

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – MAY 2016

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th May 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Weir (Chair), R Arckless, K Cassidy, J Dargue, I Hinson, H Lewis, K Morrison and J Watson with Elaine Brown, Town Clerk

4 members of the public were present.

Actions

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR and CHAIRPERSON FOR 2016-17:

To elect a Chair/Mayor - The Chair invited nominations for the election. Cllr Watson proposed Cllr Dargue, this was seconded by Cllr Cassidy. With no other nominations the proposal was agreed unanimously.

To receive the Chairman/Mayors Acceptance of Declaration of Office – Cllr Dargue signed her acceptance of Office.

Cllr Dargue presented the former Mayor with a personal gift and along with other Councillors commended and congratulated Cllr Weir for his dedication, hard work and commitment during his 3 years as Mayor.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR and VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2016-17:

To elect a Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair – The Chair invited nominations. Cllr Morrison proposed Cllr Lewis, this was seconded by Cllr Watson. With no other nominations the proposal was agreed unanimously.

To receive the Deputy Mayor/ Vice Chairman's Acceptance of Declaration of Office – Cllr Lewis signed her acceptance of Office.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

5. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR – AMBLE CENTRAL WARD (1 VACANT SEAT)

To consider the following candidates for co-option:

Philip Stuckey – addressed the Council in person

Martin Horn – addressed the Council in person

William Robinson – the Clerk read out the submission to those present.

The Members carried out an anonymous ballot and returned the ballot papers to the Clerk. The Clerk passed the results to the Chair who announced that Martin Horn was co-opted by a majority. Martin, a retiree, has resided in Mariners View for approx. 3 years now but is familiar with the town from visiting family in the local area for over 30 years. He is not affiliated with any political groups but has been familiar with Town Council business having attended the meetings as Member of the Public for over 18 months.

Martin's interests include hiking, camping and local wildlife.

Martin will join Cllrs Jane Dargue and Kate Morrison as Central Ward representatives on the Town Council.

The other candidates were thanked for their interest and reminded that Council elections would be held next May.

6. FINANCIAL SIGNATORIES

The following Councillors were authorised to be signatories on behalf of the Council, of whom a minimum of two are required to sign all cheques on behalf of the Town Council.

The current signatories are:

Barclays Community Account: Signatories- Cllrs Dargue, Lewis, Hinson and Weir. – It was agreed that Cllr Morrison would be added to this account.

Santander Community Instant Reserve: Cllrs Lewis, Morrison, Arckless, and Weir.

Santander 30 Day Notice: Signatories – As above

For administrative and management purposes only, the Clerk may countersign cheques to creditors although this is not for authorisation purposes.

Chairs Signature.....

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7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

To elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and membership of the below committees. The terms of reference requires there be a maximum of 8, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Council, ex-officio.

7.1: Amenities Management

Frequency of meetings - The last Thursday of the month- bi-monthly commencing from May. Four meetings will be preceded by an inspection of the Cemeteries/Allotments normally May, July, September and March as per the schedule. An Environmental Operative may on occasion be required to accompany the Committee on a site inspection.

Committee Members: Cllrs K Cassidy, J Dargue, H Lewis, K Morrison and C Weir

Chairman: Cllr Lewis proposed Cllr Weir for Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Morrison and with no further proposals was agreed unanimously.

Vice – Chairman: Cllr Weir proposed Cllr Lewis for Vice-Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Dargue and with no further proposals was agreed unanimously.

It was agreed that meetings would be held every month from now until September; each to be preceded by a site visit applicable to the remit of the committee and determined by the Chair.

7.2 Planning Committee

Frequency of meetings -Tuesdays of the month- dependent upon the receipt of Planning Applications at the Chair's discretion.

Committee Members: Cllrs J Dargue, I Hinson, H Lewis, K Morrison and C Weir.

Chairman: Cllr Lewis proposed Cllr Morrison for Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Dargue and with no further proposals was agreed unanimously.

Vice – Chairman: Cllr Morrison proposed Cllr Lewis for Vice-Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Dargue and with no further proposals was agreed unanimously.

8.APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTNERSHIPS/OUTSIDE BODIES:

	Representative(s) 2015/16	Representative 2016/17
Amble Development Trust	Cllr Dargue	Cllr Weir
Amble Youth Project x2	Cllrs Morrison & Weir	Cllrs Morrison & Weir
Amble 2020	Cllr Dargue with the Clerk	Cllr Dargue with the Clerk
CoSH (formerly LMAPS)	Cllr Morrison	Cllr Cassidy
Northumberland Association of Local Councils	Cllr Dargue	Defer until new Cllr has signed paperwork
Safer Alcohol Partnership		Cllr Morrison
Amble Harbour Village	Cllr Dargue	Cllr Weir
Lobster Hatchery	Cllr Weir	Cllr Weir
Community Action Northumberland	Cllr Weir	Defer until new Cllr has signed paperwork
Parking	Cllrs Weir & Lewis	Cllrs Dargue & Lewis
Sodexo	Cllrs Lewis, Morrison & Weir	Cllrs Lewis, Morrison & Weir

9. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR:

Mr Peter Basnett was unanimously agreed to be appointed.

10. APPOINTMENT OF INSURER:

Zurich was unanimously agreed to be appointed.

11. AGREEMENT TO PAY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

11.1: Northumberland Association of Local Councils

11.2: Society of Local Council Clerks

Chairs Signature.....

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- 11.3: Local Councils Update
- 11.4: The Institute of Crematorium and Cemetery Management
- 11.5: RoSPA – Playground Inspection
- 11.6: Local Council Review
- 11.7: Marine Conservation Society

The subscriptions were agreed en bloc. The Clerk would verify whether yearly support Accounts such as software and computer support should be added to this list in the future.

12: DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS FROM MAY 2016 TO MAY 2017:

To consider the proposed schedule – attached. To be amended for next meeting

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Mr Horn raised concerns that the flap valve at the Marina end of The Gut was not working causing the Culvert to back up. The owner of the Marina was to look at this part of the Culvert.

14. . MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

14.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 14th April 2016: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Thanks were noted to the Administrative Assistant for covering in the Clerks absence.

15. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

15.1: Parking & Traffic Regulation – Notes of meeting held 16 March 16 were to be circulated. It was noted that the Percy Street consultation had ben resent with the correct plan.

15.2: Events Committee – Notes of meeting held 27 April 16 were accepted for information.

15.3: Update of status of The Gut – An Engineer from FCERM visited the site in mid Amble and it does appear that the channel would benefit from some channel clearance to improve flow. NCC are responsible for a section of the Gut, the engineer will investigate getting the Gut cleared out and look to contact the remainder of the landowners to remind them of their riparian owner responsibilities

15.4: Clock update – No update.

15.5: Amble War Memorial condition survey update – The report had not yet been received. Once received it would be circulated and delegated to the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to pursue grants.

15.6: Information boards – update – It was agreed to have the existing ‘town trail’ boards changed and pursue costings for the new boards which would be delegated to the Committee Members involved in the project and returned to the June meeting of the Council.

15.7: Mauritania Day 6th July – The Town Council office would be open on this day from 10am to Noon providing refreshments and scones for the public and an opportunity to meet your local councillors.

15.8: Extension of Civic Chain & Vice Chair Chain –An article requesting public subscriptions would be added to the next news page. The quote for the Deputy Chair regalia would need to be checked.

15.9: Community litter pick held 19th April 2016 and upcoming litter pick – The litter pick held 19th April was well attended, with thanks to Amble Detachment Army Cadet Force and the public for their help. The next litter pick would take place on 25th May meeting in the Town Square at 5pm.

15.10: Countess of Wessex Visit to Officially Open Paddlers Park 20th April 2016 – A letter of thanks from the Office of the Countess was read out.

15.11: HM the Queen's Birthday beacon event 21st April 2016 – Members commented that the turnout was wonderful but the lighting of the beacon itself was a bit disappointing. Waarkworth Parish Council had conveyed their thanks for the event.

15.12: Paddlers Park Fun day 30th April 2016 – Members noted that the day was great and sunny. A letter of thanks should be send to Park Leisure for the help of their 2 employees.

15.13: Garden & Civic Awards meeting held 9th May 2016 – The awards ceremony would be held on 12th July and a prize fund totalling of£75 would be introduced for both the Community Awards

Chairs Signature.....

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15.14: HARBOUR DAY SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST 2016 – Agreement for Council PA equipment to be used – This was retrospectively agreed.

15.15: Removal of fencing on the Braid – It was noted that the Clerk had submitted a request to have dilapidated fencing around a shrub area removed. NCC had subsequently removed the fencing as it was not longer serving any useful purpose.

The Clerk would check that thanks had been sent to Cllr Robinson, ACT, an Acklington Road resident, Mark Ketley and Tesco from the previous meeting.

16 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

16.1: Amble Army Cadet Force presentation – Cllr Weir commented that the presentation as very good and welcomed the work that the Cadet Force do in the community.

17 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

17.1: County Councillor Arckless reported on NiFCA, devolution and asylum seekers and dispersal, copies of reports would be circulated to Members.

17.2: County Councillor Watson informed that he would be meeting with both North and South East area head of service on 26th May to discuss the future of public conveniences.

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

The following reports of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (Cllr Reports) were received.

The Parish Meeting

Amble Youth Project 5th May 2016 – Cllr Morrison

NCC – Joint Area Committee Meetings

Soxedo – Meeting with Director 4th May 2016

Harbour Village Meeting

19. FINANCIAL REPORT:

19.1: Voucher numbers 1 – 42 were agreed for payment and receipts to 6th May noted for information (Finance) The £20,000 payment to Northumberland County Council for the works to Paddlers Park was noted.

19.2: The bank reconciliation to date – was not available.

19.3: Accounts year end 2015/16 – awaiting report of Internal Auditors visit. Fidelity Guarantee had been increased to £350k

19.4: Grant applications –

a) Tiny Woods Academy – It was noted that the Council supported the group substantially last financial year. With a vote of 3 in favour and 3 against, the Chair's casting vote agreed a donation of £250 towards respect barriers and marker cones.

20. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

20.1: To accept the notes of the meeting held 24th March 2016 – The notes was accepted and actions agreed.

21: PLANNING COMMITTEE

21.1: To note for information planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of April 2016 (Plan Apps April)

Cllr Lewis informed of amendments to a planning comment following concerns from an applicant. Members agreed that the amendments were acceptable.

22: AGENDA ITEMS:

22. Paddlers Park – Cllrs Lewis and Weir had met with a play company regarding the additional play equipment. It was planned to bury the Memory Box as soon as weather and prior commitments allowed.

23. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairs Signature.....

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23.1: Wild Flowers on Rotary way – Members had previously agreed to pay 5 years costs up front in this financial year. It was agreed the money from the sale of land at High Street would be used towards this.

23.2: CAN – Local Council News - Members agreed to the receipt of the news electronically, although 1 hard copy should still be received for public information.

23.3: NCC Parish Cemetery Double Charge Issue – Payment from NCC had now been received.

23.4: The A.S.R. / M.C.S. Club - A project was being planned to erect a memorial to commemorate the loss of RAF Pinnacle 1386 at Amble on 29th September 1969 when three crewmen lost their lives. The Club requested a donation or support. Members requested further information regarding where the memorial was to be erected, the estimated cost of the memorial, the dimensions of the grey granite plinth.

23.5: NCC – Love Northumberland Awards 2016

23.6: Mr Davies - Allerburn Lea, Alnwick – A letter had been received from a resident of Alnwick who following his wife receiving a speeding fine, claimed that the speed signage on the approach to Amble from Warkworth was potentially dangerous. Members agreed that the letter should be forwarded to Northumberland County Council as the Highways Authority.

23.7: Yacht plate – The Commodore of Coquet Yacht Club in Amble informed that last year was the inaugural Northumberland Plate Yacht race, sponsored by NCC; it was intended at conception that the race would be shared between the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club (RNYC) in Blyth and Coquet Yacht Club (CYC) in Amble. Last year the race started in Amble and finished in Blyth with a reception at RNYC but this year, will be in reverse with the race finishing in Amble on Saturday 16th July, with a prize-giving and reception at CYC.

The race organisers and CYC Committee extended an invitation to the Mayor of Amble to present the trophies at the prize-giving on the Saturday night.

The expectation is for 25 boats to participate in the Northumberland Plate Race and also hope that they'll return to Amble for a regatta in August.

The Clerk would respond stating that the Mayor would not be available on 16th July but it is possible that the Deputy Mayor could attend in her absence if this is acceptable.

23.8: Bagshot Park - The Clerk had received a letter from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Countess of Wessex, thanking for looking after the Countess at the opening of Paddlers Park and requesting her thanks be conveyed to all involved in the planning and preparation of the event.

23.9: Love Northumberland- Amble Coastal Rowing Club, ALF, Andrew Beaton and Margaret ? would be nominated

23.10: The Chairman had been invited to attend an Awards Evening at JCSC on 26th at 5pm.

24. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

That the Council noted the following information items.

24.1: CAN E- news April 2016

24.2: NALC e-news April 2016

24.3: NALC – Local Council Records Briefing note

24.4: Local Council's Update Issue 195

24.5: The Ambler Issue 98

24.6: Clerk & Council's Direct Issue 105

24.7: Marine Conservation Spring 2016

25. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

25:1 The next Meeting (Annual meeting of the Council) will be on Thursday 9th June 2016 at 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

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.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE

26: PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES &

Chairs Signature.....

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

CoSH 25th April 2016 – Cllr Morrison – The report was circulated.

Harbour Village: A verbal report was given

27: AGENDA ITEMS

Paddlers Park budget overview – Consideration of the allocation of additional funding – A site visit would be held to draw up a snagging list before any additional funding was agreed.

28: CCTV - The report was circulated. It was agreed to investigate CCTV options.

29: CLERKS REPORT

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

29.1: The sale of land at High Street – The Clerk informed that the sale was now complete.

29.2: Renegotiation of Lease – consideration of suggested amendments – It was agreed to hold a meeting with the Solicitor to discuss the lease and also the issues regarding the mapping of the East Cemetery.

29.3: JCSC – Future Projects – It was noted that the school was undergoing some changes and would meet with the new Mayor in due course.

Acronyms:

ATC – Amble Town Council, **NCC** – Northumberland County Council, **NALC** – Northumberland Association of Local Councils, **A.S.R** – Air Sea Rescue, **M.C.S** – Marine Craft Sections, **CoSH** – Community Safety Hub, **JCSC** – James Calvert Spence College

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Chairs Signature.....