

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 8 October 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom conferencing.

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, J Dargue, D Bewley
V Smith - Town Clerk,

APOLOGIES

T Hinton – personal appointment– accepted
J Watson was available until 7.00pm only due to a diary clash - accepted

117.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.

117.1 There were no members of the public present.

Cllr Morrison reported a misprint of her name in the last copy of the Gazette.

A report from Northumbria Police was noted.

118.BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

118.1 A letter has been sent to NCC requesting that consideration be given to the Town Councils request of increasing the Councillor numbers for the town by two. The request also queried if it was necessary to retain the ward system.

Clerk

119. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

119.1: The minutes of the Full Council meeting of 10 September 2020 items 99.4 – 116.3

The minutes were agreed.

120. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

120.1 Clerks Report

The report was accepted. The Clerk to add page numbers.

Clerk

121. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

121.1: Chairman

The Chair has been working on the Seafarer's Memorial and with the Rotary with regard to the memorial garden raised beds. Thanks were given to Cllr Lewis and other volunteers.

121.2: Vice Chair

All activities are included in the agenda.

122. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

122.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

The report from Cllr Clark was noted

122.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

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The report from Cllr Watson was noted and additional information regarding Covid19 numbers was given.

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

123.1 To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (**Cllr Reports**)
Cllr Morrison gave an update on the Covid **Rock Snake**. These will be placed along the pathway at the little shore. Local contractors have agreed to support. The stones have been removed for repainting and preserving before being installed hopefully in Spring.

Cllr Parks gave an update on the meeting with **AYP**. They are currently looking for new trustees. Cllr Morrison also updated members on the **Amble Festival of Light** from 18 November 2020. This has been publicised in local media. Cllr Parks confirmed that JCSC are keen to be involved. Andrew Mounsey via the events committee has requested permission to **light up the clock tower** for the Amble Festival of Light. Members have no objection in principle but were keen to meet to discuss plans as it was felt it was important to ensure that the proposals were fitting with the War Memorial and its significance. Cllr Morrison to ask Andrew to contact ATC

KM

Cllr Dargue attended a meeting with Brian Ellis of **NTC** and requested that the outcome of this meeting be discussed in private.

Cllr Bewley attended the **NALC Planning Meeting**. Amble was the only town that submitted any comments. The presentation will be circulated once available.

Cllr Bewley also attended the **NALC AGM** which was also attended by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Topics discussed included the upcoming community engagement event, community funding available as well as operational issues such as response times.

124. FINANCIAL REPORT:

124.1 To consider voucher numbers 133 – 163 for payment and receipt vouchers 38 - 41 for information (**Finance**) The payments and receipts were agreed

124.2 Bank Reconciliation The reconciliation was noted

124.3 YTD figures – Noted

124.4 Grant requests

- **Memorial Plaque – George Skipper**

After discussion and advice given, it was agreed that under Section 137 of the Local Government Act that members could, if they wished, support this grant application of £60.00. Cllr Lewis proposed that that in honour of the exemplary work for his country and his dedication to his adopted town in which he lived, that members support on this occasion. This was seconded by Cllr Morrison and agreed. Clerk to action.

- **Great North Air Ambulance**

As agreed at the AGM the GNAA are to be supported with a donation of £100.

Clerk

124.5 Covid19 Secure Office Furniture payment

During Covid19 and making the office Covid secure, office staff have been enlisting the help of another to help with the logistics and building of the new office furniture. As a gesture of goodwill, Cllr Lewis proposed to make a small payment of gratitude to the sum of £40. This was seconded by Cllr Weir. All members agreed. Clerk to action.

Clerk

Clerk

125. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: See Clerk's Report

During Covid it was agreed to amalgamate the Amenities business into Full Council. However, as it appears this is going to a long-term situation it was agreed that going forward the Amenities Management Committee would commence again next month- 26th November.

125.1 To receive an update on the Cemetery Memorial Inspections

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During the recent inspections there were 28 memorials identified as needing attention. All of these have now been made safe. The contractor was able to refix most and make safe the others.

125.2 To agree retrospective approval and further work for the making safe of identified memorials

The remainder of the inspection has now been carried out and identified around 80 memorials requiring remedial action. One memorial was listed as needing immediate attention. A quote was received for £2000 to make safe these memorials. This was agreed. The memorial identified as red was actioned immediately and the plot owner has been informed.

125.3 To note damage to memorial at Amble West

Clerk

The Council was contacted regarding damage to a memorial that was subsequently identified as unstable during the recent inspections. Whilst neither the Council nor the Contractor can be sure what caused the damage, it is obvious that this has been knocked in some way. Therefore, without accepting liability, the Council agree that on this occasion the memorial should be fixed by ATC.

125.4 To note the update re Wasp nests

A contractor has been instructed to proceed. Clerk to request an update.

Clerk

125.5 To receive an update on cemetery utilities and complaint to Northumbria Water

Both utilities are now working. Due to the additional costs incurred due to unexpected and repeated site visits the Council contacted Northumbria Water to recoup some of these costs. Northumbria Water agreed to pay £150 plus the £30 no attendance fee to the Council. It was agreed to accept this recompense. The Clerk is still in discussion regarding the electricity payment.

Clerk

125.6 To note the Tarmac works at Amble West

Clerk

The Tarmac work has been complete. NCC are to remedy the top join. It was agreed to leave the path and to alter the works to include reinstating the drainage channel and tidying the kerb stones. This would reduce the total cost of works by £2300. This was agreed.

125.7 To note the contact from NCC re Paddlers Park and actions going forward

The Clerk chased up progress regarding Paddlers Park flooding and was introduced to a new contact to take the issue forward once again. A brief report of the issues has again been circulated and a meeting is to be held on Monday at 9am.

Clerk

125.8 To note the installation date of the rope bridge and scramble net

HL/CW
TH/VS

The rope bridge and scramble net should be in place on 12 October. The Clerk is in discussions with ROSPA regarding their report that did not highlight any issues with these pieces of equipment.

125.9 To receive an update on the Town Christmas Trees

The Town Xmas Trees are expected at the beginning of November. Staff to urge Paramount Plants for a date as without that we cannot firm up traffic management arrangements. NCC have requested more details. Cllr Watson to relay information. Cllr Morrison to take forward request for momentary storage of other tree so that the High Street installation can proceed quickly.

Clerk

125.10 To note the update re the Wynd Wall

JW/KM

The Wynd Wall has been completed and has received numerous compliments.

125.11 To note the SLA requests in lieu of meeting

The SLA meeting could not go ahead as planned. A list of queries and requests were submitted instead of the meeting. The next digital meeting is on 21 October but this may change.

125.12 To agree to the relocation of a litter bin.

Complaints have been received regarding an increase in litter towards the front of the Industrial Estate. Morrisons are to be asked if they would add another bin towards the front of their site and if not, members were asked to agree to relocate the bin from the unused bus stop further up the road. Before relocation, Staff to ask NCC if there is a litter problem here.

Clerk

Cllr Lewis to send a map of the area to members for clarification

125.13 To discuss and agree a Volunteer Policy

Clerk
HL

A request from a member of the public was received to tend to the flower bed behind the memorial wall. It was agreed that if this was to go ahead a meeting would be needed to discuss the exact

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arrangements and to highlight that health and safety measures must be adhered to. These discussions brought about the Volunteer Policy. The policy was circulated in advance of the meeting and would cover all volunteers within the Council. A volunteer database would also need to be established. The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the volunteer alongside the Chair and Vice Chair. The volunteer policy would not be used for the likes of community organisations such as Rotary as they should have their own insurance and volunteer policies in place.

Members were also asked to be vigilant whilst around the town and make a note of any assets that require attention and report these back to Council staff who are currently preparing a condition survey for NCC's SLA winter work.

126: PLANNING COMMITTEE

126.1: To note for information planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of September 2020. Noted

126.2 To note and submit comments on the Turner Street Car Park planning application. Noted

127. AGENDA ITEMS: See Clerk's Report

127.1 To discuss the relocation of the Fish Information Board on The Mound and to discuss the suggestion for sculptures at High Street Garden.

Information was circulated in advance to aid discussion. It was queried why this location was considered as an option when there was already something iconic there. It was agreed that moving the fish sign would invalidate its information and accuracy and therefore the Council did not agree to this.

127.2 To agree next steps for Community Cycle donation

Discussion took place around the possible ways in which these could be donated to the community. An idea was that the public are asked to nominate a person whose serving of the community, especially in the current climate re Covid, could be enhanced with the use of bikes. Entries would be received via post and email and two would be picked out at random. This was agreed.

Clerk

127.3 To discuss next steps for the Seafarer's Memorial including the request to support with the cost of a planning application

The anchors and bollards are now situated in Amble Boat Co. Ltd. yard. Volunteers are needed to help clean them up. Thanks were given to Warkworth Harbour Commissioners, Hindhaugh Homes, Amble Boat Company and Willie Gibson for all offering their services to help in some way. It is expected that Planning Permission would be required and therefore a delegated sum of up to £250 was agreed. Staff to draft thank you letters at the appropriate times.

Clerk

127.4 To note the outcome of the meeting with planning officers and to agree to a response for the planning inspector.

After a meeting with the planning officers and some further email communication, agreement has been reached on the correct boundary between the cemetery and the allotments. It was agreed a response is to be sent to NCC to confirm the Council's agreement and also to the Planning Inspector so that we may withdraw our request to attend the hearing in November.

Clerk

Clerk

127.4 To discuss memorial wreath laying for Remembrance Day 2020

The Town Council will not be holding the usual service due to Covid Restrictions but acknowledge and understand that people will still wish to lay a wreath and pay their respects. All those organisations who usually come have been made aware of the new arrangements and nearer the time will also be sent further instructions. All who choose to attend will be reminded to vacate the area as soon as possible and to maintain social distancing at all times. Markers will be allocated for standing positions. There will be no official service.

Clerk

Member were concerned at the wording of the recent article in The Ambler which stated that there would be a service at Warkworth and the public were invited to then attend at the Town Square.

Clerk

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Cllr Watson agreed to correct the interpretation.

127.5 To discuss Councillor attendance at Police Community Engagement Event

The event will take place on 14 October 2020 between 1 and 4p.m. within the Town Square. All members were encouraged to attend if possible.

127.6 To discuss loaning of ATC equipment for community event

A request received from NTC regarding the Council's gazebo was received. Members agreed to loan NTC the equipment and the Clerk is to ensure the correct paperwork is completed. It was noted that the large white gazebo given to Cllr Morrison for events was currently stored within the cemetery office but as this is not Council property, it is not on the Council's asset register and therefore is not covered under the Council's insurance.

All

127.7 To discuss the request from Amble Festival of Light re Clock Tower

Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Andrew Mounsey to further discuss the proposal as it is important that whatever is here is in keeping with the war memorial- delegated to Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk.

Clerk

As an aside issue it was reported that the lights in the memorial clock faces are out. Clerk is seeking remedial action as a contractor will be there this week to carry out a drainage check.

128. COMMUNICATIONS: See Clerk's Report

RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the communications.*

Clerk

128.1 Can Enews 18/9, 25/9

Noted

128.2 NALC 10/9, 21/9, 30/9

Noted

128.3 To note the Community Chest Scheme is now open

Noted

128.4 Hope Tree Project

Noted

128.5 Litterbugs update

Noted

128.6 Robson's Way Information Board request

A request was received regarding an information board at Robson's Way to remember the tragic accident during WW2 that this commemorates. The 'Reflections' booklet covers this sad event and also the information re: WW2 that is due to be uploaded on to the Council's website also covers this, ensuring that this history is remembered. The Clerk has responded suggesting the estate developer may be interested in marking this. Noted.

128.7 Concern from resident regarding drainage in Amble

Noted

128.8 Objection response regarding A1 Dualling

Members were sent in advance a copy of their previous objections. Members agreed that their original objection should stand and the Clerk should resubmit.

128.9 Offer to carry out work on memorial wall bed

This issue was addressed under 125.13. Clerk to arrange a meeting.

Clerk

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

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

Clerk

129.1 Amble and Warkworth Rotary Planting

Meetings have been held to discuss the planting plan. The initial work has been completed and top soil has been ordered. Thanks to NCC for collection of waste and providing the bin bags.

129.2 Notes of meeting with Alncom / Northumbria Police

It was agreed that these should be discussed in private

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129.3 Notes of meeting with Amble Youth Project

It was agreed that these should be discussed in private

129.4 Courtesy email from ADT re Bird Sculpture Trail and response letter

The Council received a courtesy note from ADT regarding the proposed location of one of the Bird Waalk sculptures. This is to be placed in the grass at the rear of Bay View. Members were concerned whether there would be any objection from residents.

129.5 Letter to Lesley Bennet re Councillor number increases

Noted.

129.6 Friends of the Earth Newsletter

Noted

129.7 Volunteering – a guide to the new restrictions

Noted

129.8 World Mental Health Day 10 October 2020

Noted

129.9 Request for comments from The Ambler in relation to Active Northumberland's role in the town

The Council were asked for a comment in response to Active Northumberland's reply to The Ambler's query why Amble does not have any sports facilities. ATC commented, however due to the tight timescales given for a response The Ambler had already gone to print. For information Cllr Lewis read out the comment which was given, stating "We were in contact with Active Northumberland about a programme to enhance the Health and Wellbeing of the whole Community. However, their offer did not encompass activities for all age ranges over the year and was limited to school holiday programmes for children only. ATC value the fantastic work being carried out by our many volunteers and had hoped to have someone working alongside them offering support and advice particularly in relation to grant funding to enhance their offer. ATC are still working towards other programmes including a cycle and walking trail, and seeking to identify venues which could be utilised for sports purposes." Noted

130. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

130.1 12 November 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 to their sensitive nature.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

131: MINUTES –

131.1: Town Council meeting held 13 August 2020 – items 114 – 116.3

The minutes were agreed

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

132.1 Cllr Parks updated members regarding the meeting with AYP

132.2 Cllr Dargue updated members regarding the meeting with NTC

133. AGENDA ITEMS

133.1 Legal Update

Members were updated on the current situation.

133.2 Update on grave digging contract

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Members were updated

133.3 Staff / Office Update

Members were updated on the current staff arrangements.

134. INFORMATION ITEMS

134.1 Minutes of meeting with AYP

Noted

134.2 Minutes of meeting with Northumbria Police

Noted

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Chairs Signature.....