

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JUNE 2021

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 10 June 2021, 6.00pm Masonic Hall, Amble.

Members and public were reminded of the need to adhere to all Covid-19 regulations.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, J Watson, K Morrison, J Dargue, T Hinton, D. Bewley
V Smith - Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Parks, Accepted

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

50.1 To receive an update from Northumbria Police.

The report from Northumbria Police was read out. Updates of particular interest were the issues at Straffen Court and Dansfield Square. Cllr Clark to chase up the connectivity of the Church Street lamp post.

50.2 Public Attendance:

Michael Walters

Cllr Watson has dealt the issues with Mr Walters raised prior to the meeting therefore Mr Walters did not attend. Mr Walters wished to raise concerns regarding the potholes in the road at the junction to Central Avenue from Acklington Road. The area has since been repaired.

Chris Armstrong

Mr Armstrong did not attend the meeting but wished to discuss the parking issues at Harbour Road. Members have discussed these issues previously and understand the frustration of the residents. A meeting with the NCC locality officer is being arranged and this will be brought up. Cllr Weir received a call from Mr Goodfellow who expressed frustration at the parking issues at Gordon Villas associated with second homes and holiday lets.

Brian Docherty from Park Leisure was unable to attend. It was understood he wanted to discuss restarting talks about Amble Connect. Cllr Weir / Cllr Bewley to contact direct.

51. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

51.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2021 – items 19-49

The minutes were approved.

51.2 To note the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20 May 2021

The minutes were noted.

52. CLERK'S REPORT:

52.1 The Clerks report was noted

53 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

53.1: Chairman

All items contained within the agenda

53.2: Vice Chairman

All items contained within the agenda

54. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

54.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark reported on the following issues:

Issues with the foundations to some properties on Tynedale estate. NCC are seeking legal advice. The boarding up of the bunker on Island View has been delayed but is in hand.

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There have been reports of broken kerbs and speeding issues on Bay View. Yellow lines are to be painted on parts of Leazes Street, Percy Drive, Broomhill Street and Runciman Way.

Complaints have been received regarding parking on George Street.

Unfortunately, NCC cannot enforce anything on vehicles parked on the highway so long as they are taxed. NCC have been in contact with residents with regards to Parking Permits.

Cllr Clark is aware of the flooding on the Right of Way near Newmore Close, subsequently flooding the gardens nearby.

Cllr Clark reported that a license was in place for an establishment in Amble who have outside seating area. There was a query as to whether this area could be classed as a pavement and also what would happen once the covid regulations pass and the by law is reinstated.

Cllr Clark was made aware of some aggressive comments being made to NCC operatives when they are attending to close the toilets adjacent to Memorial Gardens on an evening. NCC have been reminded that ATC have CCTV operating in this area.

Cllr Clark visited Straffen Court to discuss the ASB taking place here.

Cllr Clark helped to secure the rehoming of some cockerels that had been on the loose.

The weeds on the south roundabout are to be treated again.

He was asked to take forward the outstanding request to have red 'no parking lines' on Leazes Street towards Harbour Village as those coming out of the car park cannot see when there are cars with disability badges parked along the road.

54.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson gave an update on the Turner Street Car Park progress. Demolition of the bungalow and outstanding investigation reports are expected to be complete after the summer holidays.

Cllr Watson gave an update on the extra summer parking on the braid, which is the grassed area to the left of the surfaced area, possibly by next weekend.

Cllr Watson has discussed the flooding issue of the road with Mr Walters as describes above.

The flooding issues at New Hall Farm are being investigated.

Issues with the welfare are being worked on.

Meetings have resumed with JCSC. A full joint meeting is needed with NCC officers and JCSC staff.

Advance Northumberland have agreed to tidy up the area among the trees alongside the A1068 on the retail site

Cllr Watson has received complaints regarding an event held at the Wellwood. On further investigation, the Wellwood has all the appropriate licenses.

Cllr Watson was asked if he could liaise with Warkworth Harbour Commissioners regarding the Coal Truck they agreed to look after as it is now in a very bad state of repair.

Discussion was held regarding users of the river and issues around Coquet Island trespassing.

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

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

Cllr Weir attended a meeting of the SLA with NCC with Cllrs Parks, Hinton and Lewis.

Cllr Weir gave training to members, contractors and staff on the lowering of the flag.

Reports of the Radcliffe Lodge visit were very good; it was of a high standard and a welcome addition to the town's facilities. Many thanks to Cllr Morrison for organising.

Cllr Parks attended meetings with AYP, Henry Stewart and JCSC.

Cllr Morrison has been involved in the interview of AYP positions.

55.2 To note the meeting of ADT from 19 May 2021

Noted.

Reports of the stones on the amphitheatre being damaged by vandalism was made to Cllr Weir. ADT have been made aware and the stones have since been removed. Repairs are thought to be in hand.

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56. FINANCIAL REPORT:

56.1 To consider voucher numbers 31 – 43 for payment and receipt vouchers 11 - 13

The payments and receipts were approved.

56.2 Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation was approved

56.3 YTD figures

The figures were noted

56.4 Grant requests

None

56.5 To note the outcome of the Internal Audit

The outcome of the Internal Audit was approved. There were no matters to bring to the attention of members.

56.6 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/2021

To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor

The report from the Internal Auditor was agreed.

To approve the Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement was approved.

To approve the draft annual accounts for 2020/2021

The draft annual accounts for 2020-2021 were approved.

To approve the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances

The accounting statement and explanation of variances was approved.

57. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

57.1 To note the minutes of the Amenities Committee 27 May 2021

The minutes were noted

57.2 To receive an update on Paddlers sluice gate repair

The repair is yet to be completed.

57.3 To receive an update on Paddlers Water Feature

ST Controls attended but no work has been carried out yet. It is expected that work will be carried out towards the end of the month.

57.4 To give an update on cemetery flowers complaint

The complaint was noted and operatives have been asked to be vigilant and look out for visitors moving floral tributes.

57.5 To receive an update on Section N drainage

Cllr Lewis and Hinton met Contractors to verify all was marked out correctly. There was an adjustment to move further into the section rather than remove or partly go through the slight bund which was there. This was due to lay of land, elevations etc.

However, another meeting was requested as contractors were not able to run the water into the original location. The contractors had surveyed the land and had two possible options. They could dig up and lay a pipe from the tree line of this section all the way back through M, going under the path, and then another pipe under the trees and 'webbed' driveway to the natural burial area, then disperse the water down the drainage curve at the side of the main cemetery drive. However, the elevation for the pipe was only slight and there was a concern that once the whole section had drains in place, this might not cope well with the amount of flow in heavy rain periods. The other alternative was to create a large soak away at the start of section N near the fence boundary. This would be approx. 3x3x3 metres in size. The depth was to allow for the fall elevations and so the gravel drainage layer could be below the heavy clay; the large size was to ensure maximum drainage for the whole section when we put the rest of the drains in situ.

As previously agreed, the lateral drainage would connect to another along the fence boundary to carry the water here.

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Whilst the manual labour would not be much greater, there would be the cost of the stone/gravel; however this should be considerably less than the cost of the other option. This will of course mean the loss of a few grave plots in this region.

Members agreed retrospective approval.

New costs are to be circulated as soon as possible.

As the first lateral drain will be the 'base marker' for the other measurements, the contractor will put a post at the fence line as a permanent marker for future works. The other ones will have a 'peg' at the fence and at the tree line as a sightline guide.

Clerk

57.6 To receive an update on trees for Amble West Cemetery

Cllr Watson confirmed that Amble had been approved for additional trees however members were keen to meet with the woodland officer first as we needed to be sure that we can facilitate what the bid allows for. A letter of support has also been requested. Members agreed to a meeting to discuss further

Additional items added at the Chairs discretion:

Broken play equipment at Paddlers Park

NCC operatives checked out the air walker which was reported as broken. A meeting has since been held with Kompan who have taken the broken piece back to their offices. It is expected that the equipment is still under warranty. It was confirmed at the meeting that the walker is still safe to use.

58: PLANNING COMMITTEE

58.1: To note for information planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of April 2021

The planning outcomes were noted.

Staff

59 AGENDA ITEMS:

59.1 To receive an update on ASB at Straffen Court

The update had previously been discussed. The estate walkabouts are to be reinstated once regulations are eased and subject to shift patterns of Northumbria Police. Staff to contact the complainant with an update.

Clerk

59.2 To discuss the update from Amble Health Centre if available

The letter was very well received, and the health centre welcomes a meeting with members and to especially discuss S106 monies. Clerk to contact manager to arrange a suitable date.

KM

59.3 To receive an update on Amble Snake Trail

Cllr Morrison has been in touch with Strategic Estates with regards to the installation of the snake trail on the curved wall opposite the Harbour Village. Initial thoughts have been positive however a license for the snake trail will need to be issued. ATC are to be asked to be named on the license however caution on the wording was urged as ATC would only accept responsibility for the snake and not the wall itself.

A plaque is being designed by Stephen Lunn.

59.4 To discuss ideas to celebrate Her Majesty the Queens Platinum Jubilee

Members were asked to come forward with ideas to celebrate the above. An idea of fireworks was suggested however at that time of year it is still quite light, even at 10pm. It was therefore suggested that if this was to be agreed, an alternative date for this could be the Queens birthday on 21st April. The cost of fireworks is £4600 plus VAT and security, flood lights etc.

All

Alternative ideas also include roller skating, ice rink, movie marquee and family fun day. It was hoped other local groups and organisations would be on board and collectively could help organise a celebration event for the residents.

Clerk

Members were asked to consider in time for the next meeting whether there was agreement to proceed with fireworks on 21 April 2022 and whether there is agreement to ask other community groups and organisations to join as well as bring forward any other suggestions.

Clerk

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59.5 To discuss a commemorative seat request

Cllrs are still trying to establish the location of the seat ends in order that a recycled seat may be made. Members are happy with the decision for a new seat in principle but permission will be needed from WPC and NCC on the location of the seat. Once it has been confirmed if we can locate the seat ends, we can approach for permission.

Clerk

59.6 To discuss the possibility of a leaving gift for Internal Auditor

The Council's internal auditor has retired after 20 years of working with Amble Town Council. Cllr Lewis proposed a gift of up to £40. This was seconded by Cllr Weir. Clerk to arrange.

59.7 To discuss the possibility of linking with "Know Your Town"

Members discussed the possibility of developing the app 'Know Your Town' however decided not to proceed. It was felt that the costs were excessive and that there may not be enough support for it from the community or businesses. Clerk to inform the company.

Clerk

59.8 To receive an update on the Garden and Civic Awards

It was agreed to proceed with the awards this year albeit in a slightly different format. All winners and Runner Ups will be invited to the September Full Council meeting to receive their awards. It was suggested to have 20 finalists with 10 shortlisted to be judged by the guest judge.

Clerk to contact The Alnwick Garden again to see if they have anyone willing to be the judge.

Members were asked to consider possible candidates for the adult and junior award in time for the August meeting. Clerk to add an item to the website to publicise the awards stating members will shortlist between 7th and 21st August and the judge will be visiting week commencing 23rd August.

Clerk

59.9 To receive an update regarding flooding of right of way and action taken

NCC officers and Cllrs have been aware of this issue.

59.10 To receive an update on The Rotary adopted bed if available

The Rotary are discussing the maintenance arrangements and are coming back to ATC with an answer. In the meantime it has been noted that some work has been carried out on the bed and ATC would like a meeting to receive discuss the project going forward.

59.11 To receive an update on toilet facilities in the town

ATC continue to receive complaints about the town toilets. It was acknowledged that Covid distancing restrictions had made the situation more difficult, but NCC were now making three visits daily to check and restock. The increase in visitors and business re-openings had added to the usage problems as well as extra litter both on the streets and in the bins. NCC were monitoring the situation. It was noted that at times NCC operatives were being abused and threatened especially at closing time; they were reminded that should it be required, NCC Officers were empowered to view the CCTV which was focused towards the main town toilets.

59.12 To discuss a new dedication seat dedicated to all those who had supported our community through the Covid pandemic

A new seat, dedicated to all those who worked during the pandemic was approved. If a seat base was needed it is expected that the cost would be around £1000. It was hoped that this could replace the seat outside of the Coast guard / RNLI shop which had been reported as needing some repair. This was to be checked and if a replacement was needed, contact would be made with WHC to ask for permission to install the seat here.

Wording for a plaque was agreed. Cllr Lewis to provide to staff. The new seat was proposed by Cllr Lewis and seconded by Cllr Weir.

60. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the items.*

60.1 Complaints regarding parking issues on George Street

Noted. Issues have been passed to NCC

60.2 Newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 14/5, 28/5,

Noted

60.3 To note the request from Early Years Intervention Team regarding Councillors and political affiliation

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Noted

60.4 CAN Newsletter 14/05,

Noted

60.5 NALC newsletter 19/5, 1/06,

Noted

60.6 To note the complaint regarding customer queues and car parking on Leazes Street

Noted and passed to Cllr Watson and WHC.

Additional items received since posting of agenda:

A complaint received regarding no flaps on bins on Leazes Street

The bins here did have flaps on however these were always vandalised and cut off.

A request was received for more bins in this area however the pavement is not wide enough for the very large bins and if bins are placed inside the car park, they are considered as on private land. A solution requires further consideration and is to be raised at the next SLA meeting.

Gilbert Ward Academy Consultation

Cllr Parks would be asked to give the consultation some thought and prepare a response to be approved by ATC.

61. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

61.1 Wor Bella Project

Noted

61.2 To note the request from Catch my Drift

Noted

61.3 Northumberland Local Plan Examination: Consultation on Main Modifications

Noted

61.4 To note the minutes of the Partnership Meeting with NCC 3 June 2021

Noted

61.5 To note the update from Highways England re Dualling the A1

Noted

61.6 Northumbria Police Public Event – Coastal Engagement Weekend

Noted

61.7 Supporting Unpaid Carers in Northumberland as part of Carers Week 7th-13th June

Noted

61.8 To note the smoking ban for pavement hospitality venues

Noted

62. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

62.1 8 July 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 PART OF PRIVATE

63: MINUTES –

63.1: Town Council meeting held 20 May 2021 – items 46-49

The minutes were approved

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

Clerk

Clerk

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64.1 Cllr Weir gave an update from the Coastal Community Team and the Community Input Grant work being led by Dry Water Arts. Clerk to send details.

65. AGENDA ITEMS

65.1 Legal update

A legal update was given.

65.2 To discuss a potential storage lease or license at Amble West Cemetery

An update was given. Clerk to contact the contractor.