

Clerk Report April 2021

BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

Update on proposals for future meetings from May 2021

Central Government have confirmed that the legislation to allow digital meetings will not be extended. This means that all Town and Parish Councils need to begin preparations to have face to face meetings after 7 May 2021. Staff have begun investigating options available to the Council. When face to face public meetings go ahead, all attendees and organisers must still be able to adhere to Covid19 guidelines and social distancing, including the provision of risk assessments and Council may have to pay for the additional cleaning required.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Grant requests

Lionheart Radio

A grant request of £5000 has been received. Members are asked to consider.

FC Juniors

A letter has been requested for financial support. The maximum members can consider in this case is £150.

The Colony Music Festival

A grant application has been received in relation to the above, however details of what is requested has not been included. The organisers have been contacted to provide this.

To receive an update on future banking arrangements

Various banking institutions have been contacted with regards to opening up new deposit accounts in light of the possibility of negative yields from CCLA. Many banks are not opening new business accounts for new customers due to the economic climate at this time. After further discussions with Gillian Turner, it may be that the funds can only be split between the CCLA and our current account. As the precept will be due to be going into the current account this will take the Councils balances over the amount allowed and therefore there may be account charges. It is expected that all banks will be doing this going forward.

AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

To discuss request to use storage facilities at Amble West

The grave contractor has requested to use the old mortuary building as storage for some of his equipment as 90% of his work is for Amble Town Council. In return he has offered to maintain the building and cover the insurance costs for this. Initial concerns are that an official agreement will need to be drawn up to cover all the legalities of an arrangement such as this to protect the Council in the long term. The grave contractor has been made aware of this. Depending on the costs involved, there may still be interest.

To note outcome of Fire Extinguisher test

The test was carried out on 1 April 2021

To note action taken regarding pest control issue at TIC car park

A report of rats from the drain here has been reported to NCC Highways for action.

To receive an update re adopted bed at Memorial Gardens

Planting will begin here in May. The bed currently needs weeding.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Percy Drive verges and grassed areas

The verges at the new development have been dug up to allow for new pipes to be fitted. The verges have not been reinstated adequately and will not be able to be cut in their current state. This has been flagged to NCC during the SLA meeting who will take a look at it.

The grassed area where the refuse skip is pulled over at the side of Coquet Vets has also been flagged.

AGENDA ITEMS:

To receive an update re Know Your Town

Members are asked to consider if they wish to work with Know Your Town. There was some previous discussion if this could link in with Amble Connect.

To seek retrospective approval for National Day of Reflection arrangements

Retrospective approval is sought for the Clock Tower Lighting on the National Day of Reflection on 23rd March.

To agree the protocol for Newspaper Councillors' Corner

Members are asked to review and discuss the new protocol for approval.

To agree mayoral attendance at RBL event on 11 July 2021 subject to covid restrictions

RBL have requested the attendance of the Mayor at their event on 11 July 2021. Members are asked to consider and agree.

To discuss proposed seat relocation on Percy Drive

The seat on Percy Drive has been removed to allow for the verge works here. The developers have the seat in storage and have proposed to replace the seat towards the Priory Park side of the new development, however members are also asked to consider a preferred location towards the right-hand side of the right of way at the other side of the new estate.

To discuss meetings venues and possibilities after 7 May 2021

Staff have begun to look at possible meeting venues. There are 2 possible venues: St Cuthbert Church Hall and the Masonic Hall. Both venues remain closed at this time but will be opening when rules allow. As Council may have to pay for the additional cleaning required, perhaps ADT conference room could be a possibility. Members are asked to consider the venues and agree a way forward.

As of 17 May, larger gatherings are allowed, it is therefore proposed to delay the AGM and first meeting of the Council to 20th May so that the Council is legally compliant in all covid regulations.

To discuss renewal of CCTV cameras at 4 locations

The Council had been made aware that CCTV issues reported in November had not been resolved, despite regular update requests. Since that time the Council has been informed that 3 of the cameras are now out of warranty and need replaced at a cost of £595 plus VAT per camera. The camera on Percy Street is under warranty and is being replaced. The Clerk has had a telephone conference with Alncom to address concerns with reporting and remedial action timescales and has been informed that a dedicated team is now in place to deal with all CCTV and that Amble will be kept informed with regular updates going forward.

To discuss Memorial Gardens Nordmann Fir

The tree in the Memorial Gardens is browning on its needles. Paramount plants have been contacted to advise, as has NCC tree officer, Northwood Tree Surgery and The Woodsman.

To discuss trees to recommend for preservation orders

Members are asked to consider the attached list and any further additions in order to apply for TPOs.

To seek retrospective approval for Good Friday Vigil request from CCT

Members were asked via email if they agreed to CCT use of the Memorial Gardens to hold their Good Friday Vigil. Formal retrospective approval is required.

To receive an update on Clock Tower

The time on the Clock Tower has now been corrected and the Clerk has been shown how to reset this should it happen again.

COMMUNICATIONS

To note concerns received regarding trip hazard on Town Square

The Council has been contacted regarding a trip hazard from coffee advertisement signs on the Town Square- this was passed to ADT.

To note the request re Covid19 data

The Council has been contacted with a request to publish the data it holds with the Coquet Medical Group vaccination programme. As the Council does not have this information, Cllr Watson was contacted and replied to the person direct as part of his County Cllr role at NCC.

To note the complaint regarding condition of road at Gloster Hill

A complaint was received regarding the condition of the roads at Gloster Hill due to the development there. This complaint was forwarded to Warkworth PC as this is within their parish and was also forwarded to NCC Highways.

To note the arrangements for the Acklington Road Speed Sign

The sign has been ordered and documentation is ready for sign off. NCC have been asked to provide the documentation on its warranty to ATC.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION

To note receipt of formal notification of outcome of Governance Review

Members are asked to note. This will be used to inform further changes to the mapping software.