

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2019

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 12 September 2019 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, I Parks, J Watson, T Hinton
V Smith - Town Clerk,

119. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE: Councillor Vacancy – West Ward

119.1 Apologies had been received in advance from all candidates.

Applications had been sent to all members for reading ahead of the meeting.

A vote took place resulting in a majority of 4:2 for Mr Bewley.

The Clerk to write to candidates as appropriate.

Mr Bewley to be invited to make an appointment to receive and sign all relevant documentation.

Clerk

120. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

120.1 Jane Dargue / Clive Foxley

The apologies were accepted.

121. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

121.1 Cllr Lewis declared an interest in payment 171 and Cllr Watson declared an interest in the Governance Review and would not be taking part in the discussion.

122. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

122.1 There were 1 members of the public present.

Northumbria Police arrived later due to a Police emergency

They were made aware of the vandalism at NTC. Reports will be investigated. NTC are now looking at CCTV options.

Glendale Garages are to be demolished due to anti-social behavior the police were requested to contact the resident who reported it.

A van with no number plates has been reported in St Cuthberts Avenue.

A black Vauxhall Astra has been reported on Acklington Road.

A resident of Runciman Way has had issues with people parking on her drive and blocking access to her home. There is some confusion over who's responsibility this is, either NCC or Northumbria Police. To be progressed

A problem was reported at the junction with Gordon Street and Blackwood Street and the effect on emergency access.

The Bye-Law regarding drinking in Public Areas was raised. The Police are looking into the bye-law and will enforce as it states. Any complainants are asked to report directly to Northumbria Police.

There remains an issue with off road motorbikes.

Officers have spoken to offenders at AYP.

Only one boat was reported as set adrift at the Harbour. The case has been closed.

Incidents of Anti-Social behavior have been reported at Church Street Bus Shelter. Alncom are to be contacted regarding the CCTV.

The Bus Shelter barrier is also badly damaged.

Youths are also using the bus shelter to access the garden of the Old Vicarage.

Reports of anti-social behavior at the top of Church Street and Wellwood Street have been made, with some damage to meter boxes. Additional surveillance has been requested.

A number of reports have been made about extra large vehicles using the A1068

123. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

Chairs Signature.....

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123.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 8 August 2019 Items 100-118.7

The minutes were approved

124. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

124.1 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was accepted.

Since the report was circulated the Clerk has secured water charges, which had been billed in error, to be paid back to ATC.

125. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

125.1: Chairman

The Chair delivered the remaining Civic Award trophies. He will also be attending the Cuppa with a Coppa on 13 September.

125.2: Vice Chairman

The Vice Chair has carried out some checking of unstable memorials.

She will be attending the Breath of Colour event on 13 September 2019 and also the official opening of Bar 1902 at the Bede St Club on 21 September 2019.

126 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

126.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Glendale Garages are due to be demolished but this has not taken place yet. Fencing has been installed around them, but this has been vandalised.

The Southmead seat has been removed and the area has been weed killed. DP Builders had offered timber to Menshed to build a new one. It is not possible to provide for this from the Members Small Schemes at this time.

It was queried whether there were any veteran organisations which could assist. It is also possible that a seat from Northumberland Estates could be sought if there was someone who could fix it to the ground. TC to chase up.

Cllr Clark has also dealt with HfN housing maintenance issues.

Cllr Clark received concerns regarding emergency access to Panhaven Road but was assured that emergency vehicles would access through Marine Road and Links Road. He has also received a request for double yellow lines on Gordon Street and Blackwood Street – these may have to be done as part of LTP. Cllr Clark received calls about flooding in Newburgh Street, Charles Road, Links Avenue, The Wynd and Ivy Street. More gully clearing has been arranged. Cllr Clark has agreed to £11,500 for works to the green spaces at Philip Drive to be used to improve the footpaths and later to create a feature in the middle by removing the roses.

Cllr Clark was made aware that Fontburn back footpath to St Cuthberts Avenue was a Right of Way and is NCC responsibility so any works there should not be charged to him. Cllr Lewis to email Cllr Clark with the right of way number. Cllr Clark was thanked for this work on this.

The Lord Mayors Field is due to be cut Friday 13th or Monday 16th.

Cllr Clarks LTP Priorities are: Radcliffe Traffic Calming measures, Harbour Road residents parking, Percy Drive dropped kerbs and traffic calming measures.

126.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson has dealt with flooding at Mariners View, there still remains some concern after the drainage work.

Cllr Watson reported that Warkworth Parish Council were hoping to install a new noticeboard in Mariners View, exact location to be decided.

Cllr Watson requested some ideas for the LTP, some suggestions included a bus pull in on

Chairs Signature.....

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Woodbine Street and a crossing point on The Wynd.

There was no further update regarding JCSC. A letter received from all primary and first schools requesting a two-tier system to be formed may alter their proposed plans.

It was queried whether NCC had any designated play streets as new government policy states that there would be no charges for road closures for this. Cllr Watson to find out if there are any in Northumberland.

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

127.1 To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (**Cllr Reports**)
Cllr Weir attended a meeting with Rob Murfin, Mr Archer, Parking, SLA, Locality Officer, Amble Connect, Church Street Bus Shelter, Jake Castleman. He also attended the AYP BBQ and conducted the Clerk's appraisal. Cllr Weir and Lewis also painted the wreath stands. He has also had meetings with CCT regarding the sculpture trail.

Cllr Morrison went to an Events Committee meeting and reported the xmas lights parade was on 17/11/19. The account is almost set up. The events committee have been notified that ATC have secured the xmas tree.

Cllr Parks has attended a meeting of the AYP. He reported the BBQ raised £670 with additional donations from Amble Cricket Club. The AYP AGM has been arranged There are a series of AYP events coming up: 17/9 – Coffee Morning 11am – 1pm, 18/9 Quiz night at the Wellwood, 22/9 carting event. All information is on the AYP website. Cllr Parks, as an ATC representative, sought clarity on whether there would be any implications if he accepted the Chair's role. Cllr Parks was advised to check AYP constitution.

133.6 Item 133.6 was moved to this point in the agenda, The NALC AGM is on 28/9 with the attendance of Mr Jamie Driscoll from the Combined Authority. It is possible that either Ian Parks or Craig Weir could attend.

128. FINANCIAL REPORT:

128.1: To consider voucher numbers 121 – 172 for payment and receipt vouchers 59 - 71 for information (Finance)

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in payment voucher 171.

The receipts and payments were approved.

128.2 Bank Reconciliation

The full bank reconciliation was approved.

128.3 YTD figures

The YTD figures were noted. Since the papers were sent some of the figures had been recoded to come from the earmarked pots and that was where the money was allocated. A budget meeting has been arranged with Gillian Turner for 31 October 2019 at 10am.

128.4 Grant requests

- **FC Amble Juniors**

The grant request for the registration fees is not something that the council would usually support as it's grant monies are to be used for capital rather than revenue. The Clerk to write to the applicant to state that the Council cannot provide support for these fees but would be mindful to support an application for equipment / awards. A figure to be decided in the private section of the meeting. The Clerk was delegated to source equipment if necessary, outside of meeting.

Clerk

- **Residents request for Charity Night**

Members discussed and decided that it could not support this application as there are many charity nights held in Amble and it could not set a precedent for all. The Clerk to write to the applicant.

Clerk

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129. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

129.1 The next Amenities Committee takes place on 26 September 2019

129.2 To receive an update of the sealed bids for equipment and machinery

A bid of £520 was received for the covered trailer. There has been no interest in the tractor and cutting deck despite 2 open days. It is currently advertised online and in local press at £6000. If unsuccessful then staff are to contact Acklington Mart. It was agreed to put a reserve price of £4000.

Clerk

129.3 To note NCCs proposal to demolish Glendale Garages

Noted above

129.4 To receive an update on Bus Shelter works

As the money received in 2007 was not part of any S106 agreement, it was thought that this can be used for other shelters in the town. The Council had previously agreed that when the need comes to add shelters to the A1068 by Persimmon estate, it will do so from its own funds. It was proposed to install new shelters outside the health centre and outside Dolphin Court opposite Meadowburn. The Clerk is seeking permission from NCC and also clarifying whether there are any plans to install a bus pull by Dolphin Court in here as we would not like to have the work carried out until that is done.

Clerk

The cost of 2 bus shelters comes in at around £11500.

As part of the LTP it could be possible to request a pull in

Members approved the quotation for 2 bus shelters. The Clerk to ascertain if any road closures will be needed as this incurs additional expense. It was delegated to the clerk to proceed out of meeting if permissions were granted.

129.5 Unstable Memorials Safety Work

NCC have carried out memorial inspections in section M and Ma. Approximately 25 headstones are requiring laid down. The Clerk is seeking quotes on this but has also where possible, contacted family members to notify those responsible that maintenance is required.

Clerk

129.6 Additional item added at the Chairs discretion: Cemetery Water

Northumbrian Water have conducted a desktop survey and have agreed that the Council should only be paying one set of surface water drainage charges. It also states there are two supplies in the cemetery. The Council have asked for clarification on where the second supply is. There is another tap in the cemetery which was installed for free with no future charges as part of an agreement in lieu of storage fees with Northumbria Water, however, there is no formal paperwork for this.

129.7 NCC have submitted their latest playground inspection report. The Horse Springer is in need of repair. Staff to seek a quote for repair and if repair is not possible, to seek to have the equipment removed.

The ROSPA report highlighted the gate springs at Paddlers Park. This timing was actioned during the last equipment installation. The Clerk to ascertain the current exact problem.

129.8 ATC were made aware of some damage to a headstone at Amble West Cemetery. The complaint has been raised with NCC who have spoken to operatives about taking more care. However, when a Councillor was on site, it was noted that there were 5 operatives cutting the grass, strimming along and around headstones, leaving a large area from the headstones for the tractor cutter to get in, thereby not being near any memorials. A letter has been sent to the complainant to explain actions taken

Clerk

129.9 To discuss and approve the quotes for electrical work at the West Cemetery

It was agreed to discuss the above at this point in the meeting.

Northern Powergrid have visited the cemetery to discuss the required works. The works will cost £850 and cover from the road to the wall. A new cabinet and trenches will need to be put in by a different contractor. Office staff are looking into this.

Cllr Lewis proposed that the bed to the right of the cemetery entrance be returned to the original coping stones when this work was carried out. This was agreed.

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129.10 To agree delegated powers to seek professional contractor to assist with the pigeon issue on the War Memorial.

It was agreed to discuss the above at this point in the meeting.

A professional contractor has been appointed at a cost of £250. Delegated powers were previously given of up to £500. Additional spikes have been ordered at a cost of £27.

130: PLANNING COMMITTEE

131.1: To note for information planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of August 2019

131.2 To note the proposed removal of telephone box on Percy Drive

ATC has no objection

Reports since agenda was sent

Reports on Signal Cottage dumping spoil on the sand dunes have been reported to NCC for action. Cllr Clark to chase up.

A variation of conditions regarding the Cock and Bull had been received.

132. AGENDA ITEMS:

132.1 To receive details of the planning examination for the Local Plan and to note the letters sent from ATC

Members of the Council met with Steve Robson to discuss their concerns with the open space in the Local Plan. Now that the Local Plan is open for examination, there is an opportunity for these concerns to be addressed. The Council has written to Steve Robson again to remind him of our concerns and also the programme officer. ATC could have attended but unless there is new information to add, then nothing constructive would be achieved.

132.2 To discuss the residents request for yellow lines on Panhaven Road

Covered in Cllr Clarks report above

132.3 To discuss the concerns of driving in Robsons Way

There was a concern that the splay of visibility in Robsons Way/Williams Close was affected by a large fence and hedge, resulting in drivers unable to see oncoming traffic. The Clerk to forward the information to NCC Highways with a suggestion that if nothing can be done about the fence or hedge, then perhaps a mirror could help with the issue. The complainant to be advised that if he wished to ask Highways to change the road layout, an estate petition to the Northern Area Committee could help.

Clerk

132.4 To agree the Town Councils Local Transport Priorities

It was suggested to amalgamate the Town Councils priorities:

1) In the interests of traffic flow and pedestrian safety- i) bus road markings Percy Drive opposite Amble Health Centre and ii) Woodbine Street; iii) bus pull in Percy Drive adjacent Dolphin Court. Currently buses stopping at these points severely restrict traffic movement leading to a buildup and increase the difficulties for pedestrians

2) In the interests of vehicle and pedestrian safety- i) double yellow lines A1068 continued from the junction of Albert Street with High Street to Gibson Street as there is a blind corner here and cars park on this short stretch; ii) double yellow lines junction of Leazes Street with Broomhill Street Harbour Fish Bar to give drivers approaching from the two directions a clearer view and to facilitate disabled pedestrian use of the dropped kerb iii) extension of the double yellow lines in Newburgh Street from the junction with John Street to assist access to /egress from Ladbroke Street.

3) In the interests of Pedestrian Safety- safe crossing points i) A1068 The Wynd/ Gloster Hill/ Riverside Park due to increased volume of traffic as well as current and proposed residential developments in the vicinity and ii) Percy Drive due to volume and speed of traffic as well as proposed future residential developments on this route widely used by residents but also by pupils attending the Middle and High School sites

Clerk

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132.5 To note and receive a progress update on the proposed Governance Review

The Clerk has responded to NCC to state that Maps 1 and 3 are the correct maps needed. NCC will then decide whether it can be done legally. This will be followed by a consultation period with neighbouring parishes. ATC are free to consult with the residents affected if they wish, once the consultation has started. The consultation will begin on 19th September with the deadline for comments on 18 October 2019. A leaflet is to be sent to those affected. Cllr Lewis to circulate the wording to members for approval. Cllr Parks agreed to deliver the leaflets.

HL/IP

132.6 To discuss and approve the quotes for electrical work at the West Cemetery

Covered above

132.7 To discuss and approve quotes for Information Boards in the Memorial Gardens and also approve content of information.

Members were happy with the new wording and content. The Clerk to seek the relevant permissions and copyright authority

The quotes received were discussed and it was agreed to proceed with the cavalier board with the header board. A budget of £12,000 was approved for both boards.

Clerk

132.8 To receive an update on the West Sleekburn Waste Presentation in Amble

The presentation will take place on 24 September 2019 at 5.30pm in the Dovecote Centre, open to all.

132.9 To receive the notes from the Active Amble meeting on 8 August 2019 and agree on future work

Some information is outstanding, but Cllr Lewis will compile the report once received. The results so far do indicate that it should be possible to have some connectivity through the town. It is thought that it may be possible to access some Borderlands funding for this and an application form is being arranged. The report provided could still be used for NCCs cycle ways and footpath scheme in which Amble is in the second batch. Ruth Bendell to be asked for further information on this. It was delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair / Clerk to proceed.

Clerk/CW/
HL

132.10 To agree delegated powers to seek professional contractor to assist with the pigeon issue on the War Memorial

Covered above

133. COMMUNICATIONS:

133.1 Invitation to 6th Annual Town and Parish Council Conference 3rd October 2019 4pm

Noted, Clerk and Cllr Weir / Parks to attend and the Clerk with a possible further Councillor if they wish

133.2 To discuss and approval Chairs Invitation to Charity Race Night on 27 September 2019

Approved

133.3 To note the email from J Cooper – visitor

The letter was noted and the response sent back

133.4 To discuss and request approval for the Mayor to attend Washington Heritage Walk and High Tea

Approved

133.5 To note the NALC newsletter 28/8, 4/9

Noted. Items of interest include new Councillor training and new policies.

133.6 To note the agenda for the NALC AGM

Cllr Parks will attend if available

133.7 To note the request and response in relation to Roseate View, Amble

Noted

133.8 Save the Date – CAB AGM 20 November 2019

The Clerk to send details to AYP reps

133.9 To note the letter from Mrs White

Noted

Clerk

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133.10 To note the letter from Northumberland Estates re Christmas Tree

Noted. Volunteers are requested on 12 November to assist.

133.11 To note the invitation to Breath of Colour from Bailiffgate Museum on 13 September 2019

Cllr Weir and Lewis to attend

133.12 Invite to attend Charity Afternoon Tea 5th November 2019

Cllr Weir to attend

133.13 Invite to Bede Street official opening

Cllr Lewis to attend

133.14 Strategic Housing

A decision made by NCC to go ahead with 1000 more (rented) affordable housing for Northumberland and whether ATC could have any input with suggestions for type and possible locations within the town has been queried.

133.15 Toilet Closing Times

The former TIC toilets will now close at 4pm. The Harbour toilets will close at 5.30pm.

134. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

134.1 To note the licensing confirmation in relation to Home Brewing

Noted

134.2 To note the re-registration with the ICO

Noted

134.3 To note the notes of the meeting with Rob Murfin, NCC

Noted

134.4 To note the notes from the Partnership meeting with NCC

Noted

134.5 To note Take Climate Action in your community email

Noted

134.6 To note the results of the LOVE Northumberland Awards 2019

Noted

135. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 10 October 2019 – 6.00pm

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

136: MINUTES –

136.1: Town Council meeting held 8 August 2019 – items 116 – 118.7

Noted

136.2 Clerks Report

Noted

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

137.1 Cllr Watson received a letter from NCC re a shared scheme to work with other bodies to provide better toilet facilities. The Clerk to add this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Clerk

138. AGENDA ITEMS

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138.1 To receive an update on the Memorial Gardens

This is in the final stages now. Clerk to chase up.

Clerk

138.2 To receive an update on the tenancy issue and agree a response to legal representatives

A response was formulated. Clerk to send.

Clerk

138.3 To note the outcome of the Clerks Appraisal

Noted

138.4 To note the notes from Amble Connect 3 September 2019 and agree further work

Cllr Foxley will be taking the lead on this and will be the main contact.

139. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

139.1 To note the minutes of the Parking and Traffic Flow group

Noted

139.2 To note the minutes from the meeting with Mr Castleman

Noted

139.3 To note the notes from the meeting with Mr Archer

Noted

139.4 To note the outcome from the meeting with NCC re Church Street Bus Shelter

Further work was agreed. Clerk to purchase equipment as necessary. The Clerk was approved to order the smaller spikes.

Clerk

It was suggested that when office staff check the bus shelters that they make a note of the paintwork so that this can be processed in the Spring.

Staff

139.5 To note the outcome of the meeting with Zurich re Paddlers Park

Noted

139.6 Amble FC Juniors

Agreed

Additional item at Chairs Discretion

139.7 Information Boards

Cllr Watson to have initial discussions.

JW

Chairs Signature.....