who represents another area, had been able to resolve this issue in such a short period of time yet the Town Councillors and County Councillors of the area had not.

Cllr Arckless confirmed that NCC would be undertaking the work within the next 24 hours as a good will gesture on the instruction of Cllr Dickinson, who is the business chairman of NCC and could have the authority to make such decisions. Cllr Watson however was still unsure if this was the case.

Cllr Lewis informed that Cllr Dickinson had been involved in discussions prior to this in his role as the head of the Governors of JCSC and that the Town Council had previously arranged for JCSC to cut the Welfare prior to Easter. She also informed that the history behind the management of the Welfare, and the loose Partnership which had consisted of Amble Development Trust, Amble Town Council, Coquet High School and North Country Leisure.

Mrs Grant enquired when the demolition of the redundant building of the Tesco site would be taking place and whether there was a plan for a car park behind North Street.

Cllr Lewis explained that as far as the Council was aware the demolition was still planned for August and there were no plans for a car park at this particular area. It was explained that a car Park was being investigated on the Braid on hard surface land next to the Marina Fence, as was used during the Puffin Festival, and that vehicle entry to this car park would be from the Marina junction off the A1068 only.

Mr Griffiths ask whether the Town Council would consider cutting the grass at the Welfare following the NCC cut for the period of time until the Persimmons funds were released.

The Town Council brought forward item 67.2 – earmarked funds.

The Members present were mindful to fund out of the recreation budget a cut of the whole Welfare on up to 3 occasions, once every 3-4 weeks dependent upon conditions which would take the cutting up to the winter season. Mr Griffiths confirmed that the area would still be unsuitable for team matches due to its uneven condition and that his group were already committed to JCSC This would be added to the September agenda for formal approval. Cllr Arckless commented that he welcomed the community involvement planned for the area.

61. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

61.1: The minutes of the meeting held 10th July 2014 were agreed as a true record.

61.2: The minutes of the Special meeting held 31st July were agreed as a true record.

62. CLERK'S REPORT:

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions were necessary.

62.1: Meeting with NCC regarding the play area known as 'The Paddlers' - A meeting was due to be held on 9th September; the consultants would be in attendance. Cllrs Lewis, Morrison, Robinson and Weir were delegated to attend.

62.2: Meeting with NCC regarding Traffic Update & Park and Ride Scheme – An informal working

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group meeting had been held (notes available from the Clerk), Cllr Weir and Lewis were delegated to attend a formal meeting on 6th August. Minutes would be circulated once received. Cllr Weir informed that the Traffic Regulation Order should be in place within the next two weeks, the signage for the Park & Ride, which would carry on to 10th September, was currently inadequate. Discussions were being held with private land owners to discuss temporary and long term parking solutions.

62.3: Garden Awards night – had been well attended.

62.4: WW1 Centenary Commemorative Service – feedback had been circulated amongst Members. Letters of thanks had been distributed.

Cllr Lewis conveyed thanks to James Calvert Spence College for the wonderful banners that they had made for the Service. She had requested two smaller banners for Acklington and Hauxley. The intention being to retain the Amble banners in the Council meeting room, to hand over the Acklington and Hauxley banners to their village halls, the Warkworth banner to the Warkworth Memorial Hall for the British Legion room. The above was agreed and it was RESOLVED to arrange a photo shoot with JCSC when the school term restarted to give them the recognition that was so well deserved.

Clerk

62.5: NALC draft document circulated by Cllr Weir – The draft document on Openness and Accountability would be carried over to the September meeting.

62.6: Local Transport Plan Programme 2015-16 – the priorities identified had been submitted to NCC.

62.7: No Members of the Council had wished to attend the 'new councillor/refresher training' course. It was suggested that all Councillors could benefit from attending at least every 2 years due to changes in legislation.

62.8: Letter from Amble Marina re Street Cleansing – This had been forwarded to NCC.

62.9: Local Government Pension Scheme – Information had been circulated to Members – It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seek clarification from Government over whether there was a legal requirement for Councils to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. If not, other options would be looked at and a report prepared for discussion.

Clerk

62.10: Weed killing in Memorial Gardens – This had been done

62.11: Update on 'In Memory of the Fallen' website – As Cllr Dargue was not present, this was deferred to a meeting in the winter.

Dargue

62.12: Northumberland Town and Parish Council Conference – Whilst this was noted for information at the August meeting, numbers are limited and booking is required. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Lewis and Robinson be delegated to attend.

Lewis/Robinson

62.13: Clerk to attend Clerk's Forum meeting with NCC at 2pm on 4th September

Clerk

62.14: War Memorial Tower Lightning Conductor test and Inspection had taken place with no actions required.

62.15: War Memorial Clock service request following auto-wind fault, the service had taken place and the clock was now operational again.

62.16: Excessive weed growth and rubbish on the public footpath between Southmede and Newmoor Close to the Industrial Estate reported to NCC and dealt with.

62.17: Local Democracy Week – A meeting was due to be held on 28th August at 5.30pm in the Council Office, Cllrs Arckless, Dargue, Lewis, Robinson, Weir would attend with the Clerk and Lynne Potts from JCSC.

Cllrs/Clerk

62.18: Update on Tesco site demolition – This had been discussed during the public section of the meeting.

63. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

The Chairman had attended the following:

63.1: Commemorative Service to Mark the Outbreak of WW1

63.2: Amble ACF Enrolment Evening

63.3: Presentation of donation to Young Rangers

63.4: Warkworth WW1 Commemorative Service

63.5: The Chairman informed of a communication from resident re: food factory on Industrial Estate – and smells caused by the storage of seafood shells. Cllr Arckless commented that he was aware of this and discussions were taking place within the County Council, he would keep the Town Council updated.

Weir

64. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

County Councillor Arckless reported that the local A-Level results had been positive.

Concerns had been raised regarding a visually impaired resident who was guide dog dependent and the vehicles obscuring the crossings on Percy Street. It was agreed that this would be

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discussed with Highways at the next joint meeting.

Cllr Arckless had corresponded with Arriva regarding the reliability and accessibility of buses in the Town. Arriva had responded that they were investing in a new fleet of buses in September, it was hoped this would result in improvements.

County Councillor Watson reported that he had communicated with Transport Officer Ian Coe that the Park & Ride Scheme should not be judged in terms of success until adequate signage is provided.

Both Cllrs Arckless and Watson had committed Small Schemes funding to an apprenticeship scheme and kitchen equipment for the Harbour Village, it was hoped this would provide both employment and skills in the town.

65. 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

65.1: Parish Cluster meeting – Cllr Dargue had attended on the date provided to find that the meeting took place the evening prior.

65.2: Harbour Village– Cllr Weir informed that a Harbour Village Co-ordinator had been employed. He had enquired about the future of the tree, seat and planter at the end of Lawson Street, the planter and seat were planned to be moved to the boatyard for safe storage.

As the flowers in the planter were still in bloom, it was RESOLVED to temporarily relocate the planter to the concrete base on Leazes Street, with the Harbour Commissioners permission and the tree to be removed and planted at the West Cemetery.

Clerk

It was noted that the area had been fenced off although an area had been left for residential refuse.

66. AGENDA ITEMS:

66.1: To consider retrospective approval for the order of 36 additional WW1 Commemorative souvenir mugs. – It was RESOLVED that approval be given.

66.2: To consider 4 x Commemorative seats for the duration on 2014-2018 – It was RESOLVED that the Council would purchase the seats over the 4 year period in cast iron with recycled plastic bars, the cast iron to be molded in to the commemorations of 1914-2014, 1918-2018, to commemorate WW2 and VE/ VJ days. The Clerk would contact Amble Development Trust for permission regarding replacement of the existing seats in the Memorial Gardens.

Clerk

66.3: To consider the creation of a working party to discuss improvements to town information boards and finger posts - it was agreed that this be deferred to the Amenities Committee.

Amenities

67. FINANCIAL REPORT:

67.1: To consider the accounts for payment – It was RESOLVED that the accounts for the month be paid.

67.2: To consider earmarked funds – The earmarked fund were presented and it was RESOLVED that be agreed.

67.3: To consider a donation to Brambles – Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 it was RESOLVED to grant a donation of £200 to Bramble Berries parent and baby group to purchase sensory materials for the new baby group, help with advertising costs and provide resources for parents and babies to access during the sessions. This grant application had been submitted for the July meeting but omitted from the agenda in error. The Clerk would arrange a presentation for publicity.

Clerk

67.4: Amble Community Sports Centre Grant – Pursuant to Local Government and Rating Act 1997 Section 31, it was RESOLVED to grant a donation of £500 towards the cost of CCTV and an alarm system. This application had been submitted for consideration at the July meeting but due to an email glitch had not been received. The Clerk would arrange a presentation for publicity.

Clerk

68. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

The minutes of the meeting held 31st July 2014 were agreed as a true record.

69. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

69.1: The Planning Report to date was noted for information.

70. COMMUNICATIONS:

70.1 Lindisfarne Road – A Letter had been received from Cllr Robinson requesting that the Council consider traffic calming measures at Lindisfarne Road for the Local Transport Programme 2015-16. It was noted that his letter had been received the weekend after the Council had agreed

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their priorities at the July meeting.

Cllr Arckless detailed previous proposals that had been made regarding traffic calming in this areas and no consensus had been agreed by residents during the consultation process. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk ask Richard McKenzie for viable options of calming measures for this area. The problem of speeding vehicles would also be highlighted to the police. Clerk

70.2: Wildflowers Rotary Way – Email from Dr P Creighton – It was RESOLVED that the Council would provide 5 years support to be reviewed at the end of the 5 years upon the receipt of definite figures so that an amount of financial support could be determined. This would be returned to the September meeting. Clerk

70.3: Open invite meeting to discuss the sports and recreational facilities in the Town – Mr Durham – This meeting had been attended by all present Members.

70.4: 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' 9th March 2015 – Bruno Peeks Pageantmaster – This would be deferred to the September meeting.

70.5: Open invitation to view plans of the new Druridge Bay Project Northumberland Wildlife Trust

70.6: NCC Enforcement Day – held on 23rd July tackling litter and dog fouling hot spots – The Clerk informed that during the enforcement day 4 fixed penalty notices had been issued, 1 for littering from a vehicle and 3 for littering. The Members applauded the actions of the County Council and would encourage more of these days to be held.

70.7: NCC – Guide dog owner concerned over road crossing – This had been discussed during County Councillors' reports. It was RESOLVED that Richard McKenzie be asked to investigate further, Councillor Arckless was happy to discuss. Clerk

70.8: Swimming pool complaint – It was RESOLVED that the complaint be acknowledged but the Council were of the understanding that this was not a new policy and was in place in all local public pools. Clerk

70.9: NCC – Local Flood Risk Strategy – The Clerk would circulate to all Members the link for the consultation which would end on 31st August. Clerk

70.10: To consider reserving of plots in advance in the Natural Burial area – It was RESOLVED to agree to the reserving of burial plots in the Natural Burial area but defer the costings and the wider issue of reserving throughout the Cemetery to the Amenities Committee. Amenities Weir

70.11: AONB Parish Chairman's meeting 8th September – The Chair hoped to attend.

70.12: East Amble Community Action Group – Whilst encouraging to see a new youth group being formed, it was RESOLVED that more information was needed of the group regarding their qualifications to ensure safeguarding was in place and if advice had been sought from the youth team. It would also be asked how their offer differs from the Amble Youth Project. Clerk

70.13: NCC – Joint NCC/Parish meetings – The Clerk would circulate the dates of the meeting to the Members. Clerk

70.14: Mr Heggarty – Concern of new footpath in West Cemetery – lack of disabled access. It was RESOLVED to investigate the cost of the removal of some of the stones and the placement of a more compacted material. The costing would be returned to the September meeting. Clerk

71. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The following information items were noted.

71.1: NALC – e-news July 2014

71.2: Northumberland Coast AONB – Coastal Views July 2014

72. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

72:1 The next Meeting would be held on **Thursday 11th September 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Town Council Meeting Room, The Quayside, Amble

It was RESOLVED that 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.

At 9.00pm a relaxation of the standing orders was RESOLVED.

PUBLIC VERSION of PRIVATE

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

Amble Development Trust – Cllr Weir gave a verbal report.

74: The minutes of the meeting held 31st July were agreed as a true record.

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75: CLERKS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions where necessary.

75.1: Update on staff absence – The Clerk provided an update.

75.2: Update on land at High Street – It was RESOLVED in principle to increase the width of land in the transfer if appropriate, to bring the matter to a swift conclusion stating a deadline for the transfer and works.

Clerk

75.3: Update on ‘Years to Remember’ production investigations – Queries had been made with touring theatre/production companies. This would be brought back to the September meeting

Clerk

75.4: Update on land at Robson’s Way – On contacting the developer the Council were informed that 2 options were available.

The Members agreed that option 1 be pursued and it was RESOLVED that they would contact the developer to this effect.

Clerk

Cllr Weir reminded all Members that when sending correspondence that has not been authorised by the Council, they should be clear that they are doing so as private individuals. When corresponding as a Councillor they should ensure they provide copies of correspondence to the Clerk and their fellow ward Members.

All

The meeting closed at 9.28pm