

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – March 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 9 March 2017 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Dargue (Chair) T Barton, I Hinson, M Horn, H Lewis, Morrison and J Watson with Miss E Brown, Town Clerk

3members of public were present.

S Drew, Northumberland Youth Service, 1 member of the press and PC Donaldson from Northumbria Police

Action

200. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.

201. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

202. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes in total)

Mr Drew Youth Project provided a brief update, he had visited the school, promoted both the Youth Project and Youth Service to JCSC.

PC Donaldson, update attempted robbery of Queen Street, arrest made and enquiries continue. Break in on boats at Marina recently, enquiries continue.

Attended poaching patrol preventative campaign

Cllr Dargue enquired about the Allotments, Pc Donaldson informed that traditionally they tend to see thefts at this time of year, this is being monitored.

Mr Drew and PC Donaldson left the meeting.

Mrs Bulman – Southmead – Attended public consultation regarding housing at Percy Drive and had also attended the Arch presentation and noted the upcoming consultation for the land south of the Persimmons site, and was quite shocked by developments and queried how long the Town Council has known about the plans.

Cllr Lewis informed of that the Council were made aware of possibly of a development on the Enterprise Park but not of the details, the other two consultations the Council had no prior knowledge of, noting that developers are not obliged to tell Town Council to carry out these pre-consultations.

It was noted that the Core Strategy is an estimated number only for housing.

Cllr Arckless noted that further public consultation would take place as part of the planning process once applications had been submitted.

S Willis noted concerns regarding the groundswell of applications and the effects it would have in infrastructure in the town. Concerns relating to infrastructure were mirrored by the Town Council.

Mrs Bulman – Arch Development Private rental, how come Arch are involved in Private rental?

Arch are an arms-length company of the County Council and are private developers.

Town Council noted that they would always support the use of the Enterprise Park as employment land.

Mrs Watson stated the constitution of NCC quotes that they must work with local communities and that this system has broken down, raising her concerns about democracy.

203. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

203.1: The minutes of the meeting held 9th February 2017 (items 182-199) were agreed as a true record.

Clerk

204. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

Chairs Signature.....

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204.1: Query on number of houses built in Amble since 2011 – Council tax department could not provide number so a FOI request had been submitted. To date this had only been acknowledged.

204.2: Notes of Parking & Traffic Flow meetings held 21st December and 18 January- The notes were accepted for information.

204.3: Repairs to War Memorial – War Memorials Trust recommended that the comments from Historic England should be forwarded to our proposed conservation-accredited architect or surveyor who will draft the Specification and Schedule of works. Once the draft is produced, Council will need to send a copy to War Memorials Trust for them to approve prior to inviting tenders for the works.

Clerk/Chair/Vice

Council would aim to collate all info for tenders to be returned to submit a funding bid to War Memorial Trust for the next application deadline of 30th June.

The Council would need guidance from the Engineer to agree what was required to be done. It was agreed a working party would be set up to consist of the Clerk and Councillors Hinson, Horn and Lewis.

Cllr Watson queried whether any enquiries had been made into changing the mechanism to a digital system. – It was agreed that enquiries would be made although noted that the mechanism was very important and the community should be consulted on sure a change.

Clerk/Chair

204.4: Desktop Refresh – The desktop refresh was complete with 2 x Intel i3, 8GB Ram, 500GB, Usb 3, DVD-RW, Windows 7 PC's and an Office 365 subscription, which meant that all Office docs would remain up to date.

Clerk

204.5: Website refresh – The demo site had been circulated, it was very impressive but required thorough inspection. The web developer would meet with the Clerk and Chair to run through prior to the website going live.

204.6: Togston Square Plaque – Members agreed the text would be 'Togston Square - One of the oldest parts of Amble' with Town Council crest on it. The contractor would be questioned as to the best methods to fix to the wall.

204.7: Co-option Policy – The co-option policy was agreed and adopted unanimously. Cllr Weir enquired about the mentoring of Councillors by more experienced Councillors. Cllr Lewis commented that the best person to mentor new Councillors would be the Clerk. This would be added to the agenda for the Annual meeting.

204.8: WW1 Working party notes 1st March 2017 – To be circulated. 2017 WW1 event meeting planned to spread awareness of info on the event

204.9: Community Governance Review – The Clerk had circulated a copy of the proposed boundary change and the reasons for the review. The Clerk suggested it be deferred to the new Council after the May meeting and in light of recent proposed plans for a development on the southern boundary which, if approved, would see Amble merging with Hauxley.

Clerk

204.10: Letter to NCC regarding info provided to third party – The letter had been sent, there had not been a response. There was nothing further to raise at this stage.

204.11: SLA agreement costs query – The Clerk was querying the costs of the 2016 agreement.

204.12: Amble WI grant – The projector and PA system had been delivered to the group. A presentation would be arranged with the Mayor.

204.13: Report of litter pick – 10 bags of litter collected on a terrible day with 25 in attendance. Cllr Barton proposed £20 of Easter eggs be bought for prizes for the next litter pick on 8th April, this was seconded by Cllr Dargue and agreed by a majority. Cllr Horn was thanked for providing the refreshments to the group.

Clerk

204.14: Additional comment to Planning application 16/04305/OUT submitted as agreed at the February meeting- for info.

Clerk/Chair

204.15: Tree preservation order query – It would be queried whether there had been an acknowledgement or response to date.

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204.16: Northumberland County Council Stakeholder Survey – This had not yet been done but the Clerk and Chair would respond as soon as possible.

204.17: Natural England/AONB - England Coast Path – The route through Amble was discussed and rather than stopping at the Harbour Village it was suggested crossing the town square and TIC and up Queen Street before turning on north Street to cross the Gut and head off across the Braid. This suggestion seemed well supported.

204.18: ATC representative at CCT meetings confirmed – The Clerk had confirmed this with ADT.

205. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

205.1: Cllr Dargue. – Monthly Report – Meeting held with Chair of the Harbour Commissioners discussing litter issues, and the dog ban which will continue to be imposed.

A meeting had also been held with Neil Rogers which had been very productive. The Town Council were very keen to refresh the relationship with the school.

Ramble (Run Amble) with Active Northumberland had now been set up and there was 23 attended the initial meeting of the group, it was hoped that this would continue to go from strength to strength.

205.2: Cllr Lewis – Vice Chair – Report of Town & Parish Liaison Working Group – The report had been circulated, she highlighted the discussion relating to New Homes Bonus and a meeting had been urged to discuss the NHB further.

206. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

206.1: County Councillor Arckless circulated his report for information which provided information on NCC budget issues, school funding, planning issues, Queen Street and the town centre car park

206.2: County Councillor Watson was querying where in the NCC budget the funding for JCSC was as it was not clear to him, he was pursuing queries into this

207. 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**)

207.1: Cllr Morrison – Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) the meeting was mostly based around Alnwick. However a couple of schemes were being promoted in Amble. Challenge 25 which was for licensees/ retailers of alcohol can challenge consumers, proxy sales was also being looked where adults were buying for under age.

207.2: Cllr Horn – CoSH – Finally a study was to be conducted on the placement and hours of the cameras in Amble and surrounding area. Acknowledgement that the Mark's Bridge site data was out of date.

208. FINANCIAL REPORT: (Finance)

208.1: To consider voucher numbers 297 -240 for payment and note receipts 128 - ? for information. Due to the computer refresh, the accounts software was currently unavailable and subsequently the report was unavailable. This would be circulated as soon as possible.

208.2: The bank reconciliation to date for information

208.3: The YTD to be noted for information

208.4. Grant requests –

- a) Alzheimer's Research UK – Cllr Lewis proposed a donation of £100, this was seconded by Cllr Horn and agreed. It was noted that as the request had come to the 'Mayor Elect' a response would inform that the Mayor of Amble does not at

Clerk

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present had a annual charity.

209. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

The next meeting of the Amenities Management Committee would be held at 6pm on Thursday 23rd March 2017 preceded by a site visit of the compound.

210: PLANNING COMMITTEE

210.1: A report on planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of March 2017 was noted for information.

210.2: Land at Percy Drive, Amble - Community Consultation had taken place.

210.3: Arch - Briefing Note: Investing in Amble – Community Consultation – has taken place. Clerk

210.3: Hauxley View, west of the A1068 - Community Consultation was due next week.

211: AGENDA ITEMS:

211.1: To consider adoption of Honorary Freeman Policy – The Clerk – as there are some people in the town that devote quite a bit of time to the community, this policy was put together for consideration, it would be an honorary title, scroll, pin badge and invitation to any civic events. The consideration of the policy would be deferred to the April meeting of the Council.

211.2: Consideration of covering cost for print of WW1 Photo book – Cllr Lewis had circulated info with a figure of approx. £800. However, the cheapest quote would be for 300 books at £1932 which was £6.34 per book to produce. 500 books may reduce the cost to approx.. £5 per books. A mark-up would be added to the cost as donations to the War Memorial. Members agreed to proceed with the book and pursue further costings. Clerk

211.3: Consideration of improving awareness of Community Access Defibrillators – Cllr Horn informed of an incident in the town and the lack of awareness of the Community Access Defibrillators locations and how to use them. It was agreed to publicise the locations and training when it was available. Clerk

211.4: Consideration of letter to NCC regarding parking – Cllrs Dargue & Lewis – The letter had been circulated to Members, but in light of an item that was not yet in the public arena, the second last paragraph would be removed. AGM

211.5: Prioritising and organising 'town' requests – The Clerk following discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair would be setting up an email address for non-urgent requests. It was agreed this would be progressed and reviewed after 3 months.

212. COMMUNICATIONS:

212.1: Nautura - Classification of Northumberland Marine potential Special Protection Area (pSPA) - Natural England submitted their consultation report on the Northumberland Marine pSPA on 21 July 2016 to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Secretary of State formally classified the site as a Special Protection Area on 29th Jan 2017 in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010. Natural England and relevant agencies are progressing registration of the site and will issue full formal stakeholder notification to all parties once this registration is complete. They expect registration to occur within the coming weeks. Clerk

The new marine SPA protects the foraging areas of breeding seabirds (including common, Sandwich, Arctic, little and roseate terns); includes a 1km seaward extension around Coquet Island and the Farne Islands to protect the maintenance behaviours of two auk species (Atlantic puffin and common guillemot); and protects an internationally important seabird assemblage of over 20,000 individuals. Alongside the classification of the Northumberland Marine pSPA, the associated existing coastal SPAs will be amended as follows; Coquet Island SPA, includes an internationally important seabird assemblage of over 20,000 individuals; Farne Islands SPA, includes common guillemot as a new

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feature and an internationally important seabird assemblage of over 20,000 individuals; and Northumbria Coast SPA, includes Arctic tern as a new feature.

212.2: NCC - Local Council Election nomination packs – The packs would be available from 20th March to 4th April. The packs could be downloaded or collected from the Couth Council information centres. Briefing guidance had been circulated and was available online. Appointments should be made for handing in of the forms would be validated on appointment.

212.3: NCC - NJC / NALC Pay Awards – A national pay award would be implemented from April 2017. This was noted for information.

213. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the information items.

213.1: NALC Enews Housing White Paper 7 February 2017

213.2: NALC Enews 8 Feb 2017

213.3: CAN Enews: Threats to rural services

213.4: NALC Enews 28 February 2017

213.5: NALC - Parliamentary Boundaries

Clerk

213.6: NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 6 - 17 February 2017

213.7: NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 7 - 24 February 2017

213.8: £9m investment in JSCS

213.9: Local Councils Update Issue 203

214. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

214:1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 13th April 2017 at 6.00pm.** in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

Clerk

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 and no recordings of proceedings shall take place.

Weir

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

215: MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 9th February 2017 were agreed as accurate and adopted.

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

198.1: ARCH meeting – The notes had been circulated to all. The application on housing would be dealt with by the planning committee upon receipt. It was noted that the housing planned for Coquet Enterprise Park would be private let.

198.2: Town Liaison meeting held with Ruth Bendell - Nothing to note.

198.3: ADT– Cllr Weir – Cllr Weir did not attend the February meeting but a report had been circulated. Cllr Lewis queried whether the minutes of the January meeting had been passed as accurate as it noted that Cllr Watson proposed that the Town Council take over maintenance of the Town Square. It would be requested that the minutes be amended.

198.4: Notes of meeting Coastal Communities Team 28th February 2017 – Cllr Weir had circulated the minutes of the meeting

198.5: Notes of meeting held with solicitor and approval of suggested course of action – The noted were circulated and actions agreed.

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217: AGENDA ITEMS

199.1: CCTV update – A rather large proposal document had been circulated.

Cllr Lewis proposed that whilst the more detailed quote required some tweaking, that this should be the one that the Council progressed with, this was seconded by Cllr Dargue and agreed. This option was a 14 camera UHD solution to the value of £14965. This would also include a quarterly maintenance programme.

Clerk

Tweaking of locations would be discussed with the CCTV company.

It was queried how long installation would take. A meeting would be set up with the CCTV company and the police to progress, it would hoped that the system would be in place for the summer.

199.2: Update regarding potential disposal of land –

It was agreed to go with the offer and start negotiations.

199.4: Meeting with Greg Gavin & Ray Wealleans – The Clerk would be involved in the interviews for the Seasonal position which should take place in the coming weeks for a hopeful start date in time for Easter.

199.5: Staff Appraisals/Personal Performance Reviews/ Pay review – The Appraisal summaries were read out along with training requests.

199.6: Loyalty fund contributions - £16879 currently in earmarked funds as Loyalty Fund, a schedule was circulated showing the contributions made against each employee including past employees. £5065.83 was put aside for past employees who were not eligible to receive the funds which could go back into Council funds. It was agreed that the money for the 3 existing employees would remain earmarked for them for 6 months while the pension fund is reviewed. It was agreed to add 10% to the existing employees pots to cover the interest accrued. It was noted that the NEST employer contribution would also be increasing to 10% from April.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 21.03

Chairs Signature.....

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