

Minutes of a meeting of Amble Town Council held on Thursday 10th April 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, Mr Watson and the Clerk: Miss Brown.
Gazette reporter James Willoughby.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Hinson- Illness; Cllr Robinson –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)

A letter had been received from Mr Geggie regarding concerns of the new Boat Storage area at the rear of Broomhill Street. Whilst the Town Council has no jurisdiction over the Harbour, as this effected a residential area, it was agreed that the Clerk refer the concerns to the Harbour Master.

3. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

3.1: The minutes of the meeting held 13th 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.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FROM CLERK'S REPORT inc:

5.1: Meeting held with Locality Officer and Head of Service – The Clerk informed that a report of the meeting would be circulated. Discussions had focused around the street cleansing schedule which the Clerk read out for information; Mr Jones had stated that the number of Town Centre cleans seemed very low and he would investigate having this increased. It was also noted that the Tourist Information Centre railings had been painted as requested. Concern was raised about momentoes on roadside accidents sites, the Locality Officers would query whether any policies covered this.

6. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

The Chair had attended a Coffee Morning at St. Cuthbert's which was hosted by the Pottergate Centre.

The Chair had received an invitation to attend the RAF Boulmer Annual Spring Reception.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

7.1: County Councillor Arckless's report was circulated; a copy is available on request.

7.2: County Councillor Watson felt that the Estate Agents should be congratulated on their efforts in engagement in the community with regard to the Mariners View/Gloster Park drop in consultation event, he commented that it was important that Warkworth PC and Amble TC communicate over any future Section 106 discussions for the site.

The hedge on Acklington Road had been cut back and it was also noted that the football pitch had

been cut.

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

CW – NALC; Cllr Weir explained that discussions had predominantly focused on the Charter consultation.

KM – Youth Project; this report was circulated for information.

JD – Amble 2020- Cllr Dargue gave a verbal report of

9. AGENDA ITEMS:

9.1: To consider the future of the 'Simply Horticulture' site and its assets – As the project had never succeeded due to access and the neglected look of the site, it was agreed that the Town Council would take over the site for a period of 2-3 years with Cllrs and volunteers to cultivate the beds, with the Environmental Operative to weed kill the area, to improve the look and see if interest is generated. If there is still no interest after this period, the Council would reluctantly remove the beds in the site.

9.2: To consider a Community Tidy up – it was agreed to hold a Community Tidy up for the duration of week commencing 19th May over all areas of the town, the Clerk would organise the Litter picking equipment and advertise. The Town Centre tidy up would be on 21st May, meeting in the Town Square at 6.30pm.

9.3: Optimisation of future council meetings and administrative time; the new meeting structure was agreed, with meeting dates to be set at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

9.4: To consider the draft newsletter – The newsletter was agreed with amendments.

10. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

10.1: The minutes of the Meeting held Thursday 27th March 2014 were agreed to be a true record.

11. REPORT FROM THE CEMETERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

11.1: The minutes of the meeting held Thursday 27th March 2014 were agreed to be a true record.

12. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE: None.

13. REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE: None.

14. COMMUNICATIONS:

14.1: Mary Hollins – Years to Remember concert; it was agreed that this should be considered for 2015, the Clerk would enquire if Mrs Hollins had any dates in mind.

14.2: SLCC – Parish Liaison Working Group Clerk's Forum – The Clerk informed that she had put herself forward to attend a forum twice per annum.

14.3: North Area Committee – Working with Town/Parish Councils presentation – circulated by email.

14.4: Mr Allen – concern about public convenience facilities in light of future developments – Whilst this communication had been received by the Ambler, it was present for information. The Clerk detailed that annually complaints were received regarding the 5pm closing time of the public conveniences in the town. Whilst NCC was responsible for many public conveniences across Northumberland, the opening and closing times differed for different locations. The Clerk would enquire whether the particular Parish with longer opening hours had agreements in place and whether it was possible for the opening hours to be extended from April to October

14.5: Notification of Petition regarding proposed closure of St. Cuthbert's – This was noted for information.

14.6: Temp road closure on the section from houses 1-6 of the U3136 Dandsfield Square – This

was noted for information.

14.7: NCC- Periodical review of the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showman within the area – The Clerk would circulate among Members for comments.

14.8: Benchmarking report and dissemination event – It was agreed that the Clerk with Cllrs Dargue and Lewis would attend the event.

14.9: Proposal under Sustainable Communities Act – To consider supporting the proposal that the government take the necessary action to allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid direct to Parish and Town Councils for the benefit of local economic growth. – whilst the Members agreed to support this in principle, more detail was required of how it would be administered.

14.10: To consider Good Citizen Awards – It was agreed to support the Awards with £100 taken from the Community and Environmental budget and in the future to budget for this on an annual basis.

14.11: Fire & Rescue Plan 2014-2017 – It was agreed that comments should be returned the Clerk by 1st May.

14.12: Community Action Northumberland –Spring Conference – Cllr Weir was to attend this conference.

14.13: Town/Parish Councils – Basic Training in Planning – Those wishing to attend should contact the Clerk

15. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

15.1: Community Acton Northumberland – Spring 2014

15.2: NALC – e-news April 2014

16. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

16:1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 10th April 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Town Council Meeting Room, The Quayside, Amble

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.

PRIVATE

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

17.1: To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies

18: Update on staff absence – The Clerk