

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – DECEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 10 December 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, T Hinton, V Smith - Town Clerk,

APOLOGIES

None

151.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.

No members of the public were present

151.1 A report from Northumbria Police was noted. Clerk to update Northumbria Police re bus stop lighting investigations. Cllr Watson to chase up with NCC. Clerk

The invite to the multiagency meeting was noted however members did not feel it was necessary to attend.

It was noted that the Zebra Crossing repairs were on order and should be done within 3 weeks.

152.BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

152.1 No formal notification of the agreed parish boundary change has been received despite various communications being sent to NCC. Clerk to write another letter regarding the additional Councillors and abolishment of the current ward system. Cllr Watson to also enquire. Clerk JW

153. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

153.1: The minutes of the Full Council meeting of 12 November 2020 items 134-150.3

The minutes were agreed.

154. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

154.1 Clerks Report

The report was accepted.

The Clerk was asked to number the items on the report. Clerk

155. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

155.1: Chairman

The Chair attended the Alnwick Treehouse Light display which was highly recommended. Cllr Weir also assisted in the remedial works required for the memorial garden tree. Many thanks to those others who volunteered.

155.2: Vice Chair

A report was circulated in advance. Cllr Lewis also attended to help with the tree and would like an update posted on to social media to explain that the stakes currently in place may be there for 6 months to allow the roots to take hold properly. All other activities are included in the agenda.

Chairs Signature.....

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156. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

156.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Councillor Clark's report was circulated in advance. The contents were noted. Members thanked him for his work on the pavements. The litter at the harbour and grassed area was reported along with dumpy bags on the Bay View side of the pier. These have been reported to enforcement. There was however a query as to whether these are actually on the land belonging to the Harbour Commissioner and that it should be they who should be seeking to have these removed as it is they who will be financially responsible if there was to be a penalty. The Clerk has also informed WHC.

156.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson proposed to renew the solar speeding sign on Acklington Road however is required to seek the approval of the Town Council as after the period of 4 years, any future maintenance will fall to the Town Council. Cllr Lewis seconded the proposal and members had no objection in principle but requested to see some maintenance figures before this could be agreed.

The residents parking permits for Edwin Street is not going ahead,

A meeting is taking place tomorrow to discuss possible parking provision for mobile homes. Some research and plans have already been funded.

Work on the Turner Street Car Park is progressing.

Cllr Watson was asked to clarify with NCC any likely charges to parishes for the May elections. Due to the probability of a larger number of postal votes which may be recharged to them, many could need this before finalising their precept request

JW

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

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

Cllr Weir met with The Flagman regarding the purchase of the new flagpole.

Cllr Weir with Cllr Bewley met with Barry Holmes of Know Your Town, notes of which have been circulated. Members will revisit this some time in the new year.

Cllr Weir attended a meeting of Amble Development Trust and has some comments to raise on the minutes.

Cllr Weir made members aware of the CCT report. Hauxley Parish Council have taken the decision to not be involved in the project or the location of the proposed sculpture for their area in the bus shelter. The sculpture is now thought to be likely to be proposed for the Links Avenue Bus Stop but this is yet to be formally requested.

The Planning Application is now on the public portal should members wish to submit their comments. For information, members were made aware that Warkworth Parish have agreed to the erection of the Wings on Rotary Way.

Cllr Weir also attended a meeting at the West Cemetery with Bill Pringle and the Clerk to discuss planting and other works required. Notes have been circulated.

Cllr Weir also assisted in putting the lights on both the new town trees.

Cllr Parks attended a meeting with Amble Youth Project and provided notes of this. Mary Davison is no longer a trustee and Tracey Hinton has been appointed.

Cllr Morrison attended the NTC AGM via Zoom. There will no longer be an outdoor Christmas Show due to Tier 3 restrictions.

159. FINANCIAL REPORT:

159.1 To consider voucher numbers 200 – 228 for payment and receipt vouchers 55 - 59 for information (**Finance**) – *attached*

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in payment voucher numbers 201, 202, 203

Cllr Weir declared an interest in payment voucher number 214

The payments and receipts were approved.

Chairs Signature.....

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159.2 Bank Reconciliation

Approved

159.3 YTD figures

Noted

159.4 Grant requests

- **To seek retrospective approval for the amendments to the Amble Youth Project grant**

Clerk

At the last meeting of the Full Council members agreed to support Amble Youth Project with a donation of equipment up to a total of £600. Due to items being out of stock alternative items were sourced however these were a different cost to those originally intended. Members were asked via email to confirm they were happy to continue with the alternative equipment at a slightly higher cost of £618.06 Which would then be sought for retrospective approval at the next Full Council.

Members agreed that they were happy with this and approval was given.

159.5 To discuss the first draft of the 2021-2022 budget and precept request

Members were given a second sighting of the proposed 2021-22 precept request and budget planning. Members had no objections.

159.6 To note the outcome of the Accountability and Governance Review 2019-20 from PKF Littlejohn and to discuss actions arising from it

The external audit reviewed by PKF Littlejohn has now been complete. There was one issue arising from the review in that the audit was dated after the AGAR had been approved at Full Council. The Clerk in future is to make sure the AGAR is signed ahead of the sign off meeting. There will be no financial penalties for the Council.

160. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: See Clerk's Report

Clerk

160.1 To receive the minutes of the Amenities Management Committee of 26 November 2020 items 1 – 14.2

The minutes were approved.

Members were updated re the shutter service now that a response had been received. There was to be no charge made to the Council. Staff are to arrange another inspection in the Spring. NCC are to be requested at the SLA meeting to oil the locks.

Members were made aware that the commemorative plaque had been repaired.

NCC have been asked to confirm that Conservation and Listed Building Consent is not needed in relation to the repointing works needed at the base of Amble Clock Tower.

An update was given on the South Roundabout Fish Sculpture. The lamps had been received and the NCC painter advised that this work be carried out in Summer when temperatures are more suited to the materials needed.

Clerk

160.2 To discuss the outcome of the Interim Tree Inspection

The Interim Tree Inspection was carried out at West Cemetery however not the memorial gardens. There was one urgent item flagged up which was regards to the ivy up the base of one tree. Staff are checking the location of the tree.

Clerk

It was proposed that as the memorial garden trees have been checked and pollarded this Spring that they should be included with the next Full Inspection in 18 months.

Staff are to seek quotes for the immediate remedial works required.

161: PLANNING COMMITTEE

161.1: To note the planning outcomes for November 2020

Noted. The Chair expressed frustration at a lack of input and comments from Members. Members were urged to respond.

161.2 The following items were added at the Chair's discretion

The developers involved in the Percy Drive development appear to have removed the commemorative trees from this area and intend to relocate the seat that was also installed here.

Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

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Workers are also parking on grass verges, damaging the ground and adding to congestion; there is also an issue with lack of road cleansing after wagons remove spoil. Staff have written to planning, highways, the developer and neighbourhood services to flag up the issue.

Members also expressed frustration at a lack of consultation on developments that border Amble. Staff are to send a letter to NCC Planning to remind them of their obligation to consult bordering parishes on planning applications.

Clerk

162. AGENDA ITEMS: See Report

162.1 To discuss Councils response to additional cycle provision locations within the town

There was some concern regarding having provision on the Little Shore slip way in case this prevented boat access.

Members were pleased there was to be some provision at the Coop on Queen Street.

There was concern that the provision at Tesco may be too close to the drop kerb.

162.2 To receive an update the preliminary meeting with Know Your Town

The notes of the meeting were circulated. Members are to revisit again in the New Year with the possibility of involving Amble Connect.

162.3 To discuss the decision letter regarding Broomhill Street, Runciman Way, Leazes Street and Percy Drive, Amble.

There was concern that the yellow lines were coming too far into Leazes Street as it appears to be from the corner all the way to Broomhill Street back lane. It was queried whether this would be better to where the dropped kerb is. Members were asked to prepare for any complaints about this.

Clerk

162.4 To discuss the query regarding partial interment of ashes and determine the subsequent fee

This had been previously discussed the Amenities Committee who recommended that the Full Council meeting agree to a charge of £200 for this and that staff were to ensure that all paperwork was received before confirming arrangements. Cllr Weir seconded the proposal. Staff to contact the enquirer.

162.5 To receive an update from the Contractor re Paddlers Park flooding and discuss possible options available.

It was noted that bore holes had been done and investigations had taken place at Paddlers Park. ATC awaits the report on these. NCC ops have made some complaints regarding the mess that was left. Staff at ATC have actioned and requested the contractor visit the site to tidy the area.

Clerk

162.6 To note an update on the Seafarers Memorial if available

A lot of information was submitted to NCC for the memorial however further documents and info has been requested. It was agreed to contact Rob Murfin to explain the situation and to ask if it was essential that even more information was provided. It was acknowledged that all of the work was being carried out by willing community members and that to expect further drawings and delays would be imposing upon their generosity.

162.7 To discuss the temporary 80th Anniversary Commemorative board for the Dredger Coquet Mouth

HL

Due to Covid19 it has not been possible for Ken Henderson to progress with the Information Board. However, Cllr Lewis and husband Michael Lewis are prepared to fund a temporary board here and to personally pay for this. Members felt this was a very generous offer and there was no objection to this. Cllr Lewis would make the payment to ATC who would then in turn order the board from NCC.

162.8 To discuss nominations for the cycle donations

TH
Clerk

Unfortunately, despite much advertisement of the available bikes there was no take up or nominations from the community.

Chairs Signature.....

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Cllr Hinson agreed to ask at the employment hub if there was anyone there who could make use of them. Staff to contact the social care coordinator for Amble to ascertain their thoughts of anyone there could make use of them for home care visits.

163. COMMUNICATIONS: See Clerk's Report
RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the communications.*

163.1 Contact details for Highways Programme

Noted

163.2 To note the information from Northumberland Library Services

Noted

163.3 To note the email received regarding concerns of swimming at the Little Shore

Noted and passed to Warkworth Harbour Commissioners

163.4 NALC News 25/11, 2/12

Noted. The Clerk was made aware of the issues last time when people at Persimmons had to go to Warkworth to cast their vote.

Members queried whether ATC had to pay for all the postal votes. Clerk to confirm.

It was noted that Cllr Clark's ward would have around 650 additional voters than last time due to new properties coming online- there could be even more in the future. Cllr Watson noted that Amble West with Warkworth had increased and would also gain more when the approved residential developments were built. He felt that Amble Cllrs and wards were going to need a lot of work in the future. It was acknowledged that any changes were the responsibility of NCC and would need addressed before the 2026 elections.

The following item was received after the agenda was posted

163.5 Community Champions

Councillors were asked to think of any recommendations they may like to make or to consider applying themselves.

164. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION: See Clerk's Report
RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the information items.*

164.1 To note the dates in Border Links December diary

Noted

164.2 To note the minutes of the meeting with Bill Pringle 19 November

Noted

164.3 To note the outcome of the Turner Street Car Park Planning Application

Noted

165. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

165.1 14 January 2021, 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

166: MINUTES –

166.1: Town Council meeting held 12 November 2020 – items 148 – 150.3

The minutes were approved

166.2 Amenities Minutes 26 November 2020 – items 14-14.2

Chairs Signature.....

Clerk
Clerk

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The minutes were approved

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

167.1 Cllr Parks gave an update

168. AGENDA ITEMS

168.1 Legal Update

Members were updated on the current position.
The Clerk awaits a response from legal teams.

168.2 To receive an update on grave digging contract

An update was given.

168.3 To receive an update on Town Centre Parking if available

No further update available.

168.4 To receive an update on Wellbeing Gifts idea

As agreed at the last meeting and in email discussions the gift idea for schools should be explored. After discussions with headteachers, all three schools will receive a gift identified by Headteachers. Additionally, members were asked their thoughts on whether they agreed to also donate a gift to the only care home in Amble. Members thought this was a wonderful idea. Initial discussions with the care home manager have confirmed that they have recently purchased a new tv but were lacking in any DVDs for the residents to watch. They also had some residents who liked to colour. Members agreed for gifts to be purchased and donated to the Dolphin View.

Cllr Watson was concerned that members seemed to have edged away from the original proposal however was assured that these were small gestures to bring some community cheer in what has been a terrible year for a lot of people. The original proposal of fruit bags was not viable however books and films for the same cost per person were thought to be a much better investment.

Clerk

169 INFORMATION ITEMS

169.1 To receive the notes of the CCT meeting

Cllr Weir welcomes further comments.

169.2 To receive the notes of the meeting with ADT

Cllr Weir has asked for any comments on the notes circulated

Chairs Signature.....