

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2021

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 9 September 2021, 6.00pm Masonic Hall, Amble.

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

This meeting was preceded by the Amble Community & Civic Awards.

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

J Dargue

T Hinton

T Regan

These were accepted

100.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

There were no members of the public

101.1 To receive an update from Northumbria Police.

The update re Church Street was noted. Clerk to send the update to Cllr Clark.

It is expected that the police will be attending the next meeting in person.

TC

102. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

102.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2021, items 83 – 99.2

Cllr Tony Regan was not listed as an attendee. The clerk to amend the minutes.

Additional comments are to be addressed in private.

The minutes were agreed subject to comments made.

103. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

103.1 Clerks Report attached

The report was noted.

TC

104. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

104.1: Chairman

The chair attended the Community and Civic Awards.

104.2: Vice Chairman

All vice chair engagements are contained within the agenda with the exception of a site meeting with Straughan to view their drainage trench inspection in Section M.

Cllr Lewis reminded all that the Garden Awards guidelines need to be changed in the policy as it had been agreed to reduce the shortlist from 30 to 20. Agreed- Clerk to action

TC

105. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

105.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark gave an update on works to the properties in Tynedale, Anne Crescent and Wellwood Street.

A litter bin issue was resolved in Charles Road.

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A request for dropped kerbs at Wellwood Street was agreed.

The road works at Lindisfarne Road are now complete.

There are ongoing anti-social behaviour issues at Lesley Drive and Charles Road.

As proposed at the last meeting, Cllr Clark is discussing the possibility of using mobile units to house the Food Bank on site of the Dovecote Centre. There was no update available however as this is becoming an urgent issue it was agreed to add this to the agenda for the cabinet member visit.

The noticeboard in Morrisons is now in place. Members of the business community are to be encouraged to use it.

All LTP priorities are to be submitted by 8 October 2021.

Cllr Clark continues to deal with a signage request from a resident of Bay View.

105.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson has received a request for a Zebra Crossing on Acklington Road.

Cllr Watson met with the cycle officer from NCC to look at Rotary Way and also the one-way system at Amble. It was agreed to replenish the faded road markings.

Work is underway with regards to the TPO request for Robsons Way.

Cllr Watson is now the Chair of Advance Northumberland.

An update was given on the retail units. The drive through coffee facility will be announced very soon but there is nothing further confirmed. It is hoped that a fuller announcement can be made in a few months.

Cllr Watson has requested officers relook at the camping and caravanning possibilities to the right of the South Roundabout.

AYP has received £5000 from Cheviot Homes as part of their ten year commitment.

Warkworth Parish Council have agreed to the use of The Braid for the Jubilee Fireworks.

WPC may want to light the beacon themselves.

Cllr Watson has asked for an update on Turner Street Car Park as it was due to begin in September. Discussions are ongoing regarding whether this should be a paid car park- he was proposing the funds raised being used to refurbish the toilets in Amble.

Cllr Watson acknowledged that some residents were concerned about the removal of Marram Grass at the Little Shore, however confirmed it was in fact Lime Grass which is an invasive species and needs to be maintained. It was accepted that better communication with the public could have prevented the concern.

The new harbour building is experiencing some delays and it may be end of October before it is complete.

The old Harbour Office will remain with tenants.

The Braid Temporary Campervan Pilot scheme is progressing with the hope it will be in place for next year.

Cllr Lewis queried whether if a developer asked for affordable housing to be off site, and if there was nothing available in the town, where does these monies go? Are they held in a general county wide pot or are they earmarked for the area from which they came? Could these monies be used to fund social housing built by a private developer?

Cllr Watson thought the monies would go into a general pot but held for the town from which they came, however explained that there was some element of flexibility on this.

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

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

Thanks were given to all for their involvement in the judging of the Garden Awards.

Cllrs Weir, Lewis and Parks attended the SLA meeting. Notes have been circulated.

A budget meeting was held with Cllr Regan. A further budget meeting has been set for 19th October.

Cllr Weir attended a meeting regarding the future of the URC Church. Coquet Churches Together are to be asked if they would agree to the Remembrance Day Service being held at URC as this

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will be their last time.

A meeting was held to discuss the Sports and Recreation offer within the town. Notes to be circulated. NCC colleagues were made aware of the S106 monies available which might support this work.

17/01677/OUT: N.E. Amble Sewage Works: £230,000 towards the provision, maintenance and upgrade of sports facilities within Amble Parish
25% prior to first occupation then increments of 25% on 25% occupation
as this has begun then money should be available

and

17/01675/OUT:N. Hauxley Moorhouse: £130,000 similar to above
£32,500 prior to first occupation then as above.

Cllr Parks and Morrison attended a meeting of AYP. A further trustee has been appointed. A vision day has been planned for Saturday 11th September. AYP continue to be in a stable financial position.

Cllr Morrison gave an update from the Events Committee. There will be no xmas parade this year but the lights will be switched on the same as last year. Households will be encouraged to take part in window decorations again this year however they will have to provide their own materials.

It is hoped that an event on the Little Shore will be able to go ahead on 21 November 2021.

The Puffin Festival will be taking place next year on 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th June. The Events Committee have requested details of the councils plans. The fireworks have been booked however staff are still investigating rollerskating and a slide show. Cllr Morrison will be holding talks in the Dry Water Arts Centre. Park Leisure are also keen to be involved. Cllr Morrison to proceed.

KM

107. FINANCIAL REPORT:

107.1 To consider voucher numbers 99 – 110 for payment and receipt vouchers 26 - 33

Noted and accepted.

107.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

TC

107.3 YTD figures

Noted. Cllr Lewis proposed to move £2k from 92 to 25- Computer funds. This was agreed.

107.4 Grant requests

CAN Amble Employment Hub

Members agreed to support CAN with a donation of £500.

TC

Amble Boys Club

Members agreed to support with a donation of £500 however this was to be for specific CCTV items which are to be purchased by the TC and gifted to ensure maximum value for money.

TC

107.5 To agree a date in diaries to discuss 2022 precept request

The budget meeting will take place on 19th October. Members were asked to give some consideration to any items or projects they would like to be considered.

108. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

108.1 To receive an update on Remembrance Day preparations

Ben Newall has been appointed as sound technician for the day. The Clerk is seeking confirmation of Church Service venue and will soon be arranging road closures. Invitations are due to go out asap. Bev Palin and Ron Creasy are to be asked to attend to play. Confirmation is to be sent to the Amble Branch of Cadets.

Staff are to arrange TEN and SAG notices.

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Cllr Clark to be reminded to order his wreath.

Cllr Watson agreed to do an exhortation. Cllr Parks to shadow Cllr Weir.

Consideration is needed to be given to the layout of the attendees to adhere to social distancing.

Cllr Clark to request barriers from Tommy Boswell.

108.2 To discuss plans for Section N

Cllr Lewis and Staff met to measure of Section N and the plot space available. The end row will be voided to allow for extra space if needed. A map of the drainage has been drawn up to aid staff and grave digging contractor.

A post marker is in place to mark the first channel and to act as a guide for memorial masons. Post markers would be placed among the trees as an alignment guide for each channel.

It is expected another 15 channels will be needed to cover the whole area and that the Council should be looking to budget for these over the coming years.

It was proposed to allocate 12k from the general fund to allow for a further 5 channels this year with an annual savings of 3k to cover the next phase. Section P will need to be assessed in the future.

The Natural Burial area is currently being mapped and it expected to go to the Memorial Wall.

The gravedigger was met on site to discuss arrangements and confirmed he was happy with how it had been planned. It was also suggested that when he tops up the grave, that he levels them which should result in greater ease for grass cutting and also future topping up.

Funeral directors have been made aware of the changes for the new section.

It was agreed to arrange for additional channels up to a cost of £12k. Clerk to action.

TC

TC

108.3 To receive an update on the fish sculpture lighting

The sculpture is now working. A thank you letter to be sent to Christmas Lights Committee for their hard work.

There remains concern regarding its maintenance. It was agreed to ask The Amble Inn to either take over the maintenance or sponsor the Council to maintain it, which may then come under the SLA.

TC

Additional Items

Vandalism to swings at Paddlers Park.

The chains have been removed from the seats of the swings. NCC have repaired but are concerned that this appears to have been a deliberate act requiring specific tools.

Despite the camera being in place and operational, Northumbria Police state culprits cannot be identified. A new high definition CCTV camera for here is very expensive and it was queried if this would be of benefit as individuals tend to camouflage themselves or turn away from it.

109: PLANNING COMMITTEE

109.1 To note planning outcomes for August 2021

Noted

109.2 To note resident objections to 21/02774/LBC Listed building consent to install 6x fascia signs 3x graphic vinyl and 1x dibond panel Tesco 93 Queen Street

Noted

109.3 To note the email from NCC re the use of Foster Court for new Units to Industrial Estate

Noted

Additional items:

JW

Coquet Grange

Concern was raised about the state of the area around the Coquet Grange estate, in particular the temporary access site. Cllr Watson had ascertained from Persimmons that a management company had now been handed control. Cllr Watson had also raised concerns over the communal planting areas as it is expected that residents will be paying a maintenance fee for this area. He would supply contact details so the Clerk could copy them into correspondence with NCC Planning Enforcement Officers.

TC

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Mapping Training

Mapping training plus a refresher session are to be booked for staff.

110. AGENDA ITEMS:

110.1 To discuss agenda items for meeting with NCC Cabinet Members

Agenda items to be covered:

Progress with car park

Affordable housing

Social housing

Second homes

Coastal mitigation monies

JCSC progress

Mobile units for Food Bank

However Cllr Watson felt that only 1 Executive member would come along thereby enabling a more informed discussion.

110.2 To agree the Newspaper for September

The Newspaper was agreed. Clerk to send.

110.3 To note the outcome of the Accountability and Governance Review 2020/2021 from PKF Littlejohn

The Annual Accountability and Governance Review for 2020/2021 was accepted and noted. There were no matters to draw to the attention of members. The AGAR has been published online and in noticeboards for the viewing period.

110.4 To discuss the Seat & Plaque Policy for approval

The changes to the seat policy were agreed. Members agreed to leave the base cost as is whereby ATC pay for the base.

110.5 To receive an update on Jubilee arrangements

The Fireworks have been booked for 21 April 2022. The planting of trees will commence in November 2021.

Staff are still investigating the rollerskating and slide show requests.

110.6 To discuss the TPOs for trees to west of Gloster Meadows

Noted. ATC to respond to say support the TPO request.

110.7 To discuss new seat request

There is potential to have the seat in the same area as the current one however it was suggested to send the resident the policy and choices of seat available and then if they wish to proceed, to arrange a site visit to discuss position. Staff to send the policy.

110.8 To discuss tree planting plans and community involvement

As the trees will be delivered between 1-12 November Cllrs Parks and Morrisons are to ask the schools to choose a date after the 12th where they will be available to assist in the planting of trees. This may warrant more than 1 session. Ideally the children need supervisors from the school as well as their own spade. A small slit will be needed for the whips. Cllrs will need to meet beforehand to mark the areas. AYP and a community group would also like to help but this would be better on a Saturday.

It was agreed that the taller trees would go along the western border.

Rev John Dermott would like to attend to bless the trees however as this is not consecrated ground it was not necessary. However if he still wished to do this it could be discussed further.

110.9 To discuss Coquet Medical Group info for The Ambler

It is the same cost for a pull out as it is for a page, however additional expense and time will be necessary for the pull out. It was therefore agreed to go ahead with the full page. Clerk to reserve a page and ask Coquet Medical Group for the text so that this can be approved prior to the December issue going to print.

110.10 To discuss Climate Change Emergency Declarations

TC

TC

TC

TC

TC

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Members discussed the questions contained within the declaration. Clerk to respond as appropriate. The Council is committed to reducing its impact and is actively encouraging the planting of trees, encouraging solar panels on all new builds, planning and encouraging cycleways and more electric points.

Additional items

Refugees

NCC have agreed for 6 families to come to Northumberland however it is very unlikely they will come to Amble due to the fact that there is no cultural infrastructure here for them. There are various donation points and these can be accessed by contacting Diane Munroe at NCC.

Second Homes and Holiday Lets

The Clerk to forward the information and data received from Beadnell Parish Council. Cllr Watson had been asked to ascertain the same information from NCC- as follows:

86 Holiday lets

71 Second homes

980 Domestic

It is expected that a government announcement will have further information in the Autumn.

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

111.1 MCST Dementia Programme update

Noted

111.2 To note numerous communications in relation to the temporary closure of Coble Quay Walkway and subsequent actions

TC

It remains disputed as to who this area belongs to. When planning approval was sought for the development of the apartments, the developer was allowed off site affordable housing in exchange for the public walkway. When plans for the bunk house were approved in 2017 the existing footpath was to be maintained. It is not known if since this time a further arrangement had been made between the two parties involved.

Cllr Weir to remind the owner of the conditions agreed in the planning document. Meanwhile Clerk to address the matter with planning at NCC to see if they can clarify.

111.3 To note the Councils attendance at Transport NE meetings

Cllr David Bewley agreed to attend and represent the Council.

112. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

112.1 CAN newsletter 13/8

Noted

112.2 To note letter to neighbouring parishes re 106 monies

Noted

112.3 To note letter sent to NCC re S106 clarification

Noted

112.4 To note letter sent to Beadnell PC

Noted

112.5 To note letter sent to Inspector John Swan, Northumbria Police and subsequent response

Noted

112.6 To note letter sent to residents of Church Street

Noted

112.7 To note the Town Councils LTP priority letter

Noted

112.8 To note newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 13/8

Noted

112.9 To note the update from NALC 26/8, 2/9

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Noted

112.10 To note the Councils response to the Section 75 healthcare consultation

Noted.

112.11 To note the programme from The Womens Workshop

Noted

112.12 To note resurfacing of A1 between Newton on the Moor and West Cawledge – date change - 20 September to 25 October

Noted

112.13 To note letter to accept defibrillator

Noted

112.14 To note response to street naming requests

Noted

112.15 To note filming of BBC Walking Programme

Noted

112.16 To note Partnership Meeting notes of 2 September 2021

Noted

113. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

113.1 14 October 2021, 6.00pm, The Masonic Lodge, Amble

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

114: MINUTES –

114.1: Town Council meeting held 8 August 2021, items 96 – 99.2

At the last meeting Cllr Regan had raised queries about the office and land

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

115.1 To receive an update from Cllr Weirs attendance at CCT

The sculpture trail is delayed until April 2022 due to planning conditions.

116. AGENDA ITEMS

116.1 Legal update

An update was given.

116.2 To agree valuation request

Clerk was requested to obtain valuations.

116.3 Request for Covid Acknowledgements

Members agreed to nominate two individuals & one organisation

116.4 To discuss requirements of office premises lease

A date for the meeting with ADT is yet to be agreed. Discussions took place around other suitable venues. Clerk to arrange visits.

116.5 To receive an update on salaries if available

NCC are having trouble downloading data from previous payroll systems. Clerk to urge a resolution so that this can be incorporated into the budget discussions.

TC

TC

TC

TC

117. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

117.1 To note letter to NCC re Open Space clarification

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Noted

117.2 To note anonymous complaint

Noted.