

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JUNE 2020

The Minutes of the Electronic meeting of Full Council on Thursday 11TH June 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, I Parks, J Watson, K Morrison, T Hinton, D Bewley, J Dargue V Smith - Town Clerk.

Members and the public were reminded they would be muted unless speaking.
Requests to speak would be signaled by a raised/waved hand.
Members were therefore asked to signal agreement by a 'thumbs up' gesture.

51. APOLOGIES

None

52. 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 were no members of the public present.

53. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

53.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2020 – items 20 – 50.3

Agreed

54. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

54.1 Clerks Report

A copy of the Clerks report is now added to the website to aid members of the public to follow the agenda more closely.

The report was accepted.

55. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

55.1: Chairman - None

55.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Lewis and Cllr Weir have both been assisting covid compliance in the office.

Noted

56 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

56.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark has been working on reopening of Queen Street and agrees with NCCs approach. An update was provided on St Lawrence Avenue and the outcome was that there was no issue. Cllr Clark has also been dealing with issues re council tax, dropped Kerbs, and youths on Amble Links.

56.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson has been working on some issues relating to Covid 19 and has been extensively involved with formulating NCC policy for Amble.

Cllr Watson has submitted his comments regarding a local licensing application.

Cllr Watson has been made aware of the travellers residing on the Braid, who have now moved on.

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As chair of Warkworth Harbour Commissioner Cllr Watson has arranged to have the gate to the North Pier (in Warkworth near the Golf Club) reinstated and locked to prevent further vehicular access to the Dunes area and the Pier.

Cllr Watson has also queried the undergrounding of cables to the new development on Amble Dunes opposite the Caravan Park and is awaiting the outcome of the enforcement officers' enquiries.

Cllr Watson has also assisted several businesses with their applications for financial support from the County Council

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

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

Cllr Weir reported on information received from TPLWG, Amble Development Trust, CCT and sculpture trail to which he requested responses and thoughts from members.

Cllr Dargue and Morrison gave a brief update on NTC.

Cllr Morrison reported that the Events Committee had taken the decision to cancel the Christmas Lights Parade due to current restrictions not allowing the forward planning to proceed. Instead work is ongoing on having a street by street lighting/display events – more info to follow. Cllr Weir reported that the Christmas Lights were to be erected and switched on but there would be no ceremony due to current restrictions.

There was concern from some ATC members that this decision may have been made too soon as there was still time for regulations to change but it was acknowledged that it was up to the Events Committee to decide.

58. FINANCIAL REPORT:

58.1: To consider voucher numbers 26 – 40 for payment and receipt vouchers 7 - 18 for information (Finance)

Agreed

58.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

58.3 YTD figures

Noted- these would be updated as soon as restrictions were eased so consultation could be undertaken

58.4 Grant requests

None

58.5 To note the transfer to the CCLA account

The £10k transfer to CCLA was noted.

59. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: See Clerk's Report

Items 59.1- 59.13 Members were asked to note enbloc

59.1 To receive an update regarding the Church Street Bus Shelter incident and the request to relocate

See Clerks Report – noted

59.2 To receive an update regarding a Commonwealth war grave query

See Clerks report. Noted

59.3 To note the new planting in The Wynd and Dilston Terrace

See Clerks Report - noted

59.4 To receive an update regarding bonfires at Allotment sites

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See Clerks Report - Noted

59.5 To note the works carried out to aid social distancing at cemeteries and open space areas

See Clerks Report - Noted

59.6 To receive an update on the decals at Paddlers Park

See Clerks Report. Agreed

59.7 To receive an update on West Cemetery utilities

See Clerks Report – Noted

Utility Supplier

See Clerks Report - Noted

59.8 To receive an update regarding Memorial inspections

See Clerks Report. Agreed

59.9 To retrospectively agree a letter of support to Amble and Warkworth Rotary

See Clerks Report. Agreed.

59.10 To note the arrangements for Remembrance Day 2020

See Clerks Report. Noted

59.11. To note the report on a Leazes Street litter bin.

See Clerks report - Noted

59.12 To note the new signage erected at the Memorial Gardens

Noted

59.13 To note the email from Amble and Warkworth Rotary re Wildflowers on Rotary Way

Noted

59.14 To discuss a colour for the rear of one Information Board in Memorial Gardens

Members decided on a light grey. The Clerk to inform the contractor

59.15 To discuss the quotation for pointing works to wall near play area at Paddlers Park

A quote of £400 for repointing at Paddlers Park wall has been received. This was agreed.

59.16. To discuss a water feature engineer report

Members were asked to agree to a Paddlers Water feature visit from fountain engineer contractor when he attends for his advice on its operation. It will be confirmed that the visit is free and without obligation. Agreed

59.17 To discuss quotation for works to town coal trucks

Members were updated that the framework and settings of these is still intact but rusting and badly in need of TLC and painting.

The insert is no longer in place as wood has deteriorated over the last 5 years.

Previous plans were for new metal inserts however this is no longer possible.

Members have met with a contractor who has quoted for treated wooden inserts with marine ply bottom with drainage holes and also wood sides for the lower half.

The truck itself and the rails/chain holding it in place badly need attention and repainting with black hammerite metal paint- the wood sides were and can again be painted black. Contractor will give a separate price for this work which is more labour intensive.

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The quotation is £400 per truck for the 'woodwork' and £150 each for all the painting involved; a total of £1100 for 2 planters which it is believed will last for 4-5 years.

A discussion took place regarding value for money as Acklington PC had similar work done however the material they used is not as sturdy and unavailable now. The quote was agreed.

60: PLANNING COMMITTEE

60.1: To note for information planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of May 2020

Noted

60.2: The Planning Application relating to 5 North Street has been refused permission and will now be going to an appeal.

60.3 Signal Cottage

Members were asked to agree to retrospective approval to a new street name of Lighthouse View for the site of the former signal cottage - Agreed

61 AGENDA ITEMS: See Clerk's Report Items 61.1- 61.3 **Members were asked to agree enbloc**

61.1 To agree retrospective approval for NALC letter to Anne Marie Trevelyan

See Clerks Report **Approved**

61.2 To agree retrospective approval regarding response to reopening of Amble car parks

See Clerks Report -Agreed

61.3 To agree retrospective approval of the sale of PA equipment

An offer of £300 was received and agreed for the sale of the PA equipment.

61.4 To receive an update on adapting the office to Covid 19 arrangements

See Clerks Report - Noted

61.5 To note the Freedom of Information Request received.

Members were asked to delegate to Clerk and Chair to respond. Agreed

61.6. To discuss the purchase of additional computerware and desk for office staff

When staff return to work, in order to minimise contact as recommended by Covid 19 regulations, it is proposed to purchase additional computerware so staff each have individual equipment. The Clerk was approved a spend of up to £1000 for a new PC, desk and telephone handsets.

61.7 To discuss the laying of flowers for the 80th Commemoration of the Coquet Mouth Disaster

The Coquet Mouth 80th Commemoration that was due to take place on 4th July is postponed. It is hoped that on the day a boat will take flowers to the site of the accident; it has been proposed that some flowers on behalf of the town are also sent. Members are asked to agree that should this be the case, flowers can be purchased up to a cost of £40. Agreed.

61.8. To discuss the purchase of new P.A. system

The Council needs to purchase a new system that better meets the needs of the type of small events the Council holds.

Members were asked to agree to new portable PA speaker system costing under £400 with a 4 year warranty. Agreed

61.9 To determine if the 2020 Annual Garden and Civic Awards should take place

See Clerks Report.

Cllr Bewley suggested using Facebook as the platform for this year's event whereby residents would be invited to post their photos on there to be judged. It was felt by some members that

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there was not enough time to do this this year. Cllr Dargue felt this was a good idea for the future but possibly not enough time for this year. Cllr Dargue would like the Council to have more of an active role on social media. Members took a vote and it was decided not to stage the awards this year.

61.10 To determine if any member wishes to speak at Licensing Hearing, date to be confirmed

The Council decided that there would not be a representative attend the hearing from so as to avoid confusion about who the complainants were.

Members were made aware that take away alcohol was to be sold again this weekend. Clerk to ascertain if owner holds correct license.

62. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION -

62.1 To note the correspondence received from Cock and Bull, Amble

See Clerks Report. Noted

62.2. Reopening of Paddlers Car Park: Retrospective approval is requested for Council's decision

NCC have asked for the Town Councils thoughts on whether to reopen the parking area of Paddlers Park. Members thoughts were ascertained via email to be formally accepted at this meeting. It was agreed to leave it closed whilst play areas remain closed and this response has been sent to NCC. Agreed.

62.3 Reopening of Town Centres

This was a late item added at the chairs discretion.

The Town Council was consulted by NCC on their thoughts on how to safely reopen the Town Centre ahead of national reopening on 15th June 2020. Contacts for the officers leading on this has been requested. Measures were to be put in place for Monday; after checking these were there, the Clerk was asked to write to NCC thanking them for their consultation and the work they were undertaking to balance public safety with the need to encourage people to support the town's businesses..

If furniture interferes with movement of people, this will be temporarily removed after consultation with Amble Town Council.

63. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION: See Clerk's Report

RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the information items.*

63.1 To note the outcome of the telephone conference with Northumbria Police re CCTV

Noted

63.2 To note the ongoing office arrangements

Noted

63.3 CAN News 15/5, 22/5, 29/5

Noted

63.4 NALC News 12/5, 28/5

Noted

64. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

64.1 11 June 2020, 6.00pm venue tbc

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

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to their sensitive nature.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

65: MINUTES –

65.1: Town Council meeting held 14 May 2020 – items 20 – 50.3

Agreed

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

None

67. AGENDA ITEMS

67.1 To receive an update on legal proceedings

Members were updated on latest developments

67.2 To discuss extra hour's payments for rearrangement of office due to Covid 19 adaptations which are outside of contracted hours work-

Members agreed up to a total of 16 hours extra between the two administration staff and 8 hours for the Town Clerk.

67.3. To note correspondence from NCC

Noted

67.4 Proposal: To agree an ex-gratia payment for expenses incurred by staff working from home in the current pandemic situation

Members agreed.

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