

# AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2021

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 14 October 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, K Morrison, I Parks, D. Bewley, J Dargue, T Hinton, T Regan  
**V Smith - Town Clerk.**

## **APOLOGIES:**

**J Watson**

**These were accepted**

## **118. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)**

There were no members of the public present

### **118.1 Attendance from Northumbria Police. To include a discussion about parking enforcement**

Sgt Les Robson attended the meeting. Ins John Swan sent his apologies.

Discussion took place around the recent Estate Walkabout that was attended by Louise and Darin. Issues highlighted was the volume of fly tipping and also potential safeguarding issues with Church Street Bus Shelter. It was suggested that rather than an additional camera for the shelter area that its location could be moved to another lamp post which would face on to the shelter. Clerk to seek quotes for this. LR to discuss with officers as to whether this would be useful, and ATC requested for officers feedback as to whether or not the system is used well. If the camera location was changed this could also benefit vehicular ASB. If this goes ahead it would be useful if Police could liaise with Alncom around the positioning. It was queried what the latest position was in terms of getting the system set up on officer's phones as this was one of the incentives when agreeing to install the system- it was believed this could not happen because of a security issue. Sgt Robson to report back.

TC

Some time ago it was suggested that a monitor at Alnwick would allow better communication and response. Members requested an update as to whether this was possible or not.

Sgt Robson also reported on some community engagement that is taking place with some offenders and their families. Patrols will be making visible patrols around the target time of incidents which is typically from 7.00pm.

TH

Cllr Hinton was keen to establish an outreach link with officers and AYP- Local officers to initiate.

A safety issues at the Hauxley Grange site was raised. LR agreed to raise this with officers to discuss measures with Persimmon. Discussion continued about the 101 and 999 demand on the service. Sgt Robson made Members aware of the Darker Nights Initiative "Night Wing" which also includes the security issues surrounding building sites.

Sgt Robson updated on the Borderless Force whereby all officers assist in all areas if required.

Officers are expected to patrol as much as possible around the times when crimes have been reported but it is not guaranteed they will be able to every time.

TC

Northumbria Police meet regularly with safety officers from NCC at VOL meetings. The Clerk to ask for copies of these minutes if possible.

There are recurring issues in some of the estates in Amble and it was queried why the deployable camera was not being utilised when it was promised that there would be two for Amble unless there was a major event on. Sgt Robson to take forward.

Discussion then took place around the walled area outside the shop on Links Avenue where some felt very nervous of traversing; the wall may belong to NCC and could be reduced or removed.

Sgt Robson gave an update on the personnel arrangements currently taking place.

There will be special takeover days arranged in due course.

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Discussion took place around the parking problems in and around the town. These have all been highlighted to NCC and Northumbria Police. Officers would be expected to attend and action as appropriate. NCC Enforcement Officers would be asked to be more vigilant in tackling areas outside the town centre. Sgt Robson was thanked for this time.

### **119. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

#### **119.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2021, items 100-117.2**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

#### **120. CLERK'S REPORT:**

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

#### **120.1 Clerks Report attached**

The Clerks Report was noted

#### **121. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

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

#### **121.1: Chairman**

Nothing further to report

#### **121.2: Vice Chairman**

Cllr Lewis has been involved in the cemetery signage, the removal of the second tree and ensuring the ground is adequately prepped again.

#### **122. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

#### **122.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark**

Cllr Clark was unable to attend but submitted the below feedback

- Park Leisure / Links First School

Swimming lessons are being resumed, this is being organised between the Schools Headmaster and Park Leisure.

- Links school car park.

The last academic year the home building work on the old St Cuthberts site shared with Links School was drawing to completion, as a thank you to the school for allowing access Via Links and use of land to stockpile topsoil, the builders All Saints Construction said that they would resurface an area of Links car park that was previously part of St Cuthberts.

They began this work & have already put in kerbs and base for final tarmac, but then work ground to a halt, leaving the job unfinished.

This was a good will gesture by the company which hasn't been finished.

In a liquidation scenario this being unsecured work, creditors fall to the bottom of the list.

I do have officers exploring with other developers seeing if any would be willing do a good will gesture in finishing the tarmac.

- still waiting for a reply with any good or bad news.

- New estate in-road is also not finished, this will be adopted NCC.

- George St / Lawson St

Traffic cones being left outside properties (again) Enforcement officers informed.

- Leslie Drive

Large section of footpath broken away leaving a tripping hazard ( report of kids have been breaking it away )

Reported / fixed.

- 33 Wellwood Street

Officer has checked that the overgrown garden has been tidied up, the work has been completed.

- Perry Drive LTP

Programme for construction, safety crossing points.

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Decide which option is most appropriate at each location.

A) A Refuge.

B) Zebra Crossing.

• Local Area Committee 23.09.21

I raised with the Police concerns regarding extreme right wing literature.

It would be queried with Cllr Clark what criteria NCC have used to adopt the road as there are many others in the town that are not adopted.

**122.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson**

Cllr Watson submitted his apologies.

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

Cllr Weir attended the visit to the new Harbour office and also attended the AAHS AGM with Cllr Lewis. Members also attended a Planning Committee.

Cllr Weir has spoken with The Amble Inn about sponsoring the fish sculpture. Members agreed £100 per annum would cover plants and maintenance. Staff to write to The Amble Inn.

**123.1 To receive an update from the URC meeting and queries regarding asset disposal**

Cllr Weir gave an update. The Community Kitchen will work out of the Bede Street Club from 1st November. The foodbank will move to the Methodist Church. Church Services will move to the funeral parlour nearby. There is a number of furniture items for disposal. Clerk to ask if ATC can have 2 pews. A Time to Remember books will also be taken to the office, these are free of charge. There is a WW1 and WW2 plaque- one marble and 1 brass- that require relocating. It was suggested the stone / marble ones could go in the Memorial Gardens or perhaps they could all go to URC Church at Warkworth or JCSC on display. It was felt these would be best placed inside but available for public viewing. It was felt important that these were preserved and that when the handover is done that a specific condition be made so as to allow ATC to retain them if no permanent home had been secured. Cllr Weir to report back. The next URC meeting is 16 November.

STAF  
F

The Remembrance Service will take place there on 14 November. Clerk to ask whether they would like the mayor in attendance at their final service on 19 December.

**123.2 To receive an update on the NALC AGM**

Apologies were submitted

**123.3 To receive a report on the HfN Estate walkabout**

Cllrs Parks and Bewley attended with NCC and Northumbria Police Officers.

An update was given- see Police Attendance. Residents are to be encouraged to take a greater pride in their area and attempts to discourage fly tipping will be made

TC

TC

Cllr Bewley attended the Rural Transport Event online. Rural isolation remains a huge issue and it was felt that until it is financially and economically viable that nothing will change.

The session was more of an idea generator and the next meeting takes place in January. Cllr Bewley to find out if ATC can add agenda items.

Cllr Morrison gave an update from the Events Committee.

Members agreed in principle for the Clock Tower to be lit but required more details.

DB

**124. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**124.1 To consider voucher numbers 111 – 167 for payment and receipt vouchers 35 - 45**

The payments and receipts were approved. Cllr Weir and Morrison declared an interest. Cllr Lewis reported a receipt for spare signage.

KM

**124.2 Bank Reconciliation**

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Noted

### **124.3 YTD figures**

Noted.

The Clerk is liaising with the Financial Consultant with regards to moving funds between pots.

### **124.4 Grant requests**

- **Great North Air Ambulance**

Members agreed to support with a donation of £100

### **124.5 To note the preliminary Budget Meeting on 19 October 2021 at 10am**

Noted. All members welcome.

## **125. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

TC

### **125.1 To approve the minutes of meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> September**

The notes were approved.

### **125.2 To discuss a financial contribution to AAHS for a Pest Control course.**

As no figure has been received from AAHS, it was agreed to support with 50% of the total cost up to a limit of £200. The new chair of AAHS is to come to the next Amenities Committee.

### **125.3 To note the notes from AAHS meeting 15 September 2021 and notes of AGM.**

Noted

### **125.4 To receive an update on Paddlers Park equipment repair- Swings and Air Walker**

Swings were repaired. Air Walker-It has been noted that the footplate is missing. Clerk has asked supplier to send asap.

TC

### **125.5 To discuss request for a memorial seat at Paddlers Park**

A request has been received for an additional seat at the end of Bay View, overlooking Paddlers Park.

TC

Members agreed to this request provided that it was the same type of seat. It was acknowledged that the resident would like to add plants in the middle of the two seats. There were concerns that this might be neglected in the future so as a compromise it was suggested that allowing a longer extension of the present base here would be more suitable and then a trough can be placed between. Clerk to contact resident.

The Covid Commemorative Seat is to be positioned half way up the grass area by the wooden fence of Cliff House Drive, facing out to sea.

TC

### **125.6 To agree theme for next year for Wynd and Dilston Terrace beds**

It was agreed to have a crown and ER in The Wynd and in Dilston Terrace it was agreed to have the dates 1952 – 2022. NCC to be informed of this request.

### **Additional items added at Chairs discretion**

**Town Trees** – both trees are now out as they were both dead. A new order has been placed, expected 3 November. Cllr Parks to request Bills assistance. Northwood Tree Surgery will also be helping. Road closures have been quoted as £1400. Clerk to discuss this further with Cllr Watson, Cllr Clark, Paul Jones and also Northumbria Police to try and minimize the figure.

TC

### **West Cemetery update**

The fountain is now off

TC  
JW

### **East Cemetery**

The gate 'stay' here is cracked and requires welding and painting. Staff are ascertaining quotes. As the gates are listed it may require specialist work. The oiling of the lock will be raised at the SLA. It was suggested that the gates and fences of the West, East and Memorial Gardens are painted on a rolling programme and this should be budgeted for. This was agreed.

### **Memorial Wall**

A quote of £350 was received to stabilise and repoint the memorial wall at Amble West. This was agreed. Staff to contact.

STAF  
F

### **Plaque Request**

STAF  
F

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A request was received to erect a plaque on one of the seats along the Bay View promenade. This was discussed and agreed subject to the appropriate fee being paid.

### **West Cemetery lighting**

Staff are to contact an electrician to provide quotes and options for the lighting at the West Cemetery buildings given that the government may ban older fluorescent bulbs. This was agreed.

TC

STAF  
F

### **126: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

#### **126.1 To receive the Planning Report**

The report was noted

#### **126.2 To note the minutes of the Planning Committee 28 September 2021**

The draft minutes were received but require some amendment. A copy will be circulated when finalised.

Discussion took place on what grounds that the Council was objecting and whether the decision of the Planning Committee is final. The committee is constituted to make decisions. It was queried whether any consideration had been given to the economic benefit to the town. All members of the Council aside from Cllr Watson are on the Planning Committee and it was clarified that decisions are made at the meeting with the minutes passed at Full Council. In terms of economic benefit, the only mention in the application re employment is when the build is taking place. It was questioned whether an objection gave the impression that Amble was not interested in high end developments. Members of the Council felt that regardless of personal opinion, they had a responsibility to reflect the feelings of residents and it was felt by many at the meeting that Amble had taken its share of development with many residents expressing concerns of the increased holiday lets and second home issue. There is also the added pressure on the infrastructure.

#### **126.3 To receive an update on Coble Quay Walkway if available and note letter sent to Rob Murfin**

No update received.

#### **126.4 To note the Zoom Training sessions available to members and staff**

Noted.

### **127. AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **127.1 To receive an update on Remembrance Day arrangements**

Cllr Weir and Parks to marshal. Invites have been sent and PA booked.

#### **127.2 To receive an update on the Open Space Disposal request**

As required by law, an advert outlining the Councils desire to dispose of Open Space as designated in the Northumberland Local Plan has been published in the Northumberland Gazette on 23/9 and 30/9. The advert has also been on the Northumberland Gazette website and has also been placed in the main Noticeboard in the centre of Town as well as taken to AAHS AGM. Display boards have been set up in the Council offices for those residents wishing to view the area outline and to leave comments for consideration. To date there have been four viewings and no comments have been received. The deadline for responses to the Council is 21st October 2021.

#### **127.3 To receive an update on Percy Drive Traffic Survey and decide the preferred option**

Members discussed the options available and agreed for two zebra crossings on Percy Drive. There was still concern that nothing had been identified for crossing Percy Drive from Priory Park to the path between South Mede and Newmore Close. Clerk to ask if something can be done here as many children use this to go to JCSC.

TC

#### **127.4 To agree questions ahead of Cabinet Member visit on 11 November 2021**

The questions were listed in terms of priority. The questions will be sent to Cllr Sanderson in advance and he will be asked to write his answers back to Members so that a more meaningful, informed discussion can take place on the evening. Whilst discussion was important on all issues, it was felt the most important were Leisure, Housing and Education. Any further changes must be sent to the Clerk by Monday for sending on Tuesday.

ALL

#### **127.5 To discuss arrangements for Chairs Reception**

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The reception will take place on 10 December 2021 at the Radcliffe- to be confirmed. Staff to contact entertainment for availability. The Christmas card will be printed with the clock tower and snowfall design. It was agreed that the charity this year would be North Northumberland Hospice Care – Cllr Parks to contact.

**STAF  
F**

### **127.6 To discuss the options for Councillors’ new email addresses and determine whether to implement**

It was discussed whether members would prefer to have designated ATC email addresses solely for council work. This can be implemented by the current website host. The cost to set up the 9 Gmail accounts and configure them would be £210.00+vat as a one-off fee. The monthly cost for each mailbox would be £1+vat. The idea of an email account solely for council communications is recommended by NALC as greater transparency can be achieved by this means. Members agreed, Clerk to proceed.

**TC**

### **127.7 To receive an update on the Local Authority Treescape Fund and The Woodland Trust tree planting**

The trees are expected before 12th November. Amble First and JCSC have expressed an interest in taking part. Clerk to set a date with JCSC week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.- morning with- First school later in the day. It would be preferable for children to have their own spades. As there is a large volume of trees, it has been suggested that some can be placed in the gaps along Percy Drive and in the copse at the Braid area of the A1068. Volunteers from ATC will be needed on beforehand to mark the planting areas, Clerk to purchase some marker paint.

**TC**

Cllr Regan was concerned about the tree roots when they reach maturity. It was confirmed that space had been left in the cemetery plot area so as not to disturb future interment plots and that large gaps in the other areas would accommodate larger trees .

### **127.8 To receive updates on Jubilee arrangements and costs**

The fireworks for April 2022 have been booked along with security for the event. Quotes for flood lighting have been sourced from the same company used by NCC however additional quotes are needed. Warkworth Parish have confirmed that we can use The Braid. The relevant paperwork for SAG/TEN has been completed.

Some quotations have been received for a roller-skating rink for the Bank Holiday weekend. Costs are as follows:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Cost</b>
IM	10mx10m – 30ppl	2 days	£7k plus VAT
IM	16mx10m – 40ppl	2 days	£9k plus VAT
IM	20MX10m – 65ppl	2 days	£12k plus VAT
FDE	9mx9m – 30ppl	2 days	£2k plus VAT
SK8H	10mx12m – tbc	2 days	£8950 plus VAT
SK8H	10mx15m – tbc	2 days	£9604 plus VAT
SK8H	10mx20m – tbc	2 days	£10295 plus VAT

Other costs to bear in mind include:

- Payment even if weather terrible and cannot go ahead.
- Additional costs for set up time 2 hours, staff to supervise, skates to hire- it is desirable to hire a company who provide staff and skates
- A first aid person will be required on site – some company employees can do this.
- Hire is for 4 hours only- longer hire has additional cost.
- Dependent on location of the rink, there are different fixings to consider and they have associated costs and implications.
- Whether the company still expects to charge participants/ if Council wish to set charges to offset costs.

**TC  
CW**

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Staff are to further investigate the preferred company and option. It is important that the company handle all erection, operation and dismantling as well as supply equipment- skates- and have a first aid trained operative present. It was felt that operating hours should be 10am to 4pm.

Cllr Weir is liaising with NTC to ascertain if we can use their grounds for the skating rink and also whether we can use their facilities to have a slide show of Old Amble. It is hoped that entry will be assisted by some willing volunteers although they have not been approached yet.

It was queried why the Town Square or TIC Car Park could not be used as they are more central. It is expected that both of these areas will be taken up with other activities that weekend as it is the weekend of the Puffin Festival and the Jubilee. Clerk to enquire re Coop Funeralcare Car Park.

### **133.3 To discuss the Community Engagement Brief from Sports Development NCC**

It was agreed that as there was no financial information available for this yet that it should be discussed in public.

TC

Initial thoughts are that this is already information we have given in the past but it was appreciated that it was unknown what happened to these reports carried out by former teams. It was agreed that the priority is to identify the gaps in provision and the stress must be placed upon a lack of options available. We need an analytical report to be able to get to the next step. Community consultation is desperately needed in order to produce a programme going forward. Clerk to respond to state agree with initial brief but really need costs for this ASAP.

### **128. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the items.***

**128.1 To note email re Morrisons notice board**

**128.2 To note the various complaints regarding inconsiderate parking at Acklington Road, Bisley Road, Sheila's Close, Byron Street, King Edward Street**

**128.3 To note updates from Ruth Armstrong**

**128.4 To note the update re swimming lessons with Park Leisure**

**128.5 To note the response sent re Local Planning Validation**

**128.6 NALC Councillor Survey**

**128.7 To note political communications being posted on lamp posts**

**128.8 Community Climate Champion Launch Event**

**128.9 To note the letter from Mr Stewart re Leisure Facilities in Amble.**

**128.10 To note the response sent re: Climate Emergency Declaration**

**128.11 To note response sent re State Aid Declaration**

**128.12 European Pilgrimage to COP26 visits Amble**

All comms were noted enblock.

### **129. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

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

**129.1 Newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 10/9, 17/9,24/9, 1/10,**

**129.2 Escape Family Support newsletter**

**129.3 Can Enews 17/9, 1/10,**

**129.4 Caring Together - News from Northumberland System Transformation Board**

**129.5 To note NALC AGM 9 October 2021**

**129.6 NALC newsletter 10/9, 20/9,**

**129.7 To note National Rotary Seed Challenge**

All information items were noted enblock

### **For information -**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October there is a Climate Action Day at Northumberland Hall at 10.30am – it would be up to individuals should they wish to attend.

### **130. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

**130.1 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 6.00pm, Venue: Masonic Hall.**

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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**

#### **131: MINUTES –**

##### **131.1: Town Council meeting held 9 September 2021, items 114-117.2**

The minutes were approved.

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

##### **132.1 To receive an update from Cllr Weirs attendance at CCT**

The update was noted.

##### **132.2 To receiver an update from Cllrs Weirs attendance at ADT meeting 15 September 2021**

The update was noted.

#### **133. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **133.1 To receive an update re Land Valuations**

Land valuations have been received.

##### **133.2 To receive an update on lease discussions with ADT**

The notes of the meeting had been provided in advance.

##### **133.3 To discuss the Community Engagement Brief from Sports Development NCC**

Covered above

##### **133.4 To receive an update on NCC Salary issue**

Due to ongoing issues the issue is not expected to be resolved until Christmas.

##### **133.5 To approve the updated policy regarding Marking the Death of a Senior Figure**

Noted

#### **134. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

##### **134.1 Notes of alternative office accommodation considerations.**

Noted

##### **134.2 Notes of meeting with Amble Development Trust 28 September 2021**

Noted