

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13 July 2017 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Dargue (Chair) T Hinton, I Parks, M Horn, H Lewis, I Hinson and C Weir with Miss E Brown;
Town Clerk
S Drew, Northumberland Youth Service, 1 member of the press
M Cairns – RNLI Community Safety Officer
Sgt Forsyth and Inspector Hall – Northumbria Police
J Willoughby- Northumberland Gazette.

For transparency purposes the Chair informed that the meeting was being recorded for administrative purposes.

Action

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs K Morrison and J Watson – both were on holiday. The apologies were accepted.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -None.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Sgt Forster – Reduction in police budget over the past few years as a result of austerity, all aspects are being looked at, a review of the front desk has not been carried out since 2006. Most stations have had a reduction in opening hours however 3 of the quietest stations, including Amble, have had closure of the front desk service proposed.

Costings in relation to people attending front offices varied from £4 per person to just under £40 per person from the busiest to the quieter stations and subsequent to this the closure was proposed. It was also estimated that the Amble station was visited an estimate 2 times per day.

Police Constable and Police Community Support Officers would remain in place with no plans to alter this at present.

It was not believed that the CCTV proposal would be affected.

The majority of incidents reported to the Amble Office are by telephone, the use of 101 and community messaging systems would continue to be actively promoted.

Assurance that there will be no reduction in service as a result of this closure.

Cllr Lewis queried whether data was available on how often the officers were out of vehicles as the two bikes the Council have donated to the Amble station were noted as being rarely seen around the town.

Sgt Forster assured that both of the PCSO's had undergone the necessary bicycle training and were out and about a lot on foot and should be seen a bit more. Currently they used them for accessing the Industrial estate and footpaths.

Cllr Weir commented on the increase in off road motorbike use in the East Ward of Amble. The police were monitoring intelligence through Operation Scrambler. A Section 59 warning was issued recently in Amble.

County Councillor Clark informed of motorbikes at Lord Mayor's Field for about 3 hours a few weeks ago, he was encouraging his neighbours to contact the police and there had been a positive outcome.

S Drew introduced Matty Cairns the Community Safety Officer for the RNLI, the Youth Project had established contact with Matty regarding young people tombstoning. They were looking at raising awareness through educating on respecting the water area.

Inspector Hall would arrange for a presence at the coast and contact details were shared.

Matty informed that the RNLI is running a Respect the Water campaign with the aim to reduce the deaths around the coast by 50% in 10 years, focusing on dog walkers, beach

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

safety etc. and includes tombstoning. Safety advice is being pushed, the Council agreed to share any safety advice that could be provided.

The Council were informed that WHC were keen to have discussions with Matty about improved signage around the Harbour.

49. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

49.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 8th June 2017

Some suggested amendments had been received from Mrs Watson and behalf of Cllr Watson which Members did not accept.

50. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

50.1: Parking & Traffic Regulation – Draft notes of meeting held 21st June 17 had not yet been agreed by the working group so would only be circulated once the group had approved them. Members requested sight of the May meeting notes.

Clerk✓

50.2: Repairs to War Memorial – The Clerk informed that the grant application had been submitted prior to the deadline date of 30th June. War Memorials Trust had returned a couple of queries regarding the tender documents and these questions had been answered and returned to War Memorials Trust.

The Clerk noted that veteran Peter Proctor-Cannon was holding collections on the steps of the war memorial at weekends and had raised a substantial amount. It was agreed to send Mr Proctor-Cannon a letter congratulating him on this fundraising.

Clerk

50.3: Website refresh - Councillor photos have been updated. The text required updating before it went live. Cllr Lewis offered to help with reviewing the text.

50.4: Good Citizen Award 2017 – sponsorship of trophies - The order for the trophies sponsored by ATC had been placed. The ceremony would take place at 13.00 in Fourways 2

50.5: Togston Square Plaque – The plaque did not have the Town Council crest engraved on it so the Clerk had ordered some vinyl ink stickers suitable for outdoor use. Once the stickers had arrived the plaque would be installed.

Clerk

50.6: SLA agreement costs query 2016 – The detailed breakdown had been provided and Members were now satisfied with the matter.

50.7: Tree preservation order query – so far only an acknowledgement had been received. It would be moved to Amenities for continued chasing.

50.8: Community Access Defibrillator – It had been recommended at the Amenities meeting that the £600 contribution from WHC was acceptable; this was agreeable to the Town Council. The Clerk would contact WHC thanking for their contribution and querying where the defibrillator was to be located.

Clerk

50.9: Quotations requested for annual planting 2017/18 – Quotations had been requested from the North Area, it was believed that Amble would be in the North from the end of July. A meeting was required with the new team. The quotation requested would be passed to the Amenities Committee for further discussion.

50.10: Harbour Public Conveniences – Following the complaint, the complainant had subsequently corresponded with positive feedback regarding cleanliness although still believed that redecoration would significantly improve the site.

50.11: Little Shore Wave Basin Improvement Works – Members agreed to welcome the Officer to address the Town Council.

50.12: Northumberland Rivers Trust – Fish pass – The AONB had objected to the information board and had agreed to work with the Rivers Trust to provide something more aesthetically pleasing and look at helping with funding also.

50.13: The Garden Awards 2017 – The awards ceremony would take place on Tuesday

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

18th at 18.00, help from Members was required to set up the room. The Gazette requested a copy of the results.

50.14: Tour of Britain 2017 – The Council would help advertise the event on social media. The Council agreed to a donation of up to £50 to the Youth Project to create bike decorations out of cardboard to be displayed at the top of the Wynd.

50. 15: Neighbourhood Planning – Cllrs met to discuss the initial steps of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. It was proposed to the Council that the two County Council electoral divisions we consulted. We are wanting to engage with our own and surrounding parishes and communities (probably within the two local County Councillors electoral divisions - Amble, Acklington, East Chevington (part), Hauxley, Togston and Warkworth) giving unbiased information about the pros and cons of neighbourhood plans in order to assess the level of ACTIVE support and possible expertise available before making a decision on whether to proceed or not. Members felt that this could be achieved by contracting a professional in community engagement to work alongside a small working party of Councillors with a small budget to produce an information leaflet to encourage the public to engage with us.

The Council hope to progress over the summer holidays to have something to ready to send out in September.

The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk were delegated up to £1000 with an element of discretion.

51 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

51.1: Chairman – Cllr Dargue commented that it had been a quiet month from a civic point of view and as the new Administration at NCC were still settling in. She made a plea that ATC be involved in dialogue with NCC.

51.2: Vice Chairman – Cllr Weir attended the Official Opening of Hauxley Nature Reserve and recommended all to pay a visit to the wonderful facility.

He also attended the installation of John McDermott, the new Reverend of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church.

52 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

52.1: County Councillor Clark informed of the Withdrawal of local plan, Cllr Clark saw this as an opportunity for developers and land owners to submit applications for residential developments in a weakened decision-making policy framework and challenge any refusals in an appeals process.

James Calvert Spence College, he posed a question to the Leader at the last chamber meeting about the financial commitments from the previous administration that was endorsed by officers and the capital works advisory group all school development was being reviewed. Feeling that education of Amble children was being ignored. Cllr Dargue queried whether there would be a formal appeals process should the business case be thrown out as she felt the Town Council would be supportive of an appeal. Cllr Clark was asked to raise this at County Level.

Cllr Clark was dealing with a complaint from a resident about a street light Davis Drive.

Grass cutting around the bottom end was slowly being done.

He informed of his surgeries which the Council would share via social media.

52.2: County Councillor Watson was not present.

53. 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)

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

Town & Parish Liaison Working Group 15th June (previously circulated) – Cllr Lewis spoke to the Leader about the desperate need for a permanent long stay car park in Amble and disappointment in Tesco site and the Arch holdback on everything. She reiterated the objections of the Council for the residential development on Coquet Enterprise Park.

James Calvert Spence Art Exhibition had been attended by several Members of the Council.

CAN - Warm hubs and village halls – Cllr Weir - community socialising and networking and getting help for vulnerable people. Commenced in Stocksfield, Cllr Weir with the Mayors backing was looking at areas in the town to start a warm hub and believed they were about 25% there in creating one. He directed to the CAN website for further details.

NALC – Cllr Parks – informed that it was discussed about building an archive of historic minutes at Woodhorn and Councils would be asked to include them in the distribution list for minutes, Cllr Parks would request further information from Stephen Rickett. The NALC website was being pushed for retaining archives also, although it was felt that the existing Amble website which was run through word press and more than capable of retaining records.

Cllr Hinton – Litter pick around bus stop with Youth Project, 10 youngsters participated.

54. FINANCIAL REPORT:

54.1: Voucher numbers 69 – 114 were agreed for payment and receipt vouchers 26-40 for information (Finance)

The YTD showing all of the budget headings held within the accounts, for internal purposes to monitor income and expenditure. This was a first draft and it was noted that a couple of the budget headings were duplicated on the list.

54.2: The bank reconciliation to date – would be available at the next meeting, Cllr Lewis stressed the importance of this financial information being made available before the meeting.

54.3: Accounts year end 2016/17 – were presented.

a – Members agreed that there is a sound system of internal control and approved the annual governance statement for year end 31 March 2017.

b. Members approved the accounting statements for year end 31 March 2017.

54.4: Update and recommendations for Earmarked funds The Clerk had met with the Chair and the Vice Chair to review the funds, a copy would be circulated.

54.5: Grant Requests:

Amble Tavern FC – Request for funding towards strips, balls, training balls and training bibs Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 section 137, Members agreed to purchase the training equipment but did not feel it was an appropriate use of public money to purchase match strips. Members did agree that should any further training equipment be required then they would look favourably on a further grant request.

55. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

55.1: The minutes of the meeting held 25th May 2017 were agreed as a true record.

55.2: The minutes of the meeting held 29th June 2017 were agreed as a true record.

56: PLANNING COMMITTEE

56.1: To note for information planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of June 2017 (Plan Apps May)

57: AGENDA ITEMS:

WW1 Commemoration 2017

Saturday 29th July at 7.00 tickets were £5 each and all proceed would go to the war

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

memorial repairs fund. A war time meal following by community singing and entertainment from the North East Cadets Pipes and Drums band.

58. COMMUNICATIONS:

58.1: NCC - Green Dog Walkers Campaign – Launched on the 3rd July 2017 by NCC the new Campaign will to promote responsible dog ownership in Northumberland. At the core of the campaign is the Green Dog Walker Initiative that encourages both local environmental groups and motivated individuals to sign up to the Green Dog Walker pledge.

The Campaign focuses on the issues of dog fouling (being a Green Dog Walker) together with dog control and public safety. Dog fouling can have a significant impact on our environment and presents a serious public health risk from for example Toxocariasis an illness of humans caused by dog roundworm that is found in dog faeces and can lead to blindness in humans. As regards public safety there have been dog attack incidents locally including an incident in 2016 in a park in Blyth.

This campaign will form an important part of the County Council's overall approach to dog control. Our commitment to effective enforcement will continue as before with targeted enforcement patrols at identified problem areas across Northumberland.

The Campaign will seek to promote Northumberland as a welcoming place to responsible dog walkers whether residents or visitors but also emphasise that Northumberland is not a place that tolerates irresponsible dog owners again whether residents or visitors. The philosophy behind the Green Dog Walker Initiative is to change public attitudes so that it becomes socially unacceptable to fail to clean up after your dog i.e. they should leave only pawprints.

The Green Dog Walker Initiative relies on volunteers for its delivery and uses a non-confrontational 'keep it friendly' approach to encourage responsible dog ownership. Talking to dog walkers, offering free poop bags and in turn encouraging them to also sign up to the green dog walker pledge. The group or individual provides the "on the ground" work to sign up further pledgers.

Green Dog Walker support kits will be provided to local community groups, individuals, and schools who want to take an active role. The toolkit includes a supply of campaign guides, pledge brochures, armbands, doggy bags, and posters.

Individuals who sign up to the pledge will be provided with the armband and a supply of campaign poop bags and leaflets to encourage other dog walkers to sign up.

The Council were helping were publicising the scheme in Amble.

58.2: Planning Briefing sessions for Northumberland Town and Parish Council members – Members noted the training sessions but agreed to wait until the North Area date were announced.

58.3: NALC - N'land CC Environment & Local Services (aka Highways and Neighbourhood Services) – This was circulated by email for information.

58.4: Mr Sim - Chaotic streets – Mr Sim expressed concern after trying for 15 minutes to get out of Leslie drive on to Percy Street. He is a member of Amble lifeboat crew and as three quarters of the crew live in the east of the town claimed that they had absolutely no chance of getting to the lifeboat station because of the total gridlock at this end of the town .

The Clerk has acknowledged the email and forwarded to the Parking and Traffic Flow Group who discussed the issue and noted that local knowledge was key, there are other routes from the east end of Amble.

58.5: Mr Rackham -

Bee keeping

Mr Rackham asked that it be noted that *Bee keeping is safe when properly controlled. There has been a huge resurgence of people keeping bees, especially in inner cities. This is a direct response to the massive decline in bee numbers. Bee keepers have to*

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

train and pass examinations before they are allowed to keep them, get insurance or buy the equipment. Members noted that the

Over recent months Amble Allotment Holders Society have been reviewing the Allotment Rules and Regulations and have addressed bee keeping this within their proposed amendments.

Dog fouling

Mr Rackham expressed concern that this is still a huge problem. Members noted that any correspondence relating to dog fouling would have been referred to Northumberland County Council as the responsible Authority, whilst the town council would have made representations to the dog warden the monitor the area in which fouling was occurring. NCC have recently launched the Green Dog Walkers campaign and are encouraging Members of the Public to sign up to it by taking a pledge, we have information leaflets on this in the office should you require any further information.

George Street one way system

Mr Rackham noted that some vehicles continue to travel the wrong, Members hoped that the NCC signage would soon be in place (we have been told within 1-2 weeks) and once in place the Police would be able to act on a vehicles using the one-way system incorrectly.

Cycles and the one way system

Mr Rackham requested the following be brought to the attention to the Council.

[https://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/sites/iee-](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/sites/iee-projects/files/projects/documents/presto_fact_sheet_contra_flow_cycling_en.pdf)

[projects/files/projects/documents/presto_fact_sheet_contra_flow_cycling_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/sites/iee-projects/files/projects/documents/presto_fact_sheet_contra_flow_cycling_en.pdf)

And the following noted: “...it is therefore strongly recommended to exempt cyclists from one-way restrictions as a general principle. This is nearly always possible, as long as there is sufficient room to allow a car and a cyclist to cross safely.”

“At first sight, contra-flow cycling looks risky. Over the years, however, experiences in various cities and countries have been consistently positive and have proven the overall safety gains of contra-flow cycling. Nowhere has contra-flow cycling led to a rise in accidents, on the contrary. In many cities where contra-flow cycling was tried, road managers and police started with very stringent safety criteria, but they mostly relaxed them as time went by. Contra-flow cycling has proven to be particularly safe along road sections, even safer than cycling with the flow in one-way streets.”

Alleyway between Tesco and the old Fourways

Mr Rackham raised concerns about the alleyway opposite Tesco that runs towards the old Fourways, claiming that the alleyway opposite Tesco is used as a rat run for people trying to avoid driving around the one-way system. He requested it be looked at installing, perhaps, a no entry sign or a bollard at the Tesco end.

Members are aware of the information forwarded relating to contraflow cycling and also of the open letter you have written to the Parking group. The issue regarding the alleyway would be discussed at the next parking and traffic flow group.

Town memorial clock

Mr Rackham offered help with routine maintenance with the clock or building, the Council would acknowledge this stating they were very thankful for the offer and would very much appreciate him keeping an eye on the memorial, however as the clock has a maintenance and service contract as well as an auto wind system and is soon to have an auto regulation system installed, the need for maintenance should be minimal and left to the contractors.

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

59. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the information items.

- 59.1: NALC Enews 13 June 2017
- 59.2: NALC Enews 20 June 2017
- 59.3: NALC Enews 27 June 2017
- 59.4: CAN Enews June 2017
- 59.5: NALC Enews 4 July 2017
- 59.6: LOCAL COUNCILS UPDATE JULY 2017
- 59.7: Coastal Views June Edition

60. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

60.1:1 The next Meeting (Annual meeting of the Council) will be on Thursday 10th August 2017 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 VERSION OF PRIVATE

61. The minutes of the meeting held 8th June 2017 were agreed as a true record following a couple of amendments.

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

63: CLERKS REPORT

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

63.1: CCTV update – this was ongoing, the Clerk would meet with Cllr Lewis to discuss further.

63.2: Update regarding potential disposal of land – A meeting was held with the agents who are still interested in the land are looking for a developer who may be interested in developing the site. Progress was imminent.

63.3: Consideration of future of TIC building –a working party was set up to discuss this further. Cllrs Hinton, Horn, Lewis Parks and Weir with the Clerk would sit on the working party.

63.4: Letters regarding land and leases – It was agreed to defer this matter to the September meeting.

62.5: Consideration of priorities for future S106 negotiations – Clarification was required on whether the Town Council had been invited to partake in negotiations. The application had been deferred pending a site visit.

626: SLA – TUPE agreement in principle discussions with new NCC officers - a meeting had been set up with Greg Gavin on 26th July at 13.00 to discuss this further. Cllrs Lewis and Weir were delegated to attend the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JULY 2017

Chairs Signature.....