

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 9 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, I Parks, D Bewley, K Morrison, C Foxley, T Hinton, J Dargue, J Watson

V Smith - Town Clerk,

201.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

202. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

To be raised when items arise on the agenda

2033.PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

203.1 Northumbria Police

An update was provided by Northumbria Police.

Over the past month there has been 12 incidents of disorder and 57 crimes, this is made up as follows:

Damage x 4

Public order x 6

Assault x 7

Thefts (various) x 24

Malicious comms x 1

Harassment x 3

Possess cannabis x 1

Damage to unattended motor vehicle x 9

There have been no further incidents of racial hatred.

ATC met with the Inspector who has provided feedback.

CCTV is still not accessible on handheld devices due to security issues. The Inspector will raise this issue at a higher level.

ATC staff to contact police for a crime number re the theft of a Bollard at the East Allotments.

ATC staff to be provided with shift pattern to arrange the next estate walkabout.

203.2 Michael McDonnagh

Mr McDonnagh did not attend as a previous meeting resolved his queries.

204. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

204.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 12 December 2019 Items – 181 – 200.2

Approved

205. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

205.1 Clerks Report

The Clerk to ensure that the report is titled with month from which it relates.

There was concern that there was still confusion over responsibility for the Play Area in Tynedale. Cllr Clark to investigate.

206. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

206.1: Chairman

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2020

Cllr Weir is arranging for the proceeds from the Mayors Xmas Raffle to be donated to type one diabetes.

Cllr Weir attended two carol services over the festive period.

206.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Lewis met with David Nisbitt from JCSC re the walkway at the bottom of the school field on to A1068. David Nisbitt agreed to investigate this further with use of a drone. The path is still there but needs reinstated. There was also discussion around whether this could become the official school entrance, This would help access to the School instead of using the busy South Avenue junction from Acklington Road.

Cllr Lewis with Cllr Parks attended an urgent meeting of AAHS to discuss the increasing costs of water for East Allotments. Another meeting is needed to resolve the issue.

207. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

207.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

The removal of the shrubs from Straffen Court has caused some concern however this area has been grass seeded and will soon begin to look better.

NCC have fixed the loose steps near Henderson Street.

A large cherry tree has been planted in the Philip Drive green space now that the rose bushes have gone. It was disappointing to see that a large vehicle appears to have driven straight across this raised area.

Double yellow lines will be painted on the corner of Runciman Way and Broomhill Street at a cost of £2000.

The Amble branch of TSB is not affected by any National closures.

Cllr Clark has donated £1000 to St Cuthberts Church for facility improvements.

Cllr Clark will try and progress the dropped kerb issue from St. Cuthbert's Avenue to Windsor Terrace and Percy Street.

Cllr Clark has been liaising with planning re 5 North Street. Retrospective planning permission is now on the planning portal.

Works to A1068 will take place w/c 24 February 2020.

207.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson informed that the parish boundary request would be discussed at the next NCC meeting. There was no further update regarding parking.

The ANPR cameras for the North and South entrances to the Town are progressing.

Thank you to ATC staff for assisting in the letter to Northumbrian Water.

The issues with JCSC remain unresolved at this stage. Cllr Watson to request a formal update on whether or not a consultation will take place.

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

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

Cllr Weir thanked those who helped take the xmas tree down.

Cllr Parks informed members that the new manager started yesterday at AYP.

209. FINANCIAL REPORT:

209.1: To consider voucher numbers 256 – 273 for payment and receipt vouchers 99 - 103 for information **(Finance)**

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in 270. The payments and receipts were approved.

209.2 Bank Reconciliation

Approved

209.3 YTD figures

Approved

209.4 To approve the Financial Risk Assessment, Financial Regulations and Statement of

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2020

Internal Control for the financial year 2020-2021

The documents were approved with some minor amendments.

209.5 To agree the final budget / precept request for 2020-2021

All members agreed the precept request of £211340.00 which is a 2% increase to Band D residents.
Clerk to action.

209.6 Grant requests

- Warkworth Cricket Club

This application was received after the agenda had been submitted.

Cllr Dargue and Watson declared an interest.

The Stephen Carey Fund has been contacted and there is no funding available at this time.

The BHF(British Heart Foundation) also offer defibrillators and may pay the costs of maintenance. The Clerk to write to WCC to suggest they contact BHF to meet the rest of their costs. ATC agreed to fund £600.00

210. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

210.1 To note the update regarding to Fountain at West Cemetery

A meeting with a specialist has highlighted what work is required and which type of fountain would give the best display. A complete system, fitted and illuminated with a guarantee comes in at £1195.00. Members agreed to proceed.

210.2 To note the removal of the Christmas Tree in High Street Garden

It was proposed that a real tree would be better in the High Street Garden This would also solve some logistic problems year on year and be more environmentally friendly. A semi mature 2-3 metre size tree would cost around £900. A Nordmann Pine would be the type that would be more suited. It was agreed to investigate costs and species further.

Cllr Watson informed ATC that NCC may have some trees available. Clerk to contact.

210.3 Theft of East Allotment Bollard

This item was added late at the Chair's discretion

The cost to replace the bollard will be approximately £450. It was agreed to claim the costs against the Council's insurance- prosecution may be pursued. On this occasion the Council will replace however if the incident happens again, serious consideration on all possible options must be looked at, including prosecution. Clerk to contact AAHS and insurers. ATC staff to reorder bollard.

210.4 West Cemetery Headstone

This item was added late at the Chair's discretion

The office was made aware of a missing headstone in Amble West. During the site visit there was no indication of a stone having been there, however when looking at the memorial paperwork from 1975, there was a record of a headstone in place.

211: PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Members were made aware of the issues re WHC and North Street.

ATC Staff were asked to investigate what is happening at 69 Queen Street.

There was no further update re Signal Cottage.

212. AGENDA ITEMS:

212.1 Request to support the Alnwick and District Sports Awards

This was agreed at a cost of £125

212.2 To agree attendance to attend the public hearing of Chapter 13 of Northumberland Local Plan on 5th and 6th February 2020.

ATC will not attend.

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2020

212.3 To discuss Royal Garden Party Nomination

Members agreed for Cllr Weir to be nominated. Clerk to action

212.4 To discuss the Public Library Consultation

All members to submit comments to Clerk and Cllr Lewis for a corporate statement to be agreed at February meeting.

212.5 To discuss catering correspondence from The Galley

A £20.00 gesture of goodwill was accepted for the loss of trays at the Chair's Reception

212.6 To discuss proposals for Memorial Gardens Revamp.

An update was given on works to date. The trees have been pollarded, the fence has been repaired, the concrete will be installed within 2/3 weeks, the painting will take place in April / May.

Volunteers are required to cut back the shrubs before the painting starts. Date to be decided.

The information boards will be delivered next week.

A quote of £400 was received from contractor 1 and a quote of £1200 was received from contractor 2. It was agreed to proceed with quote one. Clerk to contact contractor.

With the consent of the Stewart family, ATC are to look to purchase a Nordmann Fir. Clerk to ask NCC / Northumberland Estates. Ian Dent also has further contacts if needed.

A tender is to be advertised for the revamp and maintenance, although these will be separate contracts. It was agreed to advertise for 30 weeks beginning March – October, with a week in November for Remembrance Day. Duties required include cutting grass x 15, clear and tidy all areas, trim hedges and roses, weeding, hard edges cleaned, assets cleaned, all waste removed etc.

Additionally at the same time, the new grave digging contract is also to be advertised.

212.7 To discuss proposed Launch of Amble Connect

The Ambler will be issued on 3 April. Work to progress on logo. Park Leisure have offered a meeting space.

212.8 To discuss the Councils comments to WHC planning application

Following a meeting with a representative of WHC, and being provided with further information, a vote was called on whether or not to withdraw the objection. A vote of 6 to withdraw objection, 2 objection stands, 1 abstention. Clerk to contact NCC planning.

212.9 To discuss arrangements for VE/VJ Day

It was agreed to order 2 sprays for VE / VJ Day for a total cost of £50.00. Clerk to action.

212.10 To receive an update on town recreation / activities on offer

All members to send in any other info on available activities by 20 January.

212.11 Newpage suggestions

All members to send any suitable article suggestions to Cllr Lewis.

212.12 New computer support

Windows 7 will no longer be supported after 14 January.

It was agreed to upgrade the PCs fully and update the laptop licence. Clerk to action asap.

13. COMMUNICATIONS:

213.1 To note the guidance from the Surveillance Camera Commission

Noted

213.2 Coastal Care End of Year Message

Noted

213.3 NALC news 12/12, 18/12,

Noted

213.4 Request to support the Local Electricity Bill

Noted

213.5 Request to feature Brian English in any adverts

ATC are unable to show a preference over any particular artist when there are so many talented people in Amble. Clerk to send this request to all

213.6 Offer from Natwest to give a talk on how to avoid scams and fraud

This could be suitable for Amble Connect. Clerk to forward.

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2020

213.7 Note from NCC re Footfall Survey

A response is to be compiled highlighting ATCs concerns and to suggest possible dates to carry out the survey.

213.8 Invite to Alnwick Business Forum with Jamie Driscoll -5th Feb 2020

Cllrs Parks and Dargue to attend.

214. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

214.1 Invitation to Rag Rugs at Bailiffgate Museum on 17/01/20

Noted

214.2 To notes the minutes of the meeting with JCSC

Noted

214.3 To note the minutes of the meeting with Northumbria Police

Noted

215. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Active Northumberland 20 January 2020 – 5.00pm
- Parking Meeting 15 January 2020 - 2.00pm (tbc)
- Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting 16 January 2020 – 11am
- Amenities Committee 30 January 2020, 6.00pm
- LCWIP 30 January 2020, 4.30pm

216. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 13 February 2020, 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

217: MINUTES –

217.1: Town Council meeting held 12 December 2019, items 197 – 200.2

Approved

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

218.1 Cllr Watson to investigate an agreement being made with a local establishment and private landowner regarding use of outside space.

219. AGENDA ITEMS

219.1 To discuss staffing request

The staffing request was agreed. Clerk to advertise a new position.

219.2 To discuss the request for former Councillor acknowledgments

According to guidance on government website, those honoured with an MBE must still be in post. A response has been sent.

219.3 To discuss the future of the Parking Meetings

Clerk to take instruction from NCC.

219.4 To receive an update on the tenancy if available

No update available

Chairs Signature.....