

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – APRIL 2019

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 11 April 2019 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, J Dargue, C Butler, I Parks, C Foxley, J Watson, K Morrison
V Smith - Town Clerk,

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

261. APOLOGIES

Apologies accepted from Cllr T Hinton

262. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

262.1 None

263. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

263.1 Clive Foxley has completed the necessary paperwork and is now a member of Amble Town Council. Welcome Cllr Foxley.

264. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

264.1 Steve Latimer – Men Shed

SL attended the meeting to make Councillors aware of a new project he is setting up in Amble. The project is to support men's mental health, specifically veterans who may need additional support in a variety of ways. The project will be based at the Dovecote Centre and SL has arrangements in place with NTC. SL gave those present at the meeting a brief background of his service and career. SL is keen that the project includes the transference of skills between participants young and old. The project will be open 3 days a week, the other two days will be used for production of goods to sell and preparation for the next session. Tools have been donated generously however Men Shed would really like community support and to get involved with community projects. Councillors suggested contacting Sodexo. SL has contacts that can be utilised if a participant is in need of additional support and has links in to other projects of this kind throughout the Country. Councillors explained that there is an ATC grants process if he would find that useful. SL to provide the Clerk with a short paragraph that would adequately explain Men Shed. Clerk to add to website.

Clerk

265. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

265.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019, items 241 – 260.1

The minutes were accepted.

266. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

266.1 The Clerks report was accepted. Some additional items were raised as part of the Clerks report:

Paddlers Equipment – Clerk to write to Mike Jeffrey cc Jeff Watson regarding the removal of the old equipment and their wishes for disposal.

High Street Community Clean Up Fund – The Clerk is waiting to hear from AYP but has received a proposal from Litterbugs.

Redefining Wards due to increase in electors – The Clerk has sought advice on this from NCC.

Clerk
Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

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Advice stated that any wishes to change the boundary should come from a Council. Any request to change the wards/ boundaries/ Cllr numbers should also come from Councillors but Councillors were reminded that any election costs that rise from this decision will need to be covered by ATC. Clerk to add to May agenda.

Clerk

Clerk

CCTV Electricity from NCC lampposts – Cllr Watson confirmed that the correct contact was Lynsey Sawyer. Clerk to forward email for action.

Trees on Percy Drive – A letter was drafted in response to the removal of trees at Percy Drive. It was approved that this should be sent to the developer. Cllr Parks to also raise the issue about discharge of conditions and parish Councils not being notified at the next NALC meeting.

IP

Memorial Clock – Smith of Derby are expected to attend on 30 April 2019 at 11.30 to repair the autowind on the clock.

JCSC Meeting – Clerk has requested a meeting

Clerk

Active Northumberland – Clerk has requested a meeting. Cllr Dargue would like to attend this if possible.

ALL

Advance Northumberland – It was agreed that the next meeting with Advance Northumberland would be 8th May 2019 at 5.30pm

267. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATION and REPORT

267.1. Chairman's Report

Cllr Weir attended the opening of the Wellwood and attended a Civic Reception held by the NCC Civic Head. Cllr Weir made members aware that PURDAH has been extended due to the European Elections and will take place from 2 May – 23 May.

267.2. Vice Chairman Report

Cllr Lewis attended the Coastal Community Team meeting on behalf of Cllr Weir. Minutes are available for members on request. Items discussed were the new sculpture trail and a brief for the artist.

Cllr Lewis also attended the AAHS AGM alongside Cllrs Dargue and Parks. The Allotments have suffered greatly over the past few days with incidents of vandalism, theft, fire and anti social behaviour. Discussions took place regarding the proposed new bollards but it was felt that these may not be secure enough. Other options being considered included closed fencing, CCTV and additional lighting. If this is the preferred route, ATC would need to check the legality of the public right of way despite it not being registered as that. Clerk to circulate the notes to those that want them.

Clerk

268. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

268.1 To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

The Signal Cottage application has been passed.

A request for a give way sign on Church Street was refused by Highways

A request for dropped kerbs outside Amble Inn is being considered.

ATC did request some additional dropped kerbs on Church Street but were refused. Clerk to forward TC email.

Water on Central Avenue corner should have been picked up on the 16/17 LTP but was not.

Resurfacing on the A1068 is soon to be taking place. The road will be closed. Date to be confirmed.

There are issues with road signage next to the new development on Links Road.

There has been anti- social behaviour on Lawson Street.

Complaints have been received about the weedkilling at West Cemetery.

Complaints have been received about dog fouling on the dunes and Links Avenue.

The bin has been damaged on the Lord Mayors Field.

The landscaping at the South Roundabout has been brought to TC attention. Advance

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Northumberland/ Amble Inn have been asked to look after the fish sculpture. The Persimmon side is a disgrace.

TC has given £1000 to St Cuthberts' Church for their remedial works.

268.2. To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson suggested that himself and Cllr Clark share the cost of the ANPR camera that police wish to have on the South Roundabout. There was to be some consideration and discussion to be held about Morrisons also contributing to a camera, which would free up Cllrs spending for an additional one at the top of High Street.

Cllr Watson is setting up another meeting with JCSC to find out exactly what the school want and to discuss what can be achieved. It was acknowledged that this was a very different meeting to the type that ATC will be having with the school.

Cllr Watson was asked if Coastal Mitigation monies could be spent on the North Side which is eroding significantly. Cllr Watson reported that WHC did do some work here whilst dredging but that there are currently no more plans for another. It was unclear whether these monies can be used for this purpose. It was however reported that Coastal Mitigation monies can be used for cycle ways and footways. The Clerk to locate the relevant maps. An agenda item at the AGM is to set up a working group to take this work forward.

Clerk

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

269.1 To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (Cllr Reports)

Cllr Weir attended meetings with Hay and Kilner, contractors re Cemetery Fence, Sodexo, Parking, Northumbria Police, Amble Marina, Hindhaugh Homes, Amenities Committee and the NTC Forum.

Cllr Morrison attended a meeting with AYP and NTC. AYP have opened a Saturday kitchen and have also secured finance from Angie's Tavern and Amble Marina to provide embroidered hoodies for permanent staff. Ian Williams is now a trustee of ADT. Three experienced youth workers have been employed. The AYP is still experiencing problems of anti-social behaviour and drug use. They are working with the relevant authorities to overcome these issues as best as possible.

The NTC community meeting took place on 30th March 2019 to discuss what the public would like the Dovecote Centre to be used for. It is estimated that £100k will be needed to make the building fit for purpose. The next NTC play is Dracula, the travesty on 23rd May and NTC will be hosting talks for this year's Puffin Festival.

Some members attended the JCSC Positively Mental event. Members would like to see this work continue throughout the school.

Cllr Parks attended a meeting of NALC which focused on the new NCC officers and planning. The new Director of Planning, Rob Murfin, is keen to involve local councils in S106 discussions. Also discussed was the transition fund for events and the High Street Clean Up Fund.

A survey recently sent out by NALC was for individual Cllrs to complete.

270. FINANCIAL REPORT:

270.1 To consider voucher numbers for payment 385 – 408 and receipt vouchers 181 – 189

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in voucher 389

Cllr Weir declared an interest in voucher 385 / 390

The receipts and payments were approved.

270.2. Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation was accepted.

270.3. YTD figures

The year to date figures were noted.

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Clerk

270.4 Grants:

- The Puffin Theatre Club Grant Application – a donation of £300 was approved.
- Friends of Alnmouth Station – this was deferred to the May AGM. The Clerk to write to them
- Amble Coastal Rowing Club – Cllrs Weir and Parks declared an interest. A donation of £150 was approved.

Clerk

Clerk

270.5 To receive an update on the 2019/2020 Audit

Gillian Turner has been working jointly with the Clerk to ensure that the details for External Audit are prepared. Peter Basnett, Internal Audit, is due to attend the Council offices on 17/18 April 2019. The Clerk is also working on the asset register as this needs amended to reflect the changes. Clerk to ascertain what the depreciation is.

Clerk

270.6 Statement of Internal Control and Risk Assessment.

This item was added at the Chair discretion due to the critical timing of the Audit. The Clerk had circulated the papers prior to the meeting. The Statement of Internal Control and Risk Assessment was approved.

271. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

271.1 To note the minutes of the last Amenities Committee held on 28 March 2019

Items 105 – 116.2 were approved. It was agreed at the meeting that ATC should mark the 75th D Day Anniversary. A short ceremony is to take place on 6 June 2019, 10.50am with involvement in the ceremony from CCT. Notifications will be sent out. Cllr Watson to flag with RBL and request the standard bearer. Staff were delegated up to £50 for a sheaf of red roses / carnations. Details to be confirmed after meeting with CCT.

Clerk

Since the timing of this meeting, there had been discussion on social media about the Paddlers Park play area gate. The gate is designed to open outwards so that a child can escape if needs be and so that dogs cannot enter the play area. Notices have been placed to warn path users that the gate opens outwards. A report was received that a child has been injured due to the gate closing. Clerk to check the timing of the gate closure is in line with ROSPA guidelines.

Clerk

271.2 Complaint regarding West Cemetery Weedkilling

Complaints were made regarding the weedkilling at the West Allotments under the SLA. It was agreed that as strimming is very labour intensive that those older plots that are no longer tended (A-K), could be weedkilled around the head stone, there were 4 in this area that are being attended to and were asked to be left. It was not the request on ATC to weedkill the newer sections from Section L unless it was obvious that the grave had not been tended to in some time. Contractors have discussed this with ATC and have been deeply apologetic in the error. It was also unfortunate that it was Mother's Day weekend. ATC have been assured that the yellow colouring will fade and will not look so unsightly.

The Clerk has sent all information requested to the complainant including a cost analysis. The cost analysis is due to be revisited this year. ATC are still cheaper than NCC for burials.

There was also concern that the spray area is far too wide and weedkills wider than is necessary.

272: PLANNING COMMITTEE

272.1 Planning Outcomes for March 2019

The report was noted.

Queries with Grayscale Tattoos and Harbour Inn Ice Cream are ongoing.

273. AGENDA ITEMS:

273.1 High Street Community Clean Up Fund

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NCC allocated £2500 to ATC as part of the community clean up fund. There is strict criteria to be met. It is understood following discussions with Ian Hedley that ATC and community groups can use the funding for planned maintenance. Community groups have been notified and proposals for use of the funding have been received from Litterbugs Warkworth and we are awaiting from AYP. A meeting to be set up to discuss distribution of the funds.

Clerk

273.2 Outcome of contractor visit and quote for pigeon problem on war memorial

This was discussed at the meeting last month and remains an outstanding action in terms of arranging a contractor to visit site.

Clerk

273.3 To discuss procurement of further CCTV equipment

Arising out of the meeting with Northumbria Police, it was ascertained that the police aim to connect the coastal road via CCTV. Whilst it was acknowledged that the town CCTV is for the protection of the town's assets, ATC are open to discussions in adding additional cameras. A full cost analysis of how much has been spent already is needed as well as statistics from the police as to how useful it has been. Records of maintenance and issues have also been requested from Alncom. Currently, Northumbria Police do not have access to the system on their hand held devices and this is being looked into as they now have new equipment. A designated tablet might benefit officers if it was based at Alnwick. ATC are waiting to hear back from Northumbria Police.

273.4 To approve costs received for remedial works to allotment wall

At a previous meeting a sum of £700 was delegated for the repair of the coping stones. As this quote was received at £350, it was agreed to proceed. The Clerk to contact contractor.

Clerk

273.5 To agree, where requested, ex gratia payments for electricity for CCTV cameras on private property.

It was agreed, that where requested, the Council would pay the electricity costs of approximately £40 per camera to those businesses whose electricity the camera is using.

273.6 To agree a suitable date for the Civic Awards

The date agreed for the annual Civic Award Ceremony was 16 July 2019. Clerk to book conference room and judge from The Alnwick Garden.

Clerk

274. COMMUNICATIONS:

274.1 Letter of thanks from Community Action Northumberland

Noted

274.2 NALC Newsletter 20/3,

Noted

274.3 NALC Note re Planning / S106

Noted

274.4 Flying the Red Ensign Sign for Merchant Navy Day 3 September 2019

The Council decided not to take part in this this year.

274.5 Free HR training from Hay and Kilner

The Clerk to arrange a suitable time, at the Hay and Kilner offices.

Clerk

274.6 Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean

Noted.

274.7 Newsletter from Ann Marie Trevelyan

Noted

274.8 Highways Proposal for Church Street, 8 July 2019

Resurfacing works of Church Street are due to take place on 8 July 2019. ATC have asked for dropped kerbs here but it is not possible. The Clerk to send email to Cllr Clark.

Clerk

Additional Items Received Since Agenda was Posted

274.9 Event Cost Recovery

NCC plan to charge for all event services including road closures and litter clean ups for all community events except Remembrance Day events and Armed Forces events. To mitigate the first year unexpected costs, a transitional fund has been created which must be accessed on a first come first served basis. The fund is for £35k and will not be increased. There was great

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concern on how small town and parish councils could afford to run events in the future if they had to pay for these services. For those councils that do not charge residents to attend there is no income to cover these costs.

The Clerk is to apply for the Xmas Lights Road Closures by 22 April.

Clerk

275. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

275.1 Coastal Care April Plan

Noted

275.2 Notes from meeting with Hindhaugh Homes & Craig Van Bedaf

Noted. A request to Hindhaugh Homes to provide a gateway to the town was made. Suggestions to be sent to the Clerk by 15 April 2019.

All

275.3 Notes of Parking meeting on 20th March 2019

Noted

275.4 The Borderlands Partnership – March Newsletter

Noted

275.5 Former TIC Public Conveniences Arrangements

The toilets are to remain the responsibility of NCC. Cllr Watson to query out of hours arrangements with NCC.

JW

275.6 Advisory road markings for St Marks United Reformed Church

Noted

275.7 Rural Services Network survey

Noted

275.8 Notes of meeting with Sodexo

Noted

276. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting is to be scheduled to take place on 9 May 2019 and will follow the AGM

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

277: MINUTES – To consider the minutes of the meeting held 14 March 2019 items – 257 – 260.1

The minutes were approved

277.1 AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Items 116 – 116.2 were approved

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

278.1 HL attended the Coastal Community Team meeting. The artists brief was discussed in detail. Discussions also took place regarding budget.

A motion to suspend standing orders was passed.

279. AGENDA ITEMS

279.1 Update on Memorial Gardens

The work remains ongoing and is expected to take 4-6 weeks.

279.2 To receive an update on tenancy issue

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A vast amount of work has been done by Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair on this issue. The business operator has now issued a court order. ATC has sought legal advice.

Barrister costs of £900 were approved.

Hay and Kilner are also in the process of finalising legal documents. A joint meeting is to take place on 24th April 2019 at 10am.

279.3 To approve additional legal costs and sum going forward

The costs are not yet known but as they are in conjunction with the work that the Council has instructed the Barrister to do, the Council agreed to pay these fees when received. A full cost analysis to be drawn up.

Clerk

280. INFORMATION ITEMS

280.1 To note the minutes of the Parking meeting 20 March 2019

Noted

280.2 Notes from meeting with Northumbria Police and Amble Youth Project

Noted

280.3 Notes of CCTV meeting with Northumbria Police / AYP

Noted

280.4 Notes from meeting with legal firm

Noted

ACRONYMS

NCC – NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CCT – COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

CAN – COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND

ATC – AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL

Chairs Signature.....

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