

## **Clerks Report September 2020**

### **Business Required by Statute**

The Governance Review was discussed by NCC on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. County Cllr Watson has reported that the parish boundary with Hauxley will be amended but not that with Warkworth.

### **Public Question Time**

No members of the public have contacted the Clerk to join the meeting to date

### **Chairs Report**

No report

### **Vice Chair Report**

No Report

### **Report from Cllr Clark**

### **Report from Cllr Watson**

### **Financial Report**

The Town Council has been awarded £10,000 from NCC as part of its covid-19 funding.

It is expected that virtual meetings are here to stay for the foreseeable future and with that in mind a full zoom licence which will enable meetings to take place for as long as necessary and to ensure that business can be discussed at length if required has been purchased. The cost of an annual membership is £120 plus VAT.

Retrospective approval is requested.

The grant to the Rotary for the planting of Crocus has been done.

### **Amenities Report**

As agreed at the last meeting, a letter was sent to AAHS to clarify the confusion created by NCC's visit to carry out some work as part of the Local Plan.

As agreed, a report about the allotment areas has been prepared and is circulated for discussion on the agenda. AAHS committee are meeting this week.

A new order of spare bins and liners has been arranged and these will be stored at the NCC depot. The bin from the Mound has been placed at Broomhill Street and our spare from the depot has been placed there.

The memorial inspections are almost complete and staff have been contacting those responsible to request that they make the memorial safe. Currently 28 have been highlighted as unsafe however contact details for relatives are not available or out of date and a contractor will need to be requested to band them or lay them down, however larger ones may require a different contractor.

Quotes have been received for the new signage for the coal truck planters – circulated with reports. Members are asked to discuss.

Staff have continued to push Northumbrian Water for confirmation of a connection date. At long last the water should be connected on 14 September 2020.

### General

Reports of fly tipping and irresponsible parking on the Braid have been made to NCC.

The damaged or missing one way street signs have been reported to NCC. Due to weather and some anti social behaviour this will likely be a recurring issue. Members are asked to report these directly to NCC officer Ali Miller - [alistair.miller@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:alistair.miller@northumberland.gov.uk)

CCTV: Initial discussions with Northumbria Police officers have raised a number of requests and concerns regarding the location of the cameras and the maintenance; however clarification from the supplier is needed as the logs appear to vary.

It is believed the cameras can also be viewed at Alnwick station which gives greater coverage for their investigations. A three way meeting is most likely the best option to resolve the issues that are being reported and discuss the future.

The Council continue to receive numerous complaints about inconsiderate parking. Staff continue to field these to NCC and have requested a socially distanced meeting to see the issues in the central part of the town at first hand.

Concerns have been raised regarding the possibility of NCC allowing residents temporary free parking permits in Boulmer and whether this could set a precedent for the rest of the County. Clarity has been asked from NCC.

Co-op Community Fund has requested details of how their funding was spent. This has been passed to the events committee for completion.

A complaint has been received from a business owner regarding the mess left over from weekend drinkers leaving bars and takeaways. He has had to encounter vomit and smeared food over his shop front and is very frustrated at a lack of action. He is also concerned about the lack of onus on building owners to ensure the safety of their buildings and to ensure they are maintained. These concerns have been passed to NCC., Northumbria Police and for information to the Business Club.

A request for traffic calming measures on Percy Drive has been received. A response has been sent which is also included within the agenda papers.

The Tidy Britain campaign runs from 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September. People are asked to tidy an area whilst maintaining social distancing. Litterbugs have given the following update:

“We have been out picking through Covid but only up to 4 of us. We cleared the roads out of Amble last week and the beach by the Paddlers. I also pick Rotary Way

most weeks. This week we cleared the roads from Acklington to Thirston. We have registered Warkworth Beach Clean with Keep Britain Tidy for Sat 19th Sept, but we can't open it up to the public. We can't guarantee people will socially distance and we can't sterilise equipment. We are uninsured against such risks. There are also dozens of face masks and plastic gloves being littered everywhere which is a potential hazard. We were going to do Amble in stages but again, within our own group. We've given away a lot of our sticks to people who asked for them during Covid. Many people are picking on their own, which is great. We meet on Wednesdays and if you like, we could target the worst areas in Amble over the next month. I'd like to get into the bushes surrounding the Town Square and we were planning to do the Little Shore. Sorry we can't do larger groups. Hope this is helpful"

Cycles- details of the Alnwick refurbishment scheme are awaited as is a response from Watbikes regarding the possibility of local usage.

All staff are now working back in the office, socially distanced. All staff have been issued with guidance for Covid 19 safety and various items of PPE. The building remains closed and visits are by appointment only.

NJC Pay Scales – NJC have agreed the pay scales for April 2020 – 2021. NCC have been requested to make these back dated adjustments for staff.

### **Planning Committee**

Staff queried whether Signal Cottage is permitted as rental accommodation. This is allowable under current regulations.

The building at Gloster Hill is now subject to a planning application.

Council has been invited to attend hearing sessions in November as part of the Local Plan Inspection. It was hoped that a meeting with an officer would have negated the need for this to happen but as the deadline for confirmation of attendance is 7 September it is unlikely a meeting will have taken place by then. To aid clarity photographs have been forwarded to NCC.

As part of NALC newsletter on 27 August, a new planning document and guidance was circulated. A response to the consultation has been drafted and has been circulated with the papers for approval.

### **Agenda**

Retrospective permission is requested for the letter sent to Neil Snowdon re the LTP. A response has been received via email which is circulated with the agenda.

Newsletter – draft attached for approval

A letter to Northumbria Police has been drafted to discuss the enforcement of the PSPO and how a lack of enforcement affects its power. Members are asked to read and share comments on the content before this is sent.

**Installation of Christmas trees-** Highways requirements; for discussion

It is likely that traffic control will be required at High Street. It is possible this could be around £400 per street. Negotiations are ongoing with NCC.

### **Coal truck signage**

Quotes have been received for the new signage for the new signs at the Paddlers coal truck planter – circulated with reports. Members are asked to discuss.

Quotes received as follows:

Silver brushed stainless steel - £1118.00

Alluminium Composite £7.78

### **Allotment report**

Members are asked to discuss the report

### **Communications**

Cllr Weir has received an enquiry about advertising which is visible from the highway. Some guidance has been given but unfortunately NCC are correct in that permission is needed.

### **Cycle Parking**

The Town Council were asked for their opinion on where to place cycle racks within Amble. This was responded to and has been circulated with the agenda papers.