

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 13 January 2022, 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, I Parks, D. Bewley, J Watson, T Hinton, K Morrison, J Dargue V Smith - Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

None

170. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

170.1 To receive an update on the Co-option Vacancy

The vacancy has been advertised and there have been a number of candidates who have expressed an interest. Details have been forwarded but to date no applications have been received.

171.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 two members of the public present, both of which were interested in the Councillor vacancy. Both introduced themselves and were made welcome.

There were no questions from the members of the public.

171.1 Report from Northumbria Police inc data trends if available

The report from Northumbria Police was noted although Members felt disappointed that the figures for the data trends had not been received yet. Members were also concerned that some incidents were not being reported on in these reports.

It was queried if there had been any update on the request for copies of the VOL Meeting minutes. The Clerk explained that these were requested but due to their confidential nature the request was refused. Clerk to contact Sgt Robson and ask if he would be able to paraphrase the minutes into a redacted report for us and to also ask if there was anyway that the Town Council could input into these meetings.

Clerk to also make contact with Judith Davis- NCC Officer- to ask if the Town Council can input into these meetings through her attendance. TC

If the responses from the above are unsatisfactory, the Clerk is to contact the Police and Crime Commissioner who is keen to hear about community impact. TC

A report was also received from Northumbria Police with regards to the necessity for traffic calming and speeding on Acklington Road which urged a joint approach to NCC. Cllr Watson is aware of the latest incident and has highlighted the matter with Highways. It was understood that in the past, residents have not been supportive of additional measures but it was felt that views might be different now. It was queried whether under Health and Safety that NCC can disregard views opposing traffic calming measures.

Cllr Watson confirmed that he was happy for the Council to request action from NCC and that although it is likely to be put into the LTP for next year that he may be able to speed it up.

It was resolved that the Clerk should write to Highways at Northumberland County Council to request that traffic calming for Acklington Road be revisited once again. TC

172. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

172.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2022, items 152 – 169.2 I

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The minutes were agreed as a true record.

173. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

173.1 Clerks Report attached

The Clerks report was noted.

174. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

174.1: Chairman

The Chair thanked all for attending the Chairman's Reception. Cllr Watson agreed it was a very good evening. All other items are listed on the agenda.

174.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Lewis was involved removing the lights from the xmas trees. Both trees remain in a good condition. All other items are listed on the agenda.

175. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

175.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

No report available.

175.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson has been working on the aftermath of Storm Arwen.

Cllr Watson made Members aware that Hindhaugh Homes have requested permission to pollard the trees on The Wynd. Members were concerned that Amble TC have not been informed of this request through the planning portal. Staff to check the planning portal and circulate as Members wish to comment.

Cllr Watson was also made aware that there is an enforcement concern currently being investigated because there is concern that the footprint of the development is nearer the pavement than what the plans show and this is why there are problems with the trees touching the properties.

Staff to send Cllr Watson a copy of the letter sent to NCC.

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

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

176.1. Cllr Weir updated Members on the upcoming Sports and Recreation Survey due to go live on Monday and encouraged all to circulate and complete the survey.

There will be two surveys, one is for any individuals and one is for organisations to complete.

The survey will also be available online and as hard copy. Copies will be available from the Town Council office and Amble Library. The survey will be open until 1 February 2022.

Cllr Morrison provided notes on the recent Event Committee meeting

There was no update available from NTC. NTC have requested the use of the office meeting room. Members have no problems with this provided that it does not clash with any other Council meetings.

Cllr Parks gave an update on AYP. NTC are unable to allow AYP to erect and store the gazebo due to the damage of the storm and therefore AYP are looking for a temporary venue which could accommodate. Cllrs Parks was suggested to try JCSC, Links First School, Lord Mayors Field, Industrial Estate, the area next to Brambles, Womens Workshop, Radcliffe Club, Yacht Club and Coquet Shorebase Trust.

Cllr Parks gave an update from JCSC who are setting up a PTA style group but with an appeal for a wider audience. JCSC are now happy to reinstate the meetings with ATC.

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There are unconfirmed reports that a joint meeting of Amble Headteachers will be taking place next week to determine the form of education consultation for the town.

There was no update from NALC.

177. FINANCIAL REPORT:

177.1 To consider voucher numbers 215 – 249 for payment and receipt vouchers 61 - 63

The Receipts and Payments were approved.

177.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

177.3 YTD figures

Noted

177.4 Grant requests

None

177.5 To discuss the final version of 2022-2023 Precept Request

Cllr Morrison requested that the Town Council allocate a sum of funds specifically for the Events Committee in future budgets.

It was discussed that there was already funding pots for grants, community events and town projects that could be accessed however Cllr Morrison felt that something specific for the Events Committee would be more stable for their circumstances.

There was some concern voiced that this would then have to apply to any organisation who was carrying out events in the town which would then become unsustainable.

It was acknowledged that this could be reviewed year on year and if there were additional community groups in place then any arrangements could be altered. After some consideration Cllr Watson proposed to increase the Community Events pot by £1000, however whilst no formal grant paperwork would be required, the Events Committee would still have to apply for any amount up to that sum with details of what they want it for. This will be reviewed annually. This was seconded by Cllr Parks.

The Clerk to amend the finance document and submit the precept request of £214,450 to NCC.

It was queried by a member of the public what the precept amounts and balances were. Last years and this years precept figures were given with an explanation that the balance is allocated out across a number of headings and the funds are used for that purpose. A number of documents are available on line but further details can be provided outside of the meeting if requested to the Clerk.

178. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

TC

178.1 To note the request for replacement trees on Percy Drive.

Persimmons have been asked to replace the Silver Birch trees along Percy Drive which have been removed by them without permission. They have agreed to monitor the position as their works are carried out and to replant up to 12 trees along this road verge.

178.2 To agree retrospective approval for the removal of damaged trees, root balls and tree debris at Amble West Cemetery and retrospective approval for fencing and signpost works due to storm damage

As members aware there has been a significant effort required to clear up the cemetery after Storm Arwen. The costs to remove the debris and huge rootballs left by fallen trees is £600. The cost to replace signage and fencing of the spoil area and boundary fence was £1250. An unsafe tree leaning over the old mortuary building was assessed and recommended to be removed as it was lifting the ground around its base. This has since been removed under Health and Safety and an invoice will be received in due course.

Retrospective approval for the works to date was agreed.

178.4 To agree retrospective approval for provision of skips for removal of debris from Allotments after extensive storm damage

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The allotment sites were also severely damaged during the storm and AAHS asked if the Council would consider hiring some skips to assist with the clean up of both sites. As there were funds available in the allotment pot, this was agreed at the time. The total cost of all skips required was £1650. Retrospective approval was given.

Clerk is pulling together an insurance claim with all items.

179: PLANNING COMMITTEE

179.1 To discuss outcome of meeting with Rob Murfin

The meeting with Rob Murfin could not take place due to Covid19 restrictions and NCC Policy. Answers to the questions submitted in advance of the meeting were returned however Members were disappointed with the content which did not answer questions specifically relating to Amble. The Clerk to request a face to face meeting as soon as regulations allow and it was agreed that during this meeting the focus should be on housing needs, the implementation of an Amble survey and S106.

TC

179.2 To note planning outcomes for December 2021

Noted

179.3 To note response re: Persimmon temporary entrance for Coquet Grange if available

No update available. Staff to chase up.

TC

179.4: To note response to mud on road complaint

The outcome of the enforcement query relating to mud on the road at Percy Drive was also received before this meeting took place. It is the view of enforcement that the developer is ensuring the roads are cleared and therefore there are no planning breaches.

TC

180. AGENDA ITEMS:

180.1 To discuss providing a letter of support for ZEBRA Business Case submission

Members are happy to support the project however it was noted that none of the routes travel through Amble. A letter of support was agreed with an additional line to state that Members look forward to the extension into our area.

180.2 To receive an update re office lease

The office lease has been signed under the terms agreed (4 year lease, 2 year rent review)

TC

180.3 To discuss the parking restriction proposals for Leazes Street

NCC have proposed a loading ban at all times on this section where double yellow lines are already in place - this means that Blue Badge holders would be prohibited from parking on the restrictions and motorists are only permitted to stop on the lines in order to briefly pick up or drop off. 'Red Route Clearway' restrictions, in this case being in the form of red lines, are prescribed for busy urban city centres by the Department for Transport and therefore do not apply to the county of Northumberland.

Members agreed with the proposal as this is the only way to prevent parking at those points and thus ensure safer visibility for exit from the Car Park, however enforcement will again be the key to this as some still park on the existing keep clear area.

180.4 To receive an update on the clock repairs and costing

The clock pendulum spring has broken. The cost for the contractor to attend site over two visits and remove and repair the pendulum will cost £2059.00. Other avenues were explored in order to reduce the cost but it was felt that allowing the experts to complete the job from start to finish was the best way to guarantee the works. Members approved the expenditure.

180.5 To discuss the options for the Clock Tower Annual Maintenance

The time has come to renew the annual clock maintenance. There are 2 options available.

Option 1

To service the clock in 2022, 2023 and 2024 at a discounted rate the cost would be £540.00 net plus VAT in total and would be payable in advance of the first service.

Option 2

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If ATC would prefer to pay annually the cost for the 2022 clock service will be £198.00 net plus VAT. The yearly option is subject to an increase each following year (usually 3%).

Members agreed on Option 1. Clerk to proceed.

180.6 To retrospectively agree to the PA hire for Jubilee Fireworks

After discussions with the pyrotechnics company carrying out the fireworks for the Jubilee, it has been agreed that a strong PA system should be hired to carry out the audio requirements. A contractor previously provided a quote of £800. Members are asked to agree retrospectively for this.

TC

The Rotary have agreed to Marshal at the event.

Cllr Watson understood that the jubilee grant will be open next week and urged ATC to apply.

The insurance for the Fireworks was quoted at £300. The Clerk is to seek clarity on what criteria the Council is covered for and whether this includes bad weather and all other elements of the event. If so, the Clerk was delegated to proceed.

The Rollerskating event is yet to be finalised. Staff are investigating any issues there may be with anchorage and it was suggested that Cllr Clark was asked whether NCC would be able to provide any underground maps or details of recommended depths for all utilities

TC

Clerk to continue working on this.

180.7 To discuss renovation or replacement for Gazebo and future community loan and to review Equipment loan form terms and conditions.

Previously when the Gazebo has been loaned out it has not been dried before being folded away which has now resulted in mould on the Gazebo as well as material deterioration. Members are asked to consider replacing the Gazebo at a cost of £450 inc VAT plus delivery costs. With this in mind Members are asked to consider whether to retain the option of community use and if so to review the equipment loan form terms and conditions with more stringent rules and deadlines of collection and return.

TC

Members agreed to the purchase of a new Gazebo. Cllr Weir expressed an interest in the old one and is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

It was felt that we should continue to loan out the gazebo but the onus is on the persons to ensure it is dry when put away- forms would be amended accordingly.

180.8 To discuss dates of planting of 'whips' and agree other potential areas for planting.

The whips were received before xmas and were planted temporarily in the compound until such a time when they could be planted properly.

TC

Schools and Amble Youth Project will be asked for some suitable dates for planting- it is hoped members will be available to assist. Members are also asked to consider additional areas of planting available, particularly as many trees were damaged and removed during the storm. One new area suggested is on some boundaries of the old wagonway and a corner of the industrial estate to make a more attractive walk into town.

Clerk to contact Advance Northumberland re Industrial Estate and raise the other at the next SLA. The trees from the LATF have been delayed and they are now not expected in Amble until October 2022.

180.9 To approve news page

The newspaper was approved. Clerk to send.

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

TC

181.1 Newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 10/12,

Noted

181.2 To note email from Mr Lloyd and response.

TC

Noted

181.3 To note email from Mr Donaldson and response.

Noted

181.4 Can Enews 23/12,

Noted

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181.5 NALC 8/12, 9/12, 16/12, 17/12, 7/1

Noted

181.6 Old Time Sailors Artist Submission

Noted

181.7 To note email from Mr Roper and response.

Noted

181.8 NALC Survey on relationship with NCC

Noted

181.9 To note the letter requesting additional trees to be planted at West Crescent

Noted and passed to NCC.

Additional comms received after agenda was issued

181.10 International Women's Day event

191.11 Health Inequalities in Young People.

182. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

182.1 To note NCC use of Paddlers Park to carry out playground training

182.2 To note the minutes of the meeting with Robin McCartney

182.3 To note minutes of the zoom meeting with Stephen Rickitt

Noted enbloc

183. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

183.1 10 February 2022 - 6.00pm, Venue: Masonic Hall

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

184: MINUTES –

184.1: Town Council meeting held 9 December 2021, Items 166 – 169.2

The minutes were approved as a true record

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

Members are asked to note

185.1 None

186. AGENDA ITEMS

186.1 To discuss land matters

An update was given. The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk were delegated to proceed and circulate a final version of the document for review.

186.2 To receive an update on Leisure / Recreation offer if available

The survey will go live on Monday online and hard copies are available. The survey will run for 2 weeks and end on 1 February 2022. A large social media campaign is needed to get as many people as possible to complete the survey.

Hard copies of the survey will be available in ATC office and Amble Library.

186.3 To receive an update re office lease

The office lease has been signed.

TC