

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 12 November 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 attended from 6.30pm

134.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

134.1 A report from Northumbria Police was noted. Members were pleased with the more detailed report. As mentioned in the report, members were also concerned regarding speeding in the town and initial investigations show that there are not many speed limit signs around town, especially in the central part of the 20mph zone. As Members and the Police are concerned the Clerk is to contact NCC and ask for a review and additional signage for main routes if required.

Clerk

135.BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

135.1 An update has been requested from NCC however no response has been forthcoming with either the formal notification of the boundary change nor the increase in Councillors.

Clerk

136. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

136.1: The minutes of the Full Council meeting of 8 October 2020 items 117-134.3

The minutes were agreed.

136.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council on 29 October 2020

The minutes were agreed

137. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

137.1 Clerks Report

The report was accepted.

138. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

138.1: Chairman

The Chair unofficially attended Armistice Day, filmed a reading for the Church Christmas Arrangements and assisted in all the works relating to the Town Christmas Trees. The Chair thanked all who attended to help out on these days as without their help this would not have been possible.

138.2: Vice Chair

All activities are included in the agenda.

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2020

139. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

139.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Councillor Clarks report was circulated in advance. The contents were noted. Members were updated on the reports of a water hydrant being included within someone's property boundary have now been resolved.

139.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Councillor Watson attended from 6.30pm. Cllr Watson reported that much of his work has been focused on Covid-19. Cllr Watson has donated £1000 to Amble Youth Project to help towards a new floor and also £500 to Amble Food Bank to assist with feeding children during half term.

The Turner Street Car Park is ongoing.

Cllr Watson gave an update on the Coastal meeting and their plans for the future.

Plans to have campervan parking on Druridge Bay is almost complete and works are continuing to find a possible solution for Amble using The Braid.

Complaints have been received from residents of Edwin Street re parking. Details of residents parking scheme have been requested.

Northumbria Police have been made aware of young people playing at the Welfare and not adhering to Social Distancing guidelines.

Cllr Watson was asked for an update on Covid cases in Amble – there is a link to a national website on the NCC website.

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

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

Cllr Weir reported on the Town Christmas Trees. He also reported on the BBC sounds broadcast which featured the proposed Bord Waalk. He also attended an SLA meeting with NCC (digital) and with Hay and Kilner (digital)

Cllr Parks gave an update on the work of Amble Youth Project,

Cllr Morrison gave an update on the Covid-19 Snake Rock progress

141. FINANCIAL REPORT:

141.1 To consider voucher numbers 133 – 199 for payment and receipt vouchers 38 - 54 for information (**Finance**) – *attached*

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in voucher number 168.

The payments and receipts were approved.

141.2 Bank Reconciliation

Approved

141.3 YTD figures

Noted

141.4 Grant requests

- AGE UK – generic letter

Members agreed to support AGEUK with a donation of £50.00 and to also add this to the annual approval list at the AGM

- Amble Youth Project

Cllrs Morrison and Parks declared an interest.

Consideration was given to the grant request received by Amble Youth Project whose prices include VAT. Cllr Lewis proposed that ATC purchase and donate all that is requested, at time of purchase up to £650 and donate them to AYP. Cllr Dargue seconded this; it was agreed

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

Gillian Turner was thanked for her work on the budget preparation work. This budget has been devised so as to not incur any further increase from the council for residents of Amble, however

Clerk

Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2020

members were made aware that due to the slightly smaller tax base used in these calculations there will still be a slight annual rise of around £1.77 per year per household.

As the budget does not yet need to be formally signed off members are asked to give this further consideration before final sign off.

141.6 To note the Interim Audit report for 2020-2021

The interim audit has been complete and raised only minor issues which were addressed by the Clerk. The Audit will be completed in April.

All

142. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

It was decided that the Amenities Management Committee would resume on a digital basis. Therefore, an Amenities Pre Meet has been arranged for 18 November 2020 at 6.00pm to discuss the draft agenda with the meeting scheduled for 26th November.

142.1 To receive an update on the West Cemetery Fountain

Whilst installing the Fountain, the contractors were unable to proceed as planned due to the old pipes currently in place and the age of the mechanisms installed. Therefore, permission was sought out of meeting to go ahead with additional works to modernise the pipes so that the fountain work could be carried out. Members agreed to these works,

Members were made aware that the fountain was finally installed at the West Cemetery, however, began to overflow after only being on for one day. It is thought that this was caused by a blockage of leaves. The contractors are looking at solutions to this. The Clerk has also asked the contractors for a quote for a quarterly maintenance programme.

At the next Amenities Committee, members will be asked their thoughts on turning the water off earlier to minimise this happening. Additional items for the agenda include flagpole, fish sculpture, shutter service.

Clerk

143: PLANNING COMMITTEE

143.1: To note the planning outcomes for October 2020

Noted

143.2 To note the planning application for the Seafarers Memorial

The seafarers planning application was returned due to requiring further information. This was supplied however planning are still not happy with what has been sent. The Clerk is amending the documents and Cllr Lewis is contacting the Contractor to supply further drawings. As there has been additional work requested it may be that the Council will be expected to pay for this. This was agreed. The plaques have been circulated with the agenda for approval.

Cllr Lewis and her husband offered to personally pay for the paint and the signage so the only cost for the Council would be the planning application. This was accepted and thanks extended.

143.3 To discuss Councils response to Hauxley Grange Discharge of Conditions

Cllr Watson did not take part in these discussions.

Members were circulated the documents in advance of the meeting.

Initial comments were circulated via email and were agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Committee and members. The Clerk to send these to planning asap.

144. AGENDA ITEMS:

144.1 To discuss the dedication plaque for Memorial Gardens Tree

ATC have contacted Betty Stewart's family to ascertain their thoughts and wishes for the new dedication plaque they had asked to supply and install. The original plaque will stay on the wall until the new one is in place.

144.2 To receive an update on the proposed site outline under Policy INF 5 Northumberland Local Plan

Members agreed with the new boundary drawing and in turn removed their request to attend the

Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2020

hearing on 10 November 2020.

144.3 Consultation on street naming and numbering request - Land North East Of Amble Sewage Treatment Works, Percy Drive, Amble.

Members considered the Street Naming Request and suggested that as the island cannot be seen from here, North Sea View may be better.

There appears to be 9 areas to name, therefore suggest to omit Crane, Albatross and Peregrine as less common to this area and to combine one bird's name with one of:

Avenue, Close, Crescent, Drive, Road, Row, Street, Terrace, Way.

Clerk to respond

144.4 To discuss the request for additional lighting at Church Street Bus Shelter

Members discussed the lighting request for Church Street Bus Shelter due to increased anti-social behaviour. Some initial investigations have already been pursued however Cllr Watson agreed to take this up with lighting at NCC to see if they could offer alternative options and what the costs of these would be as he may be able to fund this from his member's small schemes budget.

144.5 To agree retrospective approval for costs to remove rubbish from office - £36.00

Members agreed.

144.6 To retrospectively agree Mayoral reading for digital Christmas service

Members agreed

144.7 To approve the newpage for The Ambler

The newpage was approved. Clerk to send to the Ambler.

144.8 To approve the Risk Assessment for gardening and gardening related tasks for Amble Town Council

Members were made aware that this Risk Assessment was the result of a request from a member of the public to help maintain the flower bed at the back of the memorial wall; also volunteers assist in the Memorial Gardens. If these types of volunteers were to be accepted, then appropriate risk assessments need to be in place. Members approved the Risk Assessment.

144.9 To discuss the request to offer free school meal vouchers

Government policy has now superseded this request. NCC are now working with central government to ensure that what they have in place will meet the need of those children in Northumberland.

144.10 To receive an update on High Street Garden Fence Maintenance

The fence at High Street gardens is privately owned. However, the Town Council side of the fence is in need of some preservative. The Council are reluctant to arrange to have this done without consent from the owner. Council staff have tried to contact the owner and await a response.

145.11 To retrospectively approve the plaque for the Town Christmas Tree

The High Street Christmas tree was partially funded by monies from Northumberland Estates. Therefore, a small plaque was agreed to be placed here to state acknowledge this. Once in place, staff to take a picture and send to Northumberland Estates with thanks.

144.12 To discuss and approve the plaque for the Seafarers Memorial

The plaque suggestion for the seafarer's memorial was circulated with the agenda papers. Members agreed to the text. Council staff to progress.

144.13 To receive an update on Town Nordmann Fir Trees

Cllr Weir reported that the trees were now in place and both had lights on. Additional lights are needed but these should be easier to put on as these are at the bottom. Lights have been ordered. Many thanks were given to Cllrs who attended to help and their partners, Council staff, Bill Dodd, David Barnes, Paul Smith, Alan Todd, Davey Matthews and NCC staff. As a gesture of goodwill it was agreed to donate £50.00 to Amble Food Bank in the name of Bill Dodd who would not accept any payment.

Clerk

JW

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2020

It has also been previously agreed that David Barnes would extend his work in the memorial gardens. Therefore, the Clerk was requested to work out his additional costs and calculate a bonus payment for him for all his extra work with the trees.

Clerk

144.14 To agree retrospective approval for additional costs re West Cemetery Fountain and subsequent update

This update was provided above as part of the Amenities update.

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

145.1 NHS Healthcare Young Persons Feedback

Noted

145.2 Amble Caravan Site Concerns

Noted

145.3 Ashden and North of Tyne Fuel Poverty event

Noted. There is an online event on 26 November 2020

145.4 Bitesize Funding Fair - Lough Fund

Noted

145.5 Invitation to Attend a Coastal Summit 5pm to 6.30pm, Wednesday 11th November 2020

Noted. Updated above.

145.6 Complaint regarding increased dog fouling at the end of King Edward Street / Middleton Street and random disposal of face masks

This has been reported to NCC who have assured ATC that this is a Country wide issue and not just Amble.

145.7 Free Light Trail Offer – The Alnwick Garden

Noted

145.8 NALC Enews 9/10, 14/10, 15/10, 21/10

Noted

145.9 NCC Communities Hub – Christmas Plans

Noted

145.10 Orange Box North East

Noted

145.11 To note the request regarding the Zebra Crossing damage on Church Street

Noted. NCC and Northumbria Police are aware of this. Clerk to send to Cllr Clark.

Clerk

145.12 Rehab4Addiction Infographic Request

Noted. This is possibly something that AYP may like. Cllr Parks to pass on.

IP

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

146.1 To note the minutes of the Partnership meeting with NCC

Noted

146.2 To note the update regarding the Covid-19 Snake Trail

Noted

146.3 To note the update on the flooding issue at Paddlers Park 12/10, 16/10, 21/10

Noted

146.6 To note the outcome of the meeting with Andrew Mounsey re lighting up of the clock tower

Noted

146.7 To note the outcome of the meeting regarding the seafarers memorial

Noted

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2020

146.8 To note the outcome of the meeting regarding the water feature at Paddlers Park
Noted

147. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

147.1 10 December 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

148: MINUTES –

148.1: Town Council meeting held 8 October 2020 – items 131 – 134.2

The minutes were approved

148.2 To consider the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 29 October 2020

The minutes were approved

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

149.1 None

Cllr Lewis requested members to discuss what the Council could do for this Christmas only in terms of the children of the town during Covid. An idea was put forward but it was acknowledged that there were logistical issues to iron out before this could be confirmed and the schools input would be needed.

Members agreed to delegate to Cllrs Weir, Lewis, Parks and Clerk to take forward.

CLERK
HL/CW
IP

150. AGENDA ITEMS

150.1 Legal Update

Members were updated

150.2 To receive an update on grave digging contract

There has been no further update.

150.3 To receive an update on Town Centre Parking if available

There is no further update

Chairs Signature.....