

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – June 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13 April 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, Morrison, J Watson, I Hinson and C Weir with Miss V Smith, Administrative Assistant

1 members of public were present.

S Drew, Northumberland Youth Service, 1 member of the press and a representative from Culture Creative

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

Action

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

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

Mrs Audrey Jones expressed her disappointment with how tired the entrances to Amble are looking. There are Amble Market signs there all the time rather than just on Sundays which has been the case in the past. The flower beds are not up to standard and it was felt that no thought was taken into the types of flowers that have been put in. Cllr Helen Lewis reported that the flower beds is something that Amble Town Council were reviewing and also said that we rely on a very small number of volunteers to help with things like flower beds. This item is to be added to the Amenities agenda.

VS

Mrs Jones also would like something done regarding the amount of pot holes in the town and although these can be reported online it was sometimes difficult to reach anyone at NCC.

The little shore promenade and the path at the back of the shore are in need of further clearing of litter in and around the bin areas and under seats. Amble Town Council agreed to liaise with WHC at their next meeting about the litter issues and Cllr Watson suggested that Mrs Jones should contact WHC directly. Amble Town Council agreed to raise this also with their seasonal worker.

CLERK

Mrs Jones also discussed the chicane on Leazes Street to Newburgh Street. The barriers have been there for far much longer than anticipated and are creating a hazard for large vehicles. There is now rarely enough room for 2 vehicles to pass each other. The signage is also in need of updating and the No Entry sign should be repositioned further back and the One-Way System sign should be on the other side of the road.

Cllr Lewis and Cllr Dargue had attended the Parking meetings and have urged NCC to address these issues and to complete the signage work ASAP as well as removing the bollards and replacing with road markings. Amble Town Council agree that this is unsafe and unsightly.

Stephen Drew – Amble Youth Project

Work is still continuing on a Friday evening which is made slightly easier by the summer light nights. Reports come in from Northumbria Police and good relationships are beginning to be formed with young people. Work is continuing on sign posting and there is currently 2 members of staff doing outreach work but it is a long process, building trust

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and getting the young people used to seeing a familiar face. A meeting is to be arranged to discuss further support.

Claire Elliott – Culture Creative – Tour of Britain 2017

A representative from Tour of Britain attended the meeting to give an update around what is happening for the Tour of Britain 2017 on 4 September 2017. The event is to be promoted on Amble Town Council's social media platforms and website. Claire was made aware of some recent planting of Wildflowers along the Amble / Warkworth road and asked that this area be cordoned off to protect the plants. VS to add this to the Amenities agenda and there was also a request to add this to the Events Committee agenda to see if Tommy Noddy is available to be around that day.

VS
KM

32. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

32.1: The minutes were agreed as a true record with one amendment to item 10.12 to add a review of council policies was needed

33. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

33.1: Parking & Traffic Regulation – Notes of meeting held 17 May 17

The notes are to be completed and circulated. The next meeting is to be held on 21st June 2017.

33.2: Repairs to War Memorial – Tender deadline was 2nd June

As the deadline was 2nd June, VS to send an email to check what response and recommendation there has been. The clerk to complete the grant request paperwork as the deadline is 28 June 2017. ADT have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Masonic Lodge and have agreed to use that funding to install and complete any electrical works required in the Town Square. They would like permission to pay for and install P.A. speakers in the War Memorial Clock Tower. Cllr proposed that the Town Council agreed with this in principle in advance so as to not delay any restoration works. Amble Town Council agreed to this and delegated investigatory work to Cllr Weir and the Town Clerk to liaise with ADT and Charles Blackett- Ord as there would be amendments to the work.

VS
CLERK

33.3: Website refresh

The website refresh is ongoing. New photographs of Councillors are to be added along with additional photos of the town and any agendas and minutes.

CW/CLE
RK

VS

33.4: Report of Community litter pick to be held 24th May, next litter pick to be held 10th June. The litter pick on 24th May was poorly attended with only one member of the public present. The litter pick arranged for 10 June was postponed. Cllr Hinton requested to borrow the litter pickers to go out with young people on Wednesday 14 June. It was agreed that litter was a community wide issue and that messages are needed in schools and to get residents to take responsibility. A litter poster had been produced and will be circulated to schools and a sticker has been created for the use on bins etc.

Amenities Committee are to set the date for the next litter pick. A budget of £50 was agreed for bin stickers. The advertising stickers that were placed on litter bins along Acklington Road have been removed. A request for the bin to be moved at the Church Street bus shelter has been made. This item is also to be added to the Amenities agenda.

VS

33.5: Togston Square Plaque

The Togston Square plaque has been ordered.

33.6: SLA agreement costs query 2016

This item is to be deferred to the next meeting.

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33.7: Tree preservation order query

Contact has been made with the relevant officer but there has been no response. This item is to be chased up.

33.8: Community Access Defibrillator

Contact has been made with WHC but a decision is yet to be arranged. Cllr Watson to discuss with WHC the possibility of having a joint Community Access Defibrillator.

JW

33.9: Neighbourhood planning notes of meeting and consideration of actions.

VS to finalise and circulate. Councillor Helen Lewis proposed that whilst we investigate the likely cost of a neighbourhood plan, we engage with our own and surrounding parishes and communities giving unbiased information about the pros and cons of a neighbourhood plan in order to assess the level of ACTIVE support and possible expertise available before making a decision on whether to proceed or not. This was agreed. Councillor Dargue suggested sending a letter out to every resident as well as an article in The Ambler explaining this in further detail and asking for involvement and commitment from residents however it was agreed to employ a professional in community engagement to work alongside the clerk and a small working party with a small budget to produce an information leaflet to encourage the public to engage with us. The working party was agreed to consist of Cllr Dargue, Hinton, Lewis, Weir and the Clerk and the budget agreed was £1000. The meeting will take place on 11 July 2017 at 4.30pm.

WORKING PARTY

33.10: Clarification of ATC representation on CAN

Further clarification is requested. Cllr Weir to progress.

CW

33.11: Quotations requested for annual planting 2017/18

This item is to be deferred to the next meeting.

33.12: WW1 event

This event will take place on 29 July 2017. All councillors were reminded that their invite letter was available in their postal trays. Cllr Lewis is liaising with the WI around the meal and the WI and Cllr Dargue will be taking the lead on songs. The Royal British Legion will also be hosting a raffle in aid of the Poppy Appeal. All councillors were reminded that during the times of 1pm – 4pm on the 29th July that additional help will be needed setting up the room. Cllr Watson agreed to loan the soldier model for the event.

33.13: The Garden Awards 2017

VS to send to all councillors the short list from last year's awards. It was agreed that during 19 – 29 June, Cllrs would visit gardens in the wards and it is expected that an external judge would be available on 3rd July to visit the 15 finalists from each ward. A letter will be posted through each house visited in the hope that it will encourage more people to attend the award ceremony on 18 July 2017. Cllr Weir agreed to ask Martin Charlton to book the lunch on the 3rd July for the external judge.

VS

CW

34. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

34.1: Cllr Dargue – read out her report. *This month I attended a Wednesday evening litter pick around the town along with other Cllrs and public – this was organised ahead of the Puffin Festival in order to help the town look it's best. On the subject of the Puffin Festival and the Puffin Fringe I would like to offer congratulations and thanks to all involved both on the frontline, organizing and behind the scenes. The Festival was a massive success as ever and really puts Amble on the map. This can only be done with the dedication and hard work of the events team and all other individuals and organisations who offer time and help to achieve this.*

I had the pleasure of attending the Naming Ceremony of the RNLI Shannon class lifeboat the Elizabeth Leonard along with my colleague and deputy Cllr Weir. A fantastic turnout

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and a great chance to thank and congratulate all those involved in the fundraising effort - without which we would not have this lifeline. Great to see the lifeboat put through its paces with a display in the harbour area.

34.2 VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT

Cllr Weir gave special thanks to County Council workers and Town Council workers for their help in the major clear up operation after The Colony festival.

A letter of thanks has been received from The Rotary Club for the work of individual groups and it is encouraging that these relationships need to be preserved.

A representative is required for the next Town and Parish Council as Cllrs Weir and Dargue are unavailable. Cllr Helen Lewis agreed to attend. Cllr Dargue to forward Cllr Lewis all relevant paperwork.

JD

35. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

35.1: County Councillor Terry Clark

County Councillor Clark gave an update and praised The Puffin Festival and The Colony Music Festival for a fantastic event. Cllr Clark queried the possibility of pushing the fairground further back to allow for more space on the grass for festival goers. In the past, this has been suggested but has not been allowed. This suggestion is to be taken to the next Events Committee. There was discussion around moving this to The Braid but past discussions have shown this to cost far more than the £1000 it currently costs. Cllr Clark to be made aware of Full Council meeting dates.

Cllr Clark thanked the voters of Amble, Hauxley and Togston and is looking forward to serving and working together for the good of the local community. Cllr Clark expressed it is a privilege to carry on the work of Robert Arckless and is currently learning the ropes. Cllr Clark's first surgery will take place in July.

35.2: County Councillor Watson report

Cllr Watson updated members with some changes to NCC including that the move to Ashington will now not be going ahead.

Cllr Watson noted that the recycling areas on The Braid were in need of tidying up. Cllr Watson also reported on talks between Amble Youth Project and Cheviot Homes and the possibility of support for the next 10 years.

The rumours surrounding JCSC and the estimated spend of £9m are unconfirmed. The discussions around these sites is ongoing. Cllr Watson updated members about the portfolio of Arch. Some of the Arch developments have been put on hold until further discussions are held and more information is known, this includes the houses on the industrial estate and car parking.

There will now be 5 area committees which will meet monthly and planning will be incorporated into these with decisions made by local cllrs. Amble will now sit within the North Area Committee. Work is still ongoing to establish local services boundaries to correspond with the new area committees.

Cllr Watson also updated Cllrs about the large spread in the Northumberland Gazette re: Active Northumberland. This was a contracted agreement and could not be stopped. It was agreed that clarity was needed on what services were available given the current political climate, we need to be able to communicate appropriately with the people serving Amble. Cllr Watson reported that it was business as usual until it is known.

36. 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**)

Cllr Parks attended his first NALC meeting and the draft minutes were circulated. Issues discussed were cross county planning issues, discussions around the location of the electoral count, dormant councils, websites for councils that do not have an online presence, standards committee representatives, and the NALC Star Council Award.

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Clarity was requested as whether nominees were to be serving councillors.
Cllr Morrison attended a CAP meeting and made members aware of the Young Drivers Event that was being held in Alnwick on Monday 12 June 2017.

IP

37. FINANCIAL REPORT: (Finance)

37.1: To consider voucher numbers 34 – 68 for payment and receipt vouchers 12-25 for information **(Finance)**

The payments and receipts were accepted.

37.2: The bank reconciliation to date – this was not available

37.3: Accounts year end 2016/17 – An Audit has been completed and there are no major issues to report. There is a problem with the scribe software duplicating some entries and this is currently being investigated as the accounts cannot be sent to the external auditor until this is solved. The accounts would be presented for approval at the next meeting

37.4: Grant Requests:

- Northumberland Domestic Abuse Service –

Members agreed to support this with a grant donation of £50.00

38. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2017 are to be circulated in due course.

39: PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 June 2017 were accepted and agreed as a true record of the meeting.

40: AGENDA ITEMS:

40:1 Newpage for The Ambler

The newsletter was discussed and agreed.

41.COMMUNICATIONS:

41.1:NCC - Little Shore Wave Basin Improvement Works

Cllr Watson to update members after the meeting to discuss this.

41.2: Northumberland Rivers Trust - enquiry about putting an A3 interpretation board on site at 'Amble Fish Pass'

It was agreed by all that this was not 'Amble Fish Pass' and that the sign was incorrect although already produced. It was agreed that Amble Town Council should write a letter of support although stating that it would be preferable if the sign stated 'Coquet Fish Pass' and that whilst this is not in the Amble parish, we do support it.

JW

CLERK

41.3: NCC – Core Strategy Appointment of Inspector

The communication that Roger Clews had been appointed was noted.

41.4: Complaints about Harbour Public Conveniences

The complaint emails are to be forwarded to NCC and Cllr Terry Clark. The clerk to acknowledge the complaints.

CLERK

41.5: Culture Creative - Tour of Britain 2017

As above

41.6: Update on the Dovecote Centre

An email from Eileen Bell was read out regarding the possible use of the Dovecote Centre space for additional car parking facilities in the town. It was noted that the decision has been taken by the diocese not to allow this space as extra car parking for the town due to insurance liabilities. Amble Town Council expressed frustration and regret at this decision especially as the Town Council would have picked up any additional insurance costs as it is something the town desperately needs. Communications advertising the building's sale is expected to be erected within 10 days.

CW

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Cllr Weir to raise the issue around retaining the cycle racks with Ruth Bendell.

41.7: Seafarers UK – Flying the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day

It was agreed to acknowledge this letter but to state that unfortunately we cannot asset as this may set a precedence for all others that we could not accommodate.

CLERK

41.8: Acklington C of E First School; Consultation on proposed closure

Amble Town Council has not been officially consulted but are aware that it may have some impact on the local school intake.

41.9: Good Citizen Award 2017 – sponsorship of cup or medal

Amble Town Council was requested to sponsor this award as in previous years and agreed to donate £100. The event will take place on 14th July 2017.

CLERK
JW

Cllr Watson requested that Julia Aston also send the email to Warkworth Parish Council as they might like to contribute also.

VS

This item is to be added to the Annual Meeting agenda so it is allocated for automatically.

42. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

42.1: NALC Enews 9 May 2017

42.2: NALC Enews 16 May 2017

42.3: NALC Enews 23 May 2017

42.4: AONB - Coastal Views May Edition

42.5: NALC Enews 30 May 2017

All communications were noted.

43. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

43:1 The next Meeting will be of the Council on **Thursday 13th July 2017 at 6.00pm.** in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

Cllr Tracey Hinton may be late to the next meeting as she has a prior engagement that may over run.

Cllr Kate Morrison submitted apologies.

Cllr Hinton also made members aware that Amble Youth Project have been successful in securing 3 years funding from Children In Need.

It was agreed 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.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

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

There were no further reports of meetings.

45: CLERKS REPORT

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

45.1: CCTV update

We are currently still waiting permissions from NCC and Louise Stobbart. A breakdown from Alncom has been requested. The old cameras still need to be removed and a working relationship between NCC and Alncom needs to be established. Planning

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permission is required and clarity is being sought on this. Pre-planning advice will be obtained and photos of existing cameras and locations is required. Cllrs Horn and Dargue to proceed with this. Cllr Watson to follow up the planning permission requirements for 41 Queen Street as this is a listed building- do not recall this at all!. As this item is now in the public domain it was agreed that it did not need to be in the private section of the meeting.

45.2: Update regarding potential disposal of land

Cllrs Weir and Lewis to attend a meeting with on 23 June 2017.

45.3: Consideration of future of TIC building

A confidential report was circulated regarding the future use of the TIC. Outside interest has been expressed.

45.4: Letters regarding land and leases

The Clerk had a good meeting to discuss the anomaly and an agreement has been made.

45.5: Consideration of priorities for future S106 negotiations

Guidance was previously circulated to help explain the difference between S106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy to help guide discussions with NCC and developers. Items for future discussions were listed.

45.6: SLA – TUPE agreement in principle discussions with new NCC officers.

Negotiations are currently on hold. Further discussions are needed.

45.7: Pay Review

The minutes of the working party are to be circulated in due course.

The Clerk requested that her pay review be held later.

It was agreed to increase the operational staff by one scale point in line with Local Government pay scale, this is to be reviewed in 3 month's time.

It was agreed to increase the Administrative Assistant hours to 18 hours per week and also by a further 2 hours to attend the Amenities. This would also be reviewed in 3 months.

The meeting closed at 21.00

Acronyms:

ATC – Amble Town Council

NCC – Northumberland County Council

WW1 – World War One

NALC – Northumberland Association of Local Councils

CAN – Community Action Northumberland

NHS – National Health Service

ADT – Amble Development Trust

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