

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2019

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 14 November 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, T Hinton, D Bewley, J Dargue, K Morrison, J Watson, C Foxley  
V Smith - Town Clerk,

### 160. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

160.1 Update on Governance Review

ATC have met with Hauxley Parish Council to discuss the proposal. The extension has been granted until 15 November 2019. Results are expected mid-January. There will be no effect on the precept until 2021. Warkworth Parish Council have discussed the proposals and do not support them.

### 161. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

### 162. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

To be raised and when items arise on the agenda

### 163. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In accordance with Section 1(d-g) of the ATC Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council at this point on the agenda. The Council/Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date.

There was 2 members of the public and one member of the press.

163.1 Joanne Schofield attended the meeting on behalf of the Stewart family to request an update on the plans for Bettys Tree.

An update was given. A semi mature tree will be planted towards the Radcliffe Memorial, so that it is visible not just from the Town Square but from Queen Street too. The plaque will also be reinstated to the new position. Members of the family have been made aware of the plans and are supportive of the Council in maintaining Betty's memory in this way. Family members are attending the Christmas Parade and are also going to switch the lights on the current tree during the Xmas event.

#### 163.1 Update from Northumbria Police (TBC)

Over the past month there has been 15 incidents of disorder and 40 crimes, this is made up as follows:

ASB x7, Damage x 6, Thefts (various) x 17, DV x 4, Harassment x 3, Sexual offences x3. It is worth noting that this is not solely in Amble. The Clerk has asked for a meeting with the Inspector to discuss policing levels in the town arising from concerns after reading an article in the local press. PCSO Stalker has been moved to cover Alnwick. There have been concerns raised regarding ASB at AYP. Issues with CCTV were reported. Clerk to forward email to members.

VS

Residents are to be asked to report crimes directly so that adequate records can be made. It was discussed whether it would be useful to have a youth worker and a PCSO out on the streets and whether there was any possibility of extending the CCTV to cover particularly problematic areas.

To be discussed when a meeting is arranged with the inspector

VS

There was also concern regarding the new LED lighting which has a very limited splay of light, resulting in pockets of darkness between lamp posts. NCC Cllrs. To investigate

JW &

An email from a resident concerning parking obstructions and parking on private driveways was also discussed. As this is a police matter rather than traffic enforcement issue, Clerk to contact resident.

TC

VS

### 164. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

164.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 10 October 2019 Items 140 – 159.1

Chairs Signature.....

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Agreed

## 165. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

### 165.1 Clerks Report

Agreed

The date suggested for Active Northumberland meeting is 5pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019. Clerk to confirm.

VS

## 166. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

### 166.1: Chairman

Cllr Weir attend Civic Events at NCC, Gateshead and Sunderland. Remembrance Day went well and was very well attended. Dates for diaries 17/11 Xmas Parade, Cuppa with a Coppa 22/11 2pm – 3pm or 5pm-6pm, Mayors Reception 13/12, Year 7 Performance at JCSC 15/11 2.30pm.

### 166.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Lewis attended the children's remembrance service on 11/11/19. The children were very well behaved and the wreaths they had made were very clever, some being made from plastic bottles.

Members were reminded of VE Day in 2020. Ceremonies nationwide will begin at 3pm.

Members were asked if they would like poppy crosses in a shape made again for WW2 names, similar to those of WW1. This was agreed.

HL

## 167. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

### 167.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark gave an update on Signal Cottage. It was still felt that a further site inspection was required as the dunes have been left in a terrible mess.

Harbour Village lighting is to be fixed by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>.

Glendale Garages have been demolished.

Works on A1068 still have no start date available.

Cllr Clark reported on parking problems outside Dolphin Court Care Home.

TC is looking into the problems at Runciman Way.

The next surgery is 30-11-19 10am.

### 167.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

JCSC build remains on hold due to issue with two tier request.

Cllr Watson has had a request re residents parking on Edwin Street and has passed details on.

The collapsed fence on the braid has been taken away.

Cllr Watson is concerned about the field below Gloster Hill as it is saturated. There has been difficulties in getting Northumbria Water to resolve the problems. Cllr Watson requested ATC write to Northumbria Water to explain how concerned we are for the residents in this area and the possibility of further flooding. There are additional concerns as soon there is to be additional properties built near here. It is felt the pumping system may not be adequate and cannot cope with the capacity required. Agreed to support. Cllr Watson to provide some information to inform the letter.

JW

VS

WHC have submitted a planning application for a new build next to the Pier and Fish Shack. WHC will be retaining the old building and are still looking at what it can be used for.

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

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

Cllr Weir attended meetings with Home Group, NCC, Gillian Turner, Amble FC, CCF, Hauxley Parish Council, Tony Kirsop, Remembrance Day. Thanks are to be given to those who assisted on Remembrance Day and with the Xmas Tree.

VS

Cllrs Parks and Bewley are attending NALC on 16/11.

Cllrs Morrison and Dargue attended an event at Bailiffgate Museum.

Chairs Signature.....

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Cllr Watson attended the T&PLWG on behalf of Amble. This meeting was overshadowed by the general election but touched upon rules around purdah, LTP progress, Climate Change. Northumberland is currently carbon neutral. Northumberland County Council are not in a position to provide additional toilet facilities, but a partnership arrangement could be discussed.

Cllr Watson also attended a meeting on AONB. A report from central Government has been issued recommending more autonomy for AONB and more funding. AONB will not be increasing the size of its area. A presentation was also given on bees.

Cllr Parks attended AYP. The young people are to be involved in the xmas parade. Interviews for the managerial post take place next week. Further issues continue re ASB. There is a lighting issue as reported previously and issues with CCTV are ongoing.

Cllr Morrison reported that the lights parade starts at 5pm and there will be activities in the town square. Santa will be there from 4pm. The fire brigade will be there with snow machines.

Cllr Morrison also attend the NGL event at JCSC.

Cllr Hinton attended ADT.

### **170. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

170.1: To consider voucher numbers 191 – 229 for payment and receipt vouchers 80 - 90 for information (**Finance**)

**Approved**

170.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

170.3 YTD figures

Noted

170.4 Grant requests

- None

### **171. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **171.1 To note the resident complaint and action taken regarding Rats at East Allotments**

A complaint was received from a resident of Lindisfarne Road regarding rats coming from the Retail Park site and heading into East Allotments. The Clerk passed the complaint to AAHS and Advance Northumberland and Pest Control at NCC. The response from NCC was felt unsatisfactory. The Clerk to write to NCC again and suggest that they check the other areas highlighted and offer Cllrs to meet them in site.

VS

#### **171.2 To note the action taken regarding smoke from Bonfires – East Allotment**

AAHS were contacted and reminded tenants to consider wind direction when lighting fires. If issues persist ATC may be forced to ban fires altogether.

#### **171.3 To seek retrospective approval for bus shelters in Amble**

As ATC were requested to install bus shelters on The Wynd, an amended quote was requested and was also asked if there could be any discount on the associated works due to the amount of shelters required. A generous discount was secured. It was therefore agreed to proceed with 4 shelters. The Clerk is still waiting permission from Property Services. It was queried if ATC has sought alternative quotes. No further quotes were obtained due to this sum being under the threshold but also because this is a firm we have used before and who we have been happy with the standard of work carried out. Agreed.

#### **171.4 To seek retrospective approval for the amended content of Information Boards as per designers advice**

Members were contacted outside of meeting to approve less text and further images for the Information Boards on the designer's advice that the boards were too text heavy. Members agreed and the designers were made aware.

#### **171.5 To seek retrospective approval for tree works required in West Cemetery and Memorial Gardens and proposed start date**

VS

Chairs Signature.....

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2019

A contractor is due to begin remedial works on trees in Memorial Gardens and West Cemetery on w/c 26 November 2019. Clerk to inform AAHS. Agreed.

### **171.6 To discuss quotes received for utility work at West Cemetery**

Quote 1 - £5291, Quote 2 - £2076. Clarity has been requested on some of the items not listed in Quote 2 although it is understood they may be included. It was preferred to go with quote two subject to all requirements being accounted for and that the amended quote is less than quote one.

Cllr Lewis met with a contractor to discuss the Fountain. It was confirmed that the plates on the drive are used to access the water, electricity and the pump although it was thought that these would all need replaced soon. The fountain is in need of a good clean out. Preliminary works to rectify the fountain are expected to cost around £600 and can be carried out during the utilities work. This was agreed although members were made aware that it is possible that a new system would be needed if this did not prove satisfactory.

Members were reminded that the Amenities Committee takes place next week after agreeing to bring the meeting forward by one week on this occasion.

VS

### **172: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Noted

Cllr Morrison was concerned about the lack of progress re North Street. A letter had been sent to Rob Murfin, Director of Planning on 31 October with his agreement to look into the matters further.

A decision notice was circulated earlier in the day regarding the decision to grant the deregistration of part of the village green in favour of registering a different section.

### **173. AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **173.1 ANPR Update from Northumbria Police**

The new cost for cameras was significantly lower than expected. Cllr Watson agreed to fund this camera if ATC were happy with that. Agreed. Cllr Watson to check if there are any long term financial commitments on ATC regarding connectivity to existing system or whether this was included within the installation costs.

JW

#### **173.2 To seek retrospective approval for Amble Events Committee to use ATC land for future events.**

The Clerk was asked to check if the request came from ADT or Amble Events Committee. Clerk to clarify in writing that the permission was for any events held with Amble Development Trust consent.

VS

#### **173.3 To discuss Notice of Consultation of Public Space Protection Order regarding the Control of Dogs**

Members were asked for comments on the above which were due to be sent by 29 November. Some felt that all dogs should be on a lead in all unfenced or ungated recreation areas. Individual responses were recommended

ALL

#### **173.4 To discuss the outcome of the website accessibility review and to decide on quotation for works**

The works required were noted and it was agreed to proceed at a cost of £140

VS

#### **173.5 To note the outcome of the first initial budget discussion**

The tax base information showed that a further 100 homes had come online for Amble and this increased the tax base for ATC. Because of this the increase in the precept has been able to be kept to only 2% being added for the taxpayer. Members were requested to review the document and bring any comments to the next meeting. There are 2 meetings of Full Council before it needs to be submitted to NCC.

ALL

#### **173.6 To note the outcome of the interim audit of accounts.**

The mid-year account review was noted. The main issues highlighted in the report were to do with recording of VAT. Clerk is reviewing these.

VS

#### **173.7 To approve the Newsletter**

Chairs Signature.....

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The newsletter was approved

### **173.8 To discuss Councillor responses to communications**

It was felt by some members that communications were not being sent widely enough and that waiting until Full Council to receive notes of meetings in the previous month was too long to wait. It was agreed to send out all notes as soon as they are available. Members were also encouraged to reply to emails and communications sent.

ALL

### **173.9 To discuss quotes received for utility work at West Cemetery**

As this item was a duplicate item it was agreed to discuss the memorial gardens fence at this point. A quote has been received of £1627 plus VAT to complete works to both side of the fence, the quote was accepted. Clerk to action.

VS

### **173.10 To discuss the theme for The Wynd planter 2020**

Members agreed on VE / VJ day. Clerk to contact NCC.

VS

### **173.11 To agree Councillor attendance at Borderlands Conference 25-11-19**

ATC has three spaces booked. Currently only Cllr Weir is attending. If any other members wish to go please contact Clerk

ALL

### **173.12 To receive an update on Amble Connect**

Cllr Foxley gave an update on Amble Connect. It has been agreed to delay the launch until the new year. Tony Kirsop has offered to attend the first meeting if wished. Some local businesses and community groups have already said they are interested. Cllr Foxley is happy to meet with business owners by appointment to make them aware of what is being established. It is hoped that once these are set up there will be enough interest in business owners to take ownership of the events and run them themselves.

CW

It was agreed a cost of £100 to produce a logo. Cllr Foxley to discuss ideas with Clerk. Cllrs Weir and Foxley were delegated to work towards something more solid with a date and timeline by the next meeting.

CF

VS

## **174. COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **174.1 CAB AGM Invite – 20 November 2019**

Cllr Weir is attending

### **174.2 Resident complaint regarding Parking Enforcement**

Clerk to contact resident to explain it is a policing matter – covered above

### **174.3 To note the contents of the letter regarding raised beds**

The letter was noted.

### **174.4 Invite to Sunderland Civic Carol Service 8 December 2019**

Cllr Weir was invited to the above but has declined the invitation.

### **174.5 To note the response from Kelly Angus re Community Governance Protocols**

The response was noted

### **174.6 To note the response from Sarah Rowell re Active Amble**

Sarah Rowell agreed to contact ATC in December when initial work on Amble begins. Tony Kirsop agreed to encourage Sarah to make contact sooner as ATC had already begun work that would compliment what she is doing.

### **174.7 Preservation of green spaces in Amble**

Noted

## **175. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

### **175.1 To note the minutes of the meeting with Locality Officer 16 October 2019**

Noted

### **175.2 To note the draft minutes of the meeting with Amble FC Juniors**

Noted

### **175.3 20 Climate Actions for Town and Parish Councils**

Noted

### **175.4 Nowhere to go – Best Practise Guide**

Chairs Signature.....

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Noted

**175.5 Invite to Watch the Birdie – Bailiffgate Museum 8 November 2019**

Noted

**175.6 Local Services and Housing Who's Who**

Noted

**175.7 NALC Enews 17/10 / 22/10**

Noted

**175.8 NALC note re Purdah and the General Election**

Noted

**175.9 Invitation to Next Generation Learning at JCSC 14 November 2019**

Noted

**175.10 Email from Hannah Wroe Gill**

The Clerk to respond as per agreed

**176. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** 12 December 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 PRIVATE**

#### **177: MINUTES –**

177.1: Town Council meeting held 10 October 2019, items 156 – 159.1

Agreed

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

#### **179. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **179.1 Staff update**

A letter to staff was agreed

##### **179.2 To receive an update on the tenancy issue**

Members were made aware of developments and future steps.

VS

VS

#### **180. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

##### **180.1 To note the minutes of the Parking Meeting 16 October 2019**

Noted

##### **180.2 To note the minutes of the meeting with Home Group 23 October 2019**

Noted

##### **180.3 To note the minutes of the Partnership meeting on 23 October 2019**

Noted

##### **180.4 To note the draft minutes of the meeting with Tony Kirsop 7-11-19**

Noted

**The meeting ended at 9pm.**

Chairs Signature.....

**AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2019**

Chairs Signature.....