

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12 October 2017 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Dargue (Chair) T Hinton, I Hinson, M Horn, H Lewis, K Morrison, J Watson, C Weir, V Smith (Admin Assistant) with Miss E Brown; Town Clerk

County Cllr T Clark

J Willoughby- Northumberland Gazette.

There were 3 members of the public in attendance, Mr Terry Barton, Mrs Anne Burke & Mr Michael Walters

For transparency purposes the Chair informed that the meeting was being recorded for administrative purposes.

Action

103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs I Parks. The apologies were agreed.

104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Lewis and Weir declared an interest in items referring to the Allotments.

104.1 Cllr Weir requested a dispensation in relation his role as a trustee within ADT.

After some discussion it was agreed that a dispensation was not necessary and that any conflict of interest would be flagged up if and when appropriate. The clerk to confirm Liam Henry.

CLERK

105. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Mrs Burke raised issues with the lack of car parking and the restrictions now in place on the Queen Street car parking bays limited for one hour, leaving those that need to park all day with nowhere to park. Mrs Burke acknowledged that there are currently two car parks available to use but that these may be terminated at any time and that preparations should be made in advance. Mrs Burke went on to report that there are two areas of land that are suitable for car parking but have been told that these will be too expensive and felt this was putting a price on the success of Amble. Over 300 people are employed in the town centre and with more expected on the industrial estate, as well as drawing in further visitors with the food and retail offering that Amble now has, further car parking is required to make this success. Car Parking for employees of the industrial estate will be provided by the out of town development. Amble Business Club requested that Amble Town Council support them in their request for town centre car parking.

Cllr Weir reported that these issues were highlighted in the previous Parking Group meetings and possible solutions were being looked at.

Cllr Lewis suggested that a letter of support to Amble Business Club be sent to NCC. This was agreed with 2 opposed, 1 abstained. Whilst it was acknowledged that other market towns were conducting parking surveys but already have more parking facilities than Amble, we have had assurance that as Amble already have a liaison group set up that it does not require the initial surveys to be carried out.

CLERK

Cllr Watson clarified some issues around the assumed available areas of land as not all of the land suggested was owned by NCC.

Mr Barton raised the issue with the deregistration of the village green at The Braid. It was clarified by the Chair that this was a land swap and clarified by Cllr Weir that this land is in fact owned by Warkworth. Mr Barton objects to the proposal as he felt it would pollute the area and become another litter hotspot. Turning this area into a car park is denying local residents a recreational area and said that Open Spaces Society actively discourages any parking on green belt land. He also said that it would affect the wildlife

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there and will also affect the cycle route which is very popular. Even as a temporary car park with restrictions this will be open to misuse by the public and the businesses on Queen Street.

Cllr Dargue acknowledged Mr Bartons comments and agreed it was a very sensitive issue. It is also on the agenda for further discussion.

Mr Walters would like to thank the street cleaners for their work recently and said he was pleased to see that the bus shelter has been painted.

There is a drain cover at the back of King Edward / Street Middleton Street is missing and it a potential hazard.

There are some pot holes in that area that have white rings around them, so this looks like this has been actioned.

Mr Walters talked to the person emptying the little bins at Acklington Street / Allison Street and he mentioned putting a sticker on the bin to say suitable for litter and dog waste.

Mr Walters reported that the new bus time tables have been installed.

Hauxley Lane – A1068, is in a terrible state. Cllr Clarke confirmed that this is in the local plan for next year.

The LED street lamps have not been completed. Mr Walters was informed that it is expected that this will be done in due course as there had been some issues with contractors.

Mr Walters felt that the roadworks on Acklington Road and Woodbine Street should have traffic lights as this road is very narrow now and cars are still speeding.

Mr Walters reported the excess water at the entrance to Central Avenue from Acklington Road. This has been reported to NCC by Cllr Watson.

Mr Walters queried about the access roads for the new proposed houses by Hindhaugh Homes & Cheviot Homes. Cllr Watson reported that both developers had been approached and were being encouraged to work together to provide one access road that connects the two developments. This issue is ongoing.

CLERK

106: NCC – Commons Act 2006 – Section 16 – Application to deregister an area of Amble Braid Village Green.

It was agreed to discuss this item of communication at this stage in the agenda.

Amble Town Council are statutory consultees and were consulted on this on 6 October 2017. NCC have applied to the Secretary of State to deregister an area of the Amble Braid in order to process a land swap Under section 16 of the Commons Act. The planning inspectorate will decide the application on behalf of the Secretary of the State, they are required to inform us of their proposals and will send us copies of their notices, application form and maps. If the released land is more than 2000m² an application must be made at the same time to register replacement land. Any objections need to be submitted by 16 November 2017. The released land is 4400m², replacement is the same area. Cllr Watson reported that he will partake in discussion but will not cast a vote as he wants his vote to be clear if required at future meetings.

This item has been discussed at the Parking Group and they are aware of the issue. NCC has stipulated in the notice that they intend to use this land to enable car parking at times of peak demand. Cllr Lewis opposes the area suggested as this straddles the right of way. Clarification is needed on how temporary this is and what is considered peak times. It was agreed to defer this to the November Full Council meeting.

CLERK

107. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

107.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 14th September 2017

Items 81-98.2 – agreed with some minor spelling corrections.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

CLERK

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107.2. Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting held on 28th September 2017.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

108. CLERK'S REPORT:

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions where necessary.

The minutes of the Parking and Traffic Flow meeting held in August were circulated.

War Memorial Restoration

The clerk has contacted the contractors, the war memorial trust and conservation accredited engineer to confirm that it has been agreed that we have agreed to postpone this until March 2018. They have also been informed that Elaine Brown is leaving Amble Town Council. We have been assured that sound system will be fitted and tested in time for Remembrance Day. This system was based on having a WIFI connection in the town square. The clerk with ADT to check that the WIFI connection is still there.

CLERK

Website

The website is continuing to be updated and all meeting papers and finance papers are there. Further photos are to be added.

CLERK

Community Access Defibrillator

The Community Access Defibrillator has been installed and training details were circulated, and training has taken place.

Neighbourhood Planning Consultation exercise.

Warkworth and Hauxley Parish Council agreed they will attend a first meeting with ATC although Warkworth has already begun discussions with Colleagues from NCC on their own Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Dargue and Cllr Weir would be Amble's representatives at this meeting.

CCTV update

All cameras are now live except for the ones on Foresters and the ones attached to the street lights. Mark Kane from NCC has said that the power boxes should be installed within the next two weeks. The costs of the electricity from Alncom has been requested. The cameras are in the comms room downstairs but are not locked away which leaves us liable for data protection issues. We may need to purchase a lockable cabinet.

The police have not received any training yet and are keen to get this completed.

CCTV signage is to be purchased and the location of these is to be agreed.

CLERK

Cllr Clark has donated via his members small schemes for additional CCTV. A request was sent to CCTV to see what would be available. Alncom recommended the following:

- Remove camera from chemist on Percy Street
- Adding a fourth camera to foresters building

It was agreed to have the additional camera at the end of the one-way system.

CLERK

Cllr Dargue raised the 2 deployable cameras that are available from NCC and asked for an update on this. The cameras are provided on a needs basis. It was thought it was up to the police to decide where they are needed. Cllr Horn to query this.

HORN

Cllr Hinson requested that further pedestrian crossings created and it was agreed that this would be addresses at the Parking meeting. Cllr Lewis suggested that this issue should be added to the LTP as this was a more appropriate place to have this issue highlighted.

CLERK

109. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

109.1: Chairman

Cllr Dargue reported that she had attended Local Democracy Week and went into schools to work with the children and really enjoyed engaging with them.

Cllr Dargue also reported on a meeting with David Nisbett and Neil Rodgers at JCSC

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where discussion focused on Local Democracy and other education issues, sharing events and holding regular meetings to maintain contact and working relationships.

Cllr Dargue took this opportunity to present The Clerk with some flowers as a thank you for all her work for Amble Town Council and wished her well in her new role.

109.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Weir attended a meeting with the AONB. Notes were circulated previously.

110 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

110.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark reported that all roads within a 30 mile area are swept 3 to 4 times a year and sometimes more if there are special events on. There is still an outstanding query relating to weeding.

Cllr Clark reported in response to a query from Cllr Dargue that there is an Adult Learning classroom at Bridge Street which does a limited number of courses, however, additional courses and sessions can be arranged if there is a need from the public.

Cllr Clark reported on a request from a member of the public to add a pedestrian crossing to the Harbour Co-Op.

Noise from the Marina has been reported as working unsuitable hours.

The bus tables have been updated.

Signage at Persimmon homes sign is incorrect. It has been confirmed that the area of wasteland does not belong to them. Cllr Dargue to raise with Ruth Bendall.

110.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

DARGUE

The industrial car park is being investigated. An archaeological survey has been carried out.

The land behind the Tesco site is also being investigated.

Residents have contacted Cllr Watson around the 1-hour parking restrictions.

Cllr Watson has liaised with Incom re an additional camera at the Welfare and possibly a further one on Albert Street.

Cllr Watson has had a meeting with JCSC and the meeting was attended with Wayne Daley. A plan for the whole of the North is to be produced.

Cllr Watson was successful in securing £3000 for Amble Youth Project.

Numerous complaints have been received re speeding on Acklington Road. This is an ongoing issue.

A burger van has been reported on the beach at Warkworth. This could also lead to access to the North Pier. The bottom gates have been padlocked and discussions are ongoing to lock the top gate.

Cllr Lewis queried whether half of the Amble Town Centre Car Park could be released so that it would be an all-day car park rather than a four hour stay. Could this be progressed.

CLERK

Cllr Lewis queried the footpath maintenance issue from Albert Street footpath to the new Persimmon estate. Cllr Watson to raise with NCC.

WATSON

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

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

Cllr Weir previously circulated the report from his meeting with JCSC

Cllr Weir previously circulated the report from his meeting with AONB

Cllr Weir reported on the JCSC ASDAN Course, "Grow It, Cook It, Eat It". This particular group have a small piece of land and Cllr Weir asked if Amble Town Council could allocate some money to the group for materials and equipment. It was agreed that £50.00 would be allocated.

CLERK

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Northumberland Town and Parish Council Conference on 5 October. The conference was slightly disrupted as this was an emergency planning day and some of the speakers were involved. It was an interesting session and focused on the working in partnership with local councils and it was agreed that there were still communication issues.

Cllr Horn and Morrison attended the Northern Area Planning Meeting.

Cllr Morrison attended the CAP meeting, notes of which have been circulated. Leaflets were circulated about talking to your children about alcohol.

A report from the Youth Project was given by Cllr Hinton. Lara Patrick has now joined the Youth Project and has put a package together and a new youth group will start for young people aged 8-12 and a wider age group covering all ages will be starting again for Friday nights. New partnerships will be forged with schools and hope to offer more to local people and establish a café within the youth project where they can do detached work.

Cllr Hinton reported on a Community Event for 16th November to raise funds for the Youth Project. It is £17 per ticket and is for a 3 course meal with tea or coffee at Zecca. Tickets will be available from Lara Patrick.

The Job Club is being carried out by the Youth Project. It was felt that this was not part of the remit of the Youth Project and a committee has been set up to take this issue forward.

112. FINANCIAL REPORT:

112.1: Voucher numbers 153 – 180 for payment were approved and receipt vouchers 76-87 were noted for information (Finance)

Additional payments to add were £900 to Adam Douglas for legal advice.

Voucher no 158 needs to be corrected from catering to burial fees.

Cllr Watson queried the precept and Council Tax fees.

CLERK

112.2: The bank reconciliation to date

The reconciliation has reduced. It is expected that this is the petty cash figure.

112. 3: Year to date was received for information and was amended as per comments at the last meeting. Cllr Lewis queried there is no figure in this years bus shelters and commemorative events. The clerk agreed to check and report back. Cllr Lewis queried number 83 (War Memorial Repairs) The clerk to check the figure.

CLERK

112.4: Update on Earmarked funds – no update required.

CLERK

Cllr Weir would like to think of a way to say thank you to Peter Proctor Cannon for the amount of money he has raised for the War Memorial Restoration Fund. The Clerk is in the process of arranging a write up and photograph.

CLERK

113. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

113.1: To confirm accuracy and adopt the minutes of the meeting held 28th September 2017 – Some amendments to be made. The minutes were agreed as a true record apologies were given for the lateness.

CLERK

The East Cemetery Wall was discussed at the meeting and it was agreed to defer the quotation to Full Council. It was queried if this was front and back of the wall. The quote was accepted and it was requested that all debris was removed from the site.

114: PLANNING COMMITTEE

114.1: The Planning Report to be circulated outside of meeting.

115: AGENDA ITEMS:

115.1: External Audit – Governance Statement

Due to restating a wrong box on the audit we have received a qualified audit.

115.2: Consideration of Nominating a Councillor to be the Town Council local education liaison officer and the terms of this role – Cllr Dargue

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In order to maintain regular dialogue with the schools a liaison officer was proposed. Cllr Lewis requested that the wording be changed to Local Schools Liaison Officer. The Clerk recommended that if this was going to go ahead that terms of reference be produced. The Clerk had concerns as all communications should come through the office but if this was agreed that objectives were clear and that the nominated person was aware of their remit. The Clerk also has reservations about this issue being a conflict of interest for Mr Parks and that it was unnecessary. After a vote at the meeting this was not agreed and will continue arranging meetings through the office.

115.3: Consideration of additional CCTV cameras (donation of £2000 received from County Councillor Clark – covered above.

116. COMMUNICATIONS:

116.1: Joint Northumberland County Council/Town & Parish Community Council Meetings, 9-19 October 2017

There are various locations to attend for those that wish to do so. Cllr Watson will be in attendance.

116.2: NCC – Commons Act 2006 – Section 16 – Application to deregister an area of Amble Braid Village Green

Discussed above.

117. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

Local Councils Update September 2017

Marine Conservation Autumn 2017

NALC Enews 5 September 2017

NALC Enews 12 September 2017

NALC Enews 19 Sept 2017

NALC Enews 26 September 2017

Items for information were noted on block.

118. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

118.1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 9th November 2017 at. 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

The meeting ended at 8.26pm

It was resolved that 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

119.: MINUTES –

119.1:Town Council meeting held 14th September 2017

The minutes were agreed with some amendments to be made by The Clerk.

CLERK

119.2: Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held 28th September 2017

The minutes were agreed with some amendments to be made by The Clerk for clarification.

CLERK

119.3: Minutes of the Staffing Working party held 2nd October 2017

The Minutes were agreed with some amendments.

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

120.1 Notes of Meeting held with Neighbourhood Services Senior Officers

These minutes will be circulated outside of the meeting

CLERK

121: CLERKS REPORT

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

121.1: CCTV update

Discussed above

121.2: Potential disposal of land

A potential offer has been made and work is progressing.

121.3: Consideration of future of TIC building

A preapp has been submitted and has been registered.

121.4: Consideration of SLA/TUPE

The Clerk to send NCC the requested information to progress.

CLERK

Chairs Signature.....