

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 10 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom conferencing.

Due to technical problems the start of the meeting due to be 6pm was delayed until 6.25pm

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.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES

Jane Dargue, Holiday – accepted

100. 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.

Ian Smith attended the meeting to represent the Northumberland Gazette

A report was submitted by Northumbria Police

A meeting has been requested with the Inspector.

Further information was sought on the context of the Anti-Social Behaviour given the most recent complaints received. The Clerk to enquire.

101. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

It was confirmed that the boundary with Warkworth had been refused however the boundary with Hauxley was approved. Members were disappointed with the outcome but accept the decision of NCC. It was felt however that NCC should reconsider the proposal for an increased number of Cllrs. In comparison with other local parishes, Amble falls significantly short of the capacity to adequately represent the community it serves. Cllr Lewis proposed that a letter be sent to NCC to ask them to consider this request and to also ask if it is necessary to retain the wards in Amble, or as the Council works as a whole, if it is possible to have these removed. This was seconded and agreed.

102. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

102.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2020 – items 84 – 99.4

The minutes were approved

103. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

103.1 Clerks Report

The report was accepted

104 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

104.1: Chairman

There is no report from the Chair however Cllr Weir reported on the informal catch up with members that took place and felt it was worthwhile continuing this. It was thought that if the new restrictions

Chairs Signature.....

Clerk

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Clerk

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regarding meeting no more than 6 people continued that these meetings would be split between the Chair and Vice Chair.

104.2: Vice Chair

Activities are included elsewhere

105. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

105.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clarks report was previously circulated

Cllr Morrison clarified the point in Cllr Clarks report regarding Lighthouse View, which is the former Signal Cottage. Cllr Morrison has contacted Cllr Clark.

In addition to Cllr Clarks report, there was also complaints made to the Council regarding motorhomes staying overnight in prohibited car parks and the confusing signage in place. The Clerk to ask NCC to consider alternative and clearer wording of the signage, similar to that of Warkworth. Concerns regarding the disposal of waste from such vehicles was also discussed and this has been passed to Public Protection. Cllr Clark has also been copied into the complaint.

105.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watsons report was previously circulated.

It was queried which solutions are being considered to tackle the traffic problems on Acklington Road and Masons corner as in previous years when ATC have flagged this up, highways have not deemed this road as somewhere which needs any alterations. There was no further update available at this stage.

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

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

Cllr Morrison provided an update on behalf of NTC and Events Committee.

Discussion followed around what NCC were doing in relation to having local Covid testing stations. Members were assured that NCC were working hard to have these in place and were regularly keeping up to date with the latest information and implementing guidance where possible. A concern at the moment is a lack of social distancing between parents at the school gates – a publicity campaign is currently being worked on to highlight this issue and remind parents to be more responsible.

Cllr Parks gave an update on the meeting with AYP /ATC

107. FINANCIAL REPORT:

107.1 To consider voucher numbers 114 – 132 for payment and receipt vouchers 29 - 37 for information (Finance)

The payments and receipts were approved.

107.2 Bank Reconciliation – Accepted

107.3 YTD figures – Accepted

107.4 Grant requests - None

107.5 To note to the receipt of the Small Business Grant from NCC.

Noted. Members were very grateful to NCC for the support

107.6 To seek retrospective approval for subscription to Zoom of £120 plus VAT

Retrospective approval was given

108. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: See Clerk's Report-

108.1 To note the letter sent to the AAHS as agreed at last meeting

The letter was noted

108.2 To note the purchase of spare bins and liners and the relocation of some

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The relocation was noted however it was also acknowledged that further relocation requests have been received in relation to bins on the industrial estate particularly closer to the entrance from the A1068. This is being investigated.

108.3 To note the progress of the Memorial Inspections and the outcome of these

The memorial inspection is almost complete. A contractor will be employed to either band or lay down the memorials highlighted as unsafe where no contact is available. It is also likely that some of the larger memorials will require a different contractor with machinery as these are much larger and heavier to move. It was agreed in advance for staff to arrange this as a matter of safety. Cllr Watson queried whether ATC would like two wreaths for Remembrance Day. The Council agreed to the purchase of these and would confirm arrangements in due course. Due to the government restrictions the usual service will most likely not take place this year. It was agreed that a letter be sent explaining our intentions to those who usually attend.

108.4 To note the utility update regarding West Cemetery

It is expected that the work will be finally signed off on 14 September 2020. The contractor has been made aware.

109: PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

109.2 To note the registered attendance of ATC at the Phase 2 Planning Hearing on 10 November

109.3 To discuss and approve the response to the New Planning Document as circulated on 27 August. Agreed to send the response.

110. AGENDA ITEMS: See Clerk's Report

110.1 To seek retrospective approval for the letter sent to Neil Snowden re LTP

Approval granted

Cllr Watson is taking forward the issue regarding a bus stopping road marking in Woodbine Street. NCC also agreed to add bus road markings to Percy Drive. They assured ATC that the monies allocated to last year's plans for possible safe crossing points in Percy Drive are still available. It was noted in Cllr Clarks report that the LTP requests for 2021-2022 were being requested by 11th October.

Discussion took place on the Councils preferred priorities for 2021-2022:

1 – Safer crossing points on Percy Drive for reasons already given

2 – Double Red Lines between Leazes Street Car Park and Harbour Village- on safety grounds as blue badge parking is restricting lines of sight for vehicles exiting the Car Park

3 – Percy Street – in the interests of public safety Alternative side parking between 10am and 4 pm on weekends and bank holidays as emergency vehicle access is being impeded by parking and congestion at these times.

110.2 To approve the Newsletter

Approved

110.3 To discuss and approve the content of the PSPO letter to Northumbria Police

The contents were approved. Clerk to send

110.4 To receive an update on the Christmas Tree installation and associated costs

An update was given on the logistics of planting the Christmas Tree and the cost of the associated highway costs for 'Stop & Go' which are £400 in relation to High Street- it is hoped these can be avoided for the Memorial Gardens area.. Cllr Watson agreed to try and get this fee reduced or waived due to NCCs campaign for living trees. The delivery is expected around 20 October 2020.

110.5 To discuss and agree new Paddlers coal truck signage and associated costs

The present signage is brushed steel and to replace like with like costs around £118, however this deteriorates quite quickly in the salty atmosphere there.

An aluminum composite sign would cost around £14.00

Clerk

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A quote has also been requested for aluminum gauge which is longer wearing. It was agreed to delegate the Clerk £100 for each sign. If the aluminum or composite gauge is less than £100, the Clerk to proceed with two of each sign.

110.6 To discuss the Allotment Report

ATC are meeting with David English next week to clear up the confusion around the boundary between the West Allotment and the Compound. If no agreement can be reached, ATC are registered to attend the Local Plan Hearing in November.

This report also covers the request from the last meeting to ensure that tenants have some lease security of both sites.

111. COMMUNICATIONS: See Clerk's Report

RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the communications.*

111.1 To note the advertising enquiry made to Cllr Weir

Noted

111.2 To note the response made to the Cycle Parking query from NCC

Noted. ATCs response was that they did not object to the locations but in some places would prefer cycle rings.

111.3 Bereavement Training

Noted

111.4 Cygnus Support

Noted

111.5 Kind Mind South Tyneside

Noted

111.6 NALC News 18/8, 19/8, 27/8

Noted

111.7 NALC National Salary Award

Noted

111.8 Northumberland Recovery College

Noted

111.9 Planning for the future consultation

Noted. The consultation response was approved.

111.10 Rebuilding Communities

Noted

111.11 Football Survey

Noted

Additions since agenda was posted:

111.12 Overnight accommodation vehicles

Motorhomes staying in car parks along the links, where this is prohibited, has been reported.

This has been passed to the relevant authorities to deal with, also the reported emptying of waste from these vehicles has been passed to Public Protection and Cllr Clark.

111.13 Anti Social Behaviour – Queen Street

Reports have been received about anti-social behaviour on Queen Street on evenings and weekend, including left over mess and litter from takeaway premises. Public Protection, Licencing, Building Control, the Business Club have all been informed. Northumbria Police are investigating any possible CCTV footage.

111.14 Church Street Bus Shelter

A request for additional replacement spikes was received. Clerk to order and supply.

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

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

112.1 To note the new pay scales

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Clerk

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Noted

113. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

113.1 8 October 2020, 6.00pm venue tbc

Planning for the future, Cllrs and staff are currently investigating alternative venues to make physical meetings possible where social distance and Covid 19 regulations can be adhered to.

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

114: MINUTES –

114.1: Town Council meeting held 13 August 2020 – items 97 – 99.4

The minutes were approved

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

115.1 None

116. AGENDA ITEMS

116.1 Legal update

An update was given

116.2 Parking update

An update was given.

NCC also agreed to communicate this information to other members of the parking group.

116.3 NJC Salary Agreement

NJC have agreed the 2020-2021 salary award.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

Chairs Signature.....