

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JUNE 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 9th June 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Dargue (Chair) R Arckless, K Morrison, I Hinson, H Lewis, J Watson and Martin Horn
with Vicki Smith (Administration Assistant)

2 members of the public were present.

Actions

228: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr C Weir

The apologies were accepted. Members welcomed new Councilor Martin Horn to the Council and also note the resignation of Cllr Katrina Cassidy. Councillors thanked Katrina for her work and her time and wished her well for the future. The Clerk to write a letter. NCC elections section have been informed and will deal with the election procedure.

EB

229. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Helen Lewis declared an interest in the financial section of the agenda.

231. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Karl Brunton attended the meeting and gave an update on Amble Marina. As Amble Boat Company will cease in August 2017, his aim is to become an independent Marina and have his own equipment as this is the largest commercial port from Berwick to Hartlepool. A planning application will be submitted although some support with this may be required.

A dredging contract is due to start on 1 September 2016 and discussions are continuing with NCC around how to best facilitate this work with minimal disruption to residents in affected streets. Mr Brunton is aware that a six week notice period is required for street closures and will contact the Council as soon as he is aware of a more specific time frame. Cllr Lewis will also mention this to Ruth Bendall at the next parking meeting for information.

Mr Brunton also discussed a request to change the layout of Coquet Street Car Park- Cllr Lewis agreed to also bring this up with Ruth Bendall at the next Parking Meeting. Support for NCC assistance with litter maintenance was requested in order to keep the car park free of charge.

HL

HL

VS to send the Village Green consultation document to Mr Brunton.

232. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

VS ✓

232.1: The minutes of the meeting held 12th May 2016 were agreed in both public and private sections. The Clerk to check that letters have gone to Philip Stuckey and William Robinson.

233. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

EB

34.1: Noted of Parking and Traffic Flow meeting held 18th May (for information)

The minutes were noted.

34.2: Update on status of the Gut

Communication has taken place between NCC and Northumberland Estates as it appears that the majority of the channel is within their ownership. We await more

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information.

34.3: Repairs to Clock and War Memorial update

Various quotes have been requested. Further information is needed before proceeding. The report on the structural inspection has been received.

34.4: Information boards update

A quote has been received from Fitzpatrick Woolmer although further clarity is needed on the items listed and to ascertain a price for 4 noticeboards. The clerk to clarify.

34.5: Garden and Community Awards update

The information is now on social media and the webpage. Information to be sent to the Gazette. The ceremony will take place on 12 July 2016. Deadline for nominations is 30 June 2016.

EB ✓

34.6: Revised schedule of committee meetings

The schedule is to be amended as necessary

34.7: Amble Puffin Festival in summary

All members thanked everyone involved in the Puffin Festival. Cllr Morrison to compile a letter to the Masonic Lodge and Bart Rippon.

EB ✓

A short discussion took place on whether the festival should still continue as a week-long event and that consideration needed to be given to the workload involved. These would be discussed at the puffin festival wash-up meeting by those involved. It was noted that the political “campaign puffins” who attended the festival were not affiliated with The Puffin Festival itself.

KM

34.8: The A.S.R. / M.C.S. Club

The letter received was noted. If requested, this would be considered further when the project goes ahead.

34.9: Wild Flowers on Rotary way

The email was noted and payment is to be made.

34.10: NCC – Love Northumberland Awards 2016

Due to the type of information required, it was agreed that this be signposted to the relevant organisations.

EB ✓

34.11: Queries received from residents, visitors and AMT regarding Little Shore dog ban

It was agreed to forward these to the Harbour Commissioners Office.

34.12: Notes of Youth Group meeting held 18th May 2016

The minutes of the Youth Group were noted.

EB

The Youth activities leaflet was discussed along with the related finance. 4000 leaflets have been printed to go in with The Ambler, with some spares for schools.

34.13: Town and Parish Liaison Working Group - 11 am Thursday 26 May, 2016

There was no attendance at this meeting due to lack of availability.

34.14: Amble Signage Audit

The clerk to check progress with Neil Snowden and if possible to attend a parking meeting.

EB ✓

234 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

12. A report was received from Cllr Jane Dargue in which she summarised her first month as Mayor. Cllr Dargue discussed her thoughts about a “Cycle Friendly Amble” and what we can do in the town to encourage cyclists to visit. The idea is in very early stages, gathering information and ideas. Anyone who wishes to contribute should contact Cllr Dargue.

235 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

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

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235.2: County Councillor Watson gave a verbal report noting the following:

A candlelit vigil will be held on 1st July to mark The Battle of the Somme from 7am. Refreshments will be provided. Saturday 11th July, the President of the Warkworth & Amble Royal British Legion will travel by motorcycle to the Memorial Hall.

236. 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)

236.1 A report from Amble Business Club was noted. Cllrs Dargue or Morrison noted they would like to attend these meetings as individuals.

236.2 Cllr Horn accepted to represent Amble Town Council on NALC, CAN & COSH.

237. FINANCIAL REPORT:

237.1: The accounts for payment were agreed and receipts to the 3rd June were noted for information.

237.2: The bank reconciliation to date. This information was not available.

237.3 Accounts year end 2015/16 This information was not available

238. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

238.1: The minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2016 were noted. Some amendments are to be made as follows:

The chair is to be changed to Cllr Lewis.

3.1 Check that the % is correct in tenancy agreement.

New signs (not suitable for heavy vehicles) Mariners View, Acklington Road, Guilden Road.

EB ✓
EB

It was reported that the Air Walker and Rower remain out of order at Paddlers Park, VS to chase up with NCC.

VS ✓

239: PLANNING COMMITTEE

239.1: For information; planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of May 2016 were noted.

240: AGENDA ITEMS:

41.1 NEAT Team issues of Bank Holiday Weekend.

Discussion took place around NEAT Team staffing issues over the recent Bank Holiday Weekend. NCC has apologised and plans have been put in place so that lessons can be learned and issues like these will not happen again. It has been agreed to identify hotspots and key areas for the seasonal worker to work in tandem with the other workers. Amble Town Council acknowledged that budget and lack of resources can have an impact on these.

41.2 Consideration of purchase of audio recording equipment

It was proposed at the meeting to allocate a sum of £250 to buy audio recording equipment. VS to source some information.

41.03 To consider content for the newpage: Amendments to be made as agreed and sent to The Ambler.

VS ✓

HL ✓

42. COMMUNICATIONS:

42.1 Mr Pearson – Query over rumoured closure of Dovecote Centre

Mr Pearson's letter is to be acknowledged and a copy of Cllr Arckless report to be sent to him.

42.2 NCC – Village Green pre-consultation letter – In principle all members except Cllr Hinson are in agreement with the proposal, provided that the right of way is realigned for pedestrian safety. Due to the diagram just being available that evening,

EB ✓

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Members were asked to send any further comments to the Clerk.

42.3 Mrs Farley – footpath issues – A letter is to be written to Mrs Farley to assure that we have noted this issue and let her know who is responsible for this and how it is progressing. Cllr Watson to flag this up with Bob Hodgson.

EB ✓

42.4 Good Young Citizen Award – Julia Aston will be taking this forward on a reduced level for the time being. Supporters also include the Business Club, Nick Spurr, The Storehouse and Bakery. It was proposed that Amble Town Council support this again this year with the same contribution of £100. Clarification is needed on the date of this.

JW

42.5 Moir Foods Smell – This issue has been reported to Ken Henderson at NCC. A response is to be sent to Mrs Murray to keep her informed.

EB ✓

42.6 Mr Geggie – Leazes Street rubbish issues. It was reported at the meeting that despite several large bins being available and the flaps being pulled off some, rubbish is blowing everywhere. The Harbour Commissioner is reluctant to move commercial waste and larger bins are not practical for pedestrian access. Work is ongoing to look at the packaging of goods purchased and discussions taking place with Ray Wealleans. It was noted by all members of Amble Town Council that we appreciated the work that Mr Geggie took outside his premises in order to control any litter problems and agree that retailers have a responsibility to clear up the areas.

EB

42.7 Mr Modral – Litter issues – A response is to be compiled to Ian Modral to say that we have asked for a copy of the bin emptying schedule so that we can further monitor issues. Grass cutting is a separate issue that we will look into. Amble Town Council thank Mr Modral for his concerns which we all share.

EB ✓

42.8 NCC Street Lighting costs for additional items. VS to email this to all members and also The Amble Christmas Lights Committee.

EB ✓

42.9 NCC – Town / Parish Council pages and Councillors Declarations of Interest – Members were asked to take a look to make sure that everything is present and correct and up to date with the information stored on NCC files.

VS ✓

42.10 NOTICE OF REFERENDUM – To note

42.11 Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – proposed major modifications consultation. The six week consultation period runs from 15 June 2016 – 27 July 2016.

ALL

43. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the following information items.

43.1 NALC Enews 11 May 2016

43.2 NALC Enews 17 May 2016

43.3 NALC Enews 24 May 2016

43.4 NALC Enews 31 May 2016

44.4 NALC's STAR COUNCIL 2016 AWARDS – Cllrs Dargue, Horn and the Clerk to look at obtaining Star Council status.

43.6 Coastal Views May Issue

43.7 CAN Enews May 2016

All information items were noted and accepted.

JD/MH/E
B

243. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

243:1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 14th July 2016 at 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

Apologies from the next meeting have been received from Cllr Jane Dargue and Jeff Watson. Cllr Helen Lewis will Chair.

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.

EB

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PUBLIC / PRIVATE

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

46: AGENDA ITEMS

46.1: Retrospective approval of fixed contract

The contract was approved

46.2: Retrospective approval of amendments to NCC contract

The amendments to the contract were agreed. The amendments were: shortened contract to make it more flexible and the length of the term of the contract was changed from 24 to 15 weeks.

Members were notified of the resignation of the temporary worker. Interviews for a seasonal worker will take place next week. We have agreed with our Environmental Operative that this weekend, work will still be carried out at Paddlers Park and planting work. Permission was requested and agreed for additional work if required.

Cllr Watson reported on negotiations that have taken place around the T.I.C. toilets winter opening / closing and maintaining at a cost of £1750. Further negotiations may need to take place next year but members agreed to progress with this work for this winter. Thanks were given to the Councillors who gave up their free time to open and close the toilets during periods when cover was not available.

Electronic locks on toilet doors were briefly discussed and it was agreed that Amble Town Council would be prepared to pay a financial contribution of £500 to these. Cllr Watson to progress and report back.

JW/EB

46.3 CCTV information

Cllr Dargue is yet to meet Cllr Scott Dickinson but has been in talks with Cllr Gordon Castle at Alnwick re CCTV. NCC's future offering are 2 temporary CCTV cameras but further work is needed on costs and where they would be deployed. Key areas to consider are Paddlers Park, the war memorial and the middle of queen street. VS to liaise with Alncom at Alnwick to ask if they will come and take a look at the sites and best advise on what we need. All options and types of recording are to be explored. Also ask Louise Stobbart and Emma at NCC for any information they may have.

JF/EB

VS

47: CLERKS REPORT

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

47.1 NALC and SLCC Salary Scales 2016-18

Accepted

47.2 Meeting with solicitor regarding renegotiation of leases –

We are still awaiting a response from the solicitor regarding a meeting. An organisation would like to hold a meeting with ATC regarding an access issue. It was agreed that Cllr Jane Dargue and Helen Lewis to meet with their representatives.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Youth Project Application – Cllr Jeff Watson

EB

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

JW

Acronyms:

WHC – Warkworth Harbour Commissioner

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NCC – Northumberland County Council

JCSC – James Calvert Spence College

ALF – Amble Lifeboat Fundraisers

ACRC – Amble Coastal Rowing Club

CoSH – Community Safety Hubs

ADT – Amble Development Trust

NALC – Northumberland Association of Local Councils

CAN – Community Action Northumberland

NECA – North East Combined Authority

Chairs Signature.....