

**Minutes of a meeting of Amble Town Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 6.30pm in the Council Meeting Room, Harbour Commissioners Building, The Quayside, Harbour Road, Amble.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mr Weir (Chair), Mr Arckless, Mrs Dargue, Mrs Lewis, Miss Morrison, Mr Watson and the Clerk: Miss Brown.

Gazette reporter James Willoughby. Mrs Jones - Resident

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Hinson- Illness, Cllr Bennett – Holiday. The apologies were agreed.

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Members are requested to advise Council of any Declarations of Interest appertaining to the following Agenda Items

**2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)**

Mrs Jones raised concerns about parking and traffic flow in the Harbour area which was 'worse than ever' and also the fact that disabled badges were no longer covered in the Harbour car parks. Mrs Jones also raised concerns about the amount of cigarette butts on the streets at the front entrances of public houses and the advertising signage at the north and south entrances to the town and at the Dilston Terrace roundabout.

Cllr Watson responded that there is no statutory requirement for establishments to provide smoking areas.

It was noted that meetings had been held with the Locality Officer regarding cleansing schedules. The matter of signage would be raised at the next meeting with the Locality Officer.

**3. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

3.1: The minutes of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were agreed to be a true record.

**4. CLERK'S REPORT:**

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report

4.1: Meeting with Project Sales manager regarding build – The Clerk would chase this up and also request quotes from other firms.

4.2: Clerk And Chair met with Locality Officer and NCC Head of Service, Paul Jones.

4.1: Request for extending of Public Convenience opening hours

4.3: Letter to WHC re: concerns over hard standing and relocation of boat storage. Response received.

4.4: Request for possible dates for Year to Remember concert for Summer 2015

4.5: Amble suggested as future meeting location to NCC North Area Committee – Meeting confirmed to be held in Fourways 2 in July.

4.6: Clerk with Cllr Lewis and Dargue to attend Town Benchmarking dissemination event.

Benchmarking Report circulated to Members

4.7: Meeting room usage agreement with Amble Rangers (Girl Guiding UK)

4.8: Community Tidy Up organised

4.9: Annual Parish Meeting organised for 19<sup>th</sup> May in Fourways 2

**5. AGENDA ITEMS FROM CLERK'S REPORT inc:**

None.

**6. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

**7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

County Councillor Arckless reported on the decision on closure of St. Cuthberts RC First School which would take place on 31<sup>st</sup> August, noting that there had been no representation from the diocese at the meeting. Pupils of the school would be offered places in the other Amble Schools or St. Paul's RC First School in Alnwick. The school building is under the ownership of the Diocese and the land belongs to NCC.

County Councillor Watson updated on the plans for the bus shelter on the residential side of Acklington Road. He suggested that joint communication be made with Amble Town Council and Warkworth regarding the proposed development at Gloster Hill. :

**8. 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 Dargue attended a Harbour Village Stakeholder event.

**9. AGENDA ITEMS:**

9.1: To receive the Internal Auditors report – the Clerk read out the report. The Internal Auditors comments were noted.

9.2: To approve the accounts and annual governance statement for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 - It was RESOLVED that the above be approved and the documents were signed by the Chairman.

9.3: Consideration of letter to Scrutiny Committee regarding Town and Parish Council Charter – It was RESOLVED that a letter be sent regarding the Council's concern particularly over the Cemeteries being classed as universal assets. A copy of the letter would be sent to other Parish Council's responsible for Cemeteries asking for support.

9.4: Bus shelter Acklington Road High School site – The School were looking into the prices of metal. It was RESOLVED to delegate this to the Chair and Cllr Lewis with the Clerk up to the amount of £1500 for materials.

9.5: Update of raised bed site - It was noted that the uptake on the site was very good with enquiries pending on the two remaining beds. Agreements had been signed by the users and contributions towards the purchase of water butts received.

9.6: Future meeting date for the planning of WW1 Centenary event – The next meeting would take place on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 6pm in the Council Meeting room.

9.7: Update on the Paddlers – The draft sketch ideas were to be presented at the Annual Parish meeting along with a presentation by the consultants.

9.8: Land at rear of Robson's Way – Cllr Watson raised concern that some residents had extended their boundaries by cutting trees back into the wooded area at the rear of the properties. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this to the Countryside Officer at Northumberland County Council.

9.9: To consider the Amble Town Benchmarking report – The Members noted that the benchmarking report provided a false impression of the town as it was only carried out on a weekday rather than on a market/ car boot day or Bank Holiday when traffic was at its peak.. Lack of signage was indicated as an issue. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to NCC stating the dissatisfaction of the Council.

9.10: To consider offer to schools re: Local Democracy Week – As Local Democracy week would be week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October, the Clerk would contact the local schools asking if they would like visits from local Members and what themes/subjects they would like covered. It was appreciated that further dialogue would be needed with JCSC. This would be brought back to the June meeting for further discussion.

**10. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

10.1: The minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were agreed as a true record

**11. COMMUNICATIONS:**

11.1: Community Action Northumberland – Spring Conference – Cllr Weir would attend as the Councils representative of CAN.

11.2: European Parliamentary Election - the details were noted for information.

11.3: Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board, HMP Northumberland – The Independent Monitoring Board of HM Prison Northumberland had now issued its 2013 Annual Report. The report is at [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk) under Home>Publications>Corporate reports>Independent Monitoring Reports>Annual reports 2013.

11.4: Invitation to view plans for Harbour Village

**12. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

The following information items were agreed en bloc.

12.1: Clerk & Councils Direct – May 2014

12.2: Age Concern UK – Info and advice service

12.3: Marine Conservation Society – Spring 2014

12.4: Local Councils Update – April 2014

**13. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

13:1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 12 June 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Town Council Meeting Room, The Quayside, Amble

**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**

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

14.1: Cllr Dargue attended a meeting of LMAPS and gave a verbal report on the meeting.

14.2: Cllr Dargue had also attended a meeting of Amble 2020 to discuss the Harbour Village, it was suggested at the meeting that the Town Council may consider looking after flag poles planned for the public realms work. It was RESOLVED that the Council were not in favour of looking after flag poles and it was suggested that perhaps more ornate street lighting would be more appropriate. The Clerk would send a letter to NCC & Amble Development Trust outlining this and informing that the Town Council would welcome dialogue with ADT and NCC regarding the public realms works.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm