

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2021

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 12 August 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 Dargue, T Hinton, D. Bewley, V Smith - Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

J Watson

I Parks

K Morrison

These were accepted

83.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.

The following residents attended the meeting to discuss the ongoing anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving on Church Street: J Christie, M Yates, J Maddern, H Christie.

Residents' main concerns were the speeding of cars down Church Street and the damage to parked cars and property also due to drivers not giving way to each other. There have been a number of incidents here in the last 18 months. The noisy and late night antisocial behaviour is blighting the lives of the residents who live here leaving some fearful to go out at night and facing abuse if they do so. Residents are also frustrated with holiday lets nearby, some with multiple cars, preventing residents from parking near their homes.

ATC explained that the Council is well aware of these issues and continually reports these to Northumbria Police and NCC. ATC agreed to add traffic calming in Church Street to their priority for the Local Transport Plan to NCC. ATC advised all residents to make a record and contact Highways individually to address and report their speeding and also Northumbria Police regarding antisocial behaviour concerns. ATC agreed to back up their communications by letter to Highways. Cllr Clark reported that he had added this area to be taken on as part of the speed survey in town. It was also noted that there is a lack of speed limit signage in this part of the town – ATC agreed and updated residents that it too had asked for more signage in the town centre, specifically relating to speeding and car park locations. Residents felt the CCTV cameras should be relocated but were advised that these were positioned in consultation with Northumbria Police.

Residents were given information about applications for Resident Parking permits and directed to NCC regarding these. They were advised that a large consensus from the street was required before NCC would consider a request.

M McPeak requested to report the issue with parking in nearby streets. This parking is being used by businesses within the town but also 2/3 cars per holiday let. It is hoped that the new car park will alleviate some of these issues. Cllr Clark to ascertain if NCC will be obligated to erect adequate signage directing to the new car park.

ATC agreed to write to NCC and Northumbria Police to press for more action and presence to deter future behaviour.

TC

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Residents queried if any more police would be coming to Amble but unfortunately ATC does not have further information on this but understands that funding is very limited.

83.1 To receive an update from Northumbria Police.

The report was noted.

ATC noted the request for additional cameras within The housing estates in the East Ward however does not have the resources for this. The areas covered by the CCTV were agreed with Northumbria Police at the time on the condition that there was a deployable camera available for instances such as this. Clerk to draft a response.

ATC were surprised to read that the ASB in Church Street has subsided slightly which seems to contradict the perception of residents living there.

Council strongly felt a larger police presence was required in the town. Clerk to request a physical attendance at a future meeting.

TC

84. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

84.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2021, items 66 – 82.1

The minutes were agreed

85. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

85.1 Clerks Report attached

The report was noted

86. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

86.1: Chairman

The chair attended the RBL 100 event.

86.2: Vice Chairman

All contained within the agenda

Cllr Lewis reported the smell from a food business on the industrial estate.

87. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

87.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark was involved in the following since the last meeting:

Carer payments, housing requests to downsize and dog fouling. Cllr Clark gave an update on the PAYG gym access and was asked to clarify what this meant for their lease which specifically said public had to be able to access it. Cllr Clark was also asked to clarify if swimming lessons are to restart after the summer.

Cllr Clark has agreed to fund £2k from members small schemes for the kerb reinforcement at Bay View and gave an update on signage in this area.

Cllr Clark has been discussing cyclists going against the one way system and has agreed to fund No Entry signage for Cyclists at the junction of Newborough Street and Leazes Street for this but this has not been approved yet.

The Percy Drive development has plans to add in a bus pull in but members have queried why this is going ahead as it is not a bus route and Arriva has confirmed it has no plans to amend its bus route in this area. Members urged the improvements be made at the existing stops nearer the South roundabout.

The overgrown weeds reported back lane of Church Street / Byron Street have been weed killed.

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Cllr Clark agreed a letter of support for Walking Football. Council made Cllr Clark aware of some possible legal issues with this at the moment.

Cllr Clark also attended to a dead rat removal call in Philip Drive.

It was queried if Cllr Clark was aware of NCC doing any work on acquiring land for social housing rather than affordable housing, but Cllr Clark was not aware of anything taking place.

87.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Apologies received from Cllr Watson

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

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

Meetings have been held to discuss the following:

Possible drainage issue in Section M West Cemetery

Paddlers Park equipment damage

Coal Truck Signage audit

Coquet Medical Group

Hay and Kilner

The removal of the Christmas Tree

Locality meeting

SLA meeting

Discussion took place regarding the closure of the URC Church. All are very concerned about the issues faced by the community groups who use these facilities. NCC officers are aware and are looking into issues. Cllr Clark to discuss with NCC and discuss the possibility of one of the portable classrooms which may be adequate. ATC agreed to support where possible.

Cllrs Weir and Regan were delegated to continue to attend meetings and report back.

Cllr Weir to raise issue with NTC.

A report on options for the site is due back in September.

Cllr Hinton also reported that AYP delivered its final summer programme which has all been well received.

CW

89. FINANCIAL REPORT:

89.1 To consider voucher numbers 66 – 98 for payment and receipt vouchers 19 - 25

Agreed

TC

89.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

TC

89.3 YTD figures

Noted. It was agreed to move £10k from ear marked legal and regulatory to the main legal pot and also move £10k from ear marked cemetery development to main cemetery development pot as the work this was set aside for had now been carried out.

89.4 Grant requests

- **Victim Support**

Cllr Lewis proposed Council donated £100. This was seconded by Cllr Weir and agreed.

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90. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

90.1 To note the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2021

Noted

CW

90.2 To discuss pest control proposal

AAHS rent is currently earmarked for allotment issues. In principle it was agreed that if approached Council would consider contributing to the costs of the necessary training courses and initial remedial action required. Further information on requirements and costs would be needed before final approval given.

It was noted that there was a communication issue at the moment. If this is not resolved within next week, Cllr Weir to speak to AAHS in person to arrange a meeting.

90.3 To note outcome of complaint re cremated remains area

The small fence has now been removed and staff have requested that the plot be topped up and grass seeded. A second plot was also noted to have a small fence around it and the plot owner has been contacted to remove it. The hedge has also been cut back and does not impede access to the plot along the back row. This week the Council received a telephone compliment for the cremated remains area.

TC

90.4 To note: Letter to Mr Forsyth re field drainage

Noted. There has been no response to date.

90.5 To note: Pump prototype adjustment and subsequent vandalism

Since the papers were issued the pump was vandalised again. Members agreed to repair the feature in its original state, with stronger fixings. Clerk to ascertain when ST Controls are coming to Alnwick again. Council to discuss other water feature possibilities with ST Controls in the meantime.

90.6 To note: Equipment part & fixing

The new part has now been delivered. As agreed with the supplier, Clerk to ascertain if NCC can fix it to the equipment and if not, seek the assistance of another contractor.

TC

90.7 Added as a later item

Church Street Bus Shelter Mural

Cllr Morrison met with the artist and was asked to provide quotes for the necessary work to be completed in early Spring. It was suggested that all remedial works to be done at the same time. In the New Year, builders are to be asked to take a look at the walls and the floor as well as a painting contractor re the floor.

TC

91: PLANNING COMMITTEE

91.1 To note planning outcomes for July 2021

Noted

92. AGENDA ITEMS:

92.1 To discuss and agree the Councils priorities for the LTP

The following items were agreed as the Councils priorities for the LTP. Clerk to write to NCC:

1. Safer Crossing Points on Percy Drive, the wide junction of Church Street/ Bede Street/ Wellwood Street and the junction of High Street/Albert Street/The Wynd as these are regular places for children going to school as well as adults going to the main shopping area and accessing the Health Centre.

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2. Speed restrictions, better signage of speed limit and directions to Parking areas within the central streets of the town in the interests of greater pedestrian safety. This is particularly important on Church Street, Dilston Terrace and Percy Street where there have been several incidents of damage to parked vehicles and properties as well as pedestrian injuries.

3. Improvements to the Rights of Way within the parish in the interests of greater pedestrian and cyclist safety as this will encourage not only a greater usage for healthier lifestyles but deter the use of vehicles within the town centre.

TC

TC

92.2 To discuss suggestions for street naming consultation for the former Marina Arms site

TC

Members discussed and suggested Marina Mews. Clerk to contact NCC.

92.3 To discuss suggestions for street naming consultation for Longstone Manor development.

Members discussed and suggested the estate be named Coquet Manor and that more local lighthouse names should be used such as St Marys, Souter, Lindisfarne.

TC

92.4 To discuss data re second / holiday homes

The data was noted. ATC to monitor as best it can. Cllr Weir made members aware of an article in the Gazette about Beadnell experiencing similar issues and suggested that ATC write a letter of support. Clerk to get details from Cllr Weir.

92.5 To receive an update on proposed pilot scheme to permit overnight use of motorhomes within selected NCC car parks within the Northumberland Coast AONB
Council noted the response and subsequent email. Council welcomed the proposal and looked forward to its implementation.

TC

92.6 To discuss plans for planting of trees from Woodland Trust

As this would be the first of the events for the Queen's Jubilee, Members would like this to be taken on with the young people of the town. Cllr Hinton agreed to be the contact for AYP, Cllr Morrison to be asked to be the contact for primary schools and Cllrs Parks for JCSC. Beforehand Cllrs to mark the planting area which is to only be a lift of the land as they are very small whips. Coquet Rowing Club are also keen to help. The trees are expected to be delivered in November.

TC

92.7 To receive an update on the Amble Town Council Awards

The judge will be in Amble on 24th. Members must have their lists to Cllr Lewis or the office by noon 23rd August. Clerk to ascertain if judge will be driving his own car or happy to share.

92.8 To discuss proposal to increase Civic Award prizes

Cllr Lewis proposed to increase the prize of both Adult and Juniors to £100. This goes to a charity of their choice. Members agreed.

TC

92.9 To discuss funding a pull-out page for The Ambler on behalf of Coquet Medical Group

It was suggested that in order to provide local residents with as much information as possible about the issues facing Coquet Medical Group, that a pull-out page in The Ambler would be a suitable way of reaching all households. Discussion took place around why Council should pay for this when it could be argued that they have their own budget for

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these types of things, and it should be their responsibility to inform their patients. As a community gesture it was suggested that this could be a one-off arrangement. Depending on the content of the pull out, members agreed up to a cost of £150 for the pull out.

TC

92.10 To receive an update on Queens Jubilee, Beacon lighting funding and discuss plans

As there is no funding the assist with the lighting of the beacon, Members decided to not take part this year.

In terms of the Jubilee, Members noted that it would be light at night in June and so agreed to hold the fireworks on the Queen's birthday April 21st; although a Thursday evening, it was during the school holidays. Clerk to discuss with reaction fireworks. Any agreement must be on the proviso that if anything changes in terms of the Jubilee that Council reserves the right to be able to change the date. Additional measures still need to be arranged include but not limited to; security, flood lights (NCC to be asked) and first aid (St. John's Ambulance to be asked).

Saturday 4th June or Sunday 5th June- NTC are to be contacted for permission and assistance for a cinematic slide show of old Amble in their cinema room and if agreed, personnel would be contacted. Staff are to ascertain prices for full rollerskating provision if NTC allow use of their outside facilities.

92.11 To decide on Chairs attendance at the following events:

- Cllr Pat Hay's Mayors Sunday Service and Reception. To be held on Sunday 19th September at St Hildas Church, South Shields at 12.30, followed by a reception at South Shields Town Hall.
- The Mayor of South Tyneside, Pat Hays, Charity Evening 1 October 2021
- South Tyneside Council Charity Curry Night 3 November 2021
- The Mayor of Gateshead, Councillor Dot Burnetts Charity Curry Evening to be held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 8:00pm at Jamdani Restaurant, Whickham.

TC

TC

ALL

Presently attendance was limited to those within the county or where promotion of the town could take place. Chairs attendance at these type of events going forward is to be decided by the Chair and the Clerk on a case by case basis.

92.12 To discuss a policy for placing dedication plaques on ATC seats

Members discussed whether a policy was needed. It was agreed in principle that a clear policy would be beneficial. Costs are yet to be determined. A draft policy to be drawn up and added to the next agenda for discussion.

TC

92.13 To discuss works for Section M

Staff and Cllrs met with contractor to discuss reported concerns. A quote for works has been requested. It was agreed the essential work would go ahead.

92.14 Northumbria Healthcare / Harrogate Healthcare consultation

Members are to send comments to Clerk by 15th August.

TC

The following items were listed at the Chairs discretion having been received after the papers were published:

92.15 Little Shore Marram Grass removal

Members were aware that this is what has occurred in previous years and it is understood that dunes were not always here. WHC had explained why the work was carried out. Clerk to prepare a response.

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92.16 Oil Spill on The Wynd

Members were made aware of an oil spill on The Wynd. NCC were made aware and dealt with the issue out of hours.

92.17 Offer of meeting with NCC Business Chair

NCC Business Chair have offered to meet with all town and parish councils if they wish. Clerk has accepted the invitation. Members to decide on agenda items for discussion at next meeting. Initial agenda items: retail unit update, social housing.

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

93.1 To note photographs of parking issues experienced on Leazes Street

Noted

93.2 North East Bee Hunt event

Noted

93.3 To note message of thanks re RBL100

Noted

93.4 Royal Event Programme Proposal re Queens Jubilee Celebration

Noted

93.5 To note request for permission to hand out Wax Melts on Queen Street

Noted

93.6 To note correspondence re: Future of 'Tesco' site and reply

Noted

93.7 To note Response to Gilbert Ward

Noted

93.8 To note Response re parking Harbour Road

Noted

93.9 To note Gazebo request

Noted

93.10 To note correspondence re Estate Walkabout

Noted

93.11 To note anonymous complaint re car parking on King Edward Street

Noted

93.12 To note S106 information

Noted

Additional items:

93.13 Complaints and Compliments re TIC toilets

Noted

94. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

94.1 To note the update regarding anti-social behaviour at Straffen Court

Noted

94.2 BBC Walking programme filming in Amble

Noted

94.3 CAN news 1/7, 16/7, 30/7.

Noted

94.4 To note complaints and action taken regarding the Right of Way West Drive to

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New Hall

Noted

94.5 To note the minutes of the meeting with Robin McCartney 27 July 2021

Noted

94.6 To note the LOVE Northumberland Campaign for 2021

Noted

94.7 To note the minutes of the meeting to discuss Community Sport provision

Noted

94.8 Newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 9/7, 19/7

Noted

94.9 NALC newsletter 7/7,29/7

Noted

94.10 To note the minutes of the SLA meeting 27 July 2021

Noted

94.11 To note NALC Healthwatch report

Noted

94.12 To note NTC Programme

Noted

94.13 To note correspondence re ADT use of building/ future of conference room

Noted

95. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

95.1 9 September 2021, 5.30pm, The Mason Lodge, Amble

Agenda items for next meeting

Office Lease

NCC Business Chair Agenda Items

Commemorative Seat/ Plaque Policy

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

96: MINUTES –

96.1: Town Council meeting held 8 July 2021, items 80 – 82.1

The minutes were agreed

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

Members are asked to note

97.1 To note the update from the CCT meeting

An update was given

TC

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98. AGENDA ITEMS

98.1 Legal update

An update was given

98.2 To discuss payroll amendments

Clerk awaits to hear from NCC.

98.3 To seek retrospective approval to support National Honour Nomination

Retrospective approval was agreed

98.4 To note request to ADT re: new lease terms

Noted.

98.5 To agree on Civic Nominations 2021

Nominations were agreed. Clerk to invite them to the September meeting at 5.30pm.

98.6 To receive clarity on land ownership query

NCC have been asked for clarity on the query regarding land ownership. There has been no response to date.

99. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

99.1 To note the minutes of the meeting with Coquet Medical Group

Noted

99.2 To note the minutes of the meeting with Hay and Kilner

Noted.