

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – DECEMBER 2021

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 9 December 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, I Parks, D. Bewley, J Watson
V Smith - Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

T Hinton These were accepted
K Morrison These were accepted
J Dargue These were accepted

152. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

152.1 Resignation of Tony Regan

The resignation was accepted, and the Election Procedure has been started.

153. 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

153.1 Report from Northumbria Police inc data trends if available

No update available

154. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

154.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2021, items 135 – 151.2

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

155. CLERK'S REPORT:

155.1 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was accepted.

156. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

156.1: Chairman

Cllr Weir delivered the Civic Award plaques and trophies.

The Chair made members aware of an invite to attend a charity event at East Bedlington Community Centre at a cost of £10.00 and already has permission to attend local events. All other items are on the agenda.

156.2: Vice Chairman

All items on the agenda

Members are asked to note the reports

157. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

157.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark has been involved in housing issues in Dansfield Square and Tynedale and has received numerous enquiries in relation to Homefinder.

The lighting column in Philip Drive that was damaged by ASB has been repaired.

Cllr Clark has contacted Tony Derbyshire re: the walkway at Fontburn.

Cllr Clark has submitted ATCs requests for crossing points on Percy Drive and the third one is being investigated.

Cllr Clarks is liaising with a local resident regarding some trees that are available.

Moss in the back lanes of Church Street and Byron Street has been cleaned away.

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Lighting columns at the Harbour Village have been repaired however Town Square is still off. The gully's and drains of Church Street and Bridge Street have been cleaned after a complaint from a resident. It was queried who is responsible for the drainage channels on Queen Street as these often get blocked and the water cannot drain away.

NCC have been dealing with significant damage from Storm Arwen.

Cllr Clark attended a presentation on dualling the A1 and provided the Clerk with some detail on this.

Cllr Clark clarified that Roseate Close had not been adopted by NCC. There was no update available on the school road.

157.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

The grant application for the Queen's Jubilee will be opening soon and all are encouraged to apply. Warkworth Parish Council may like to light a beacon. Clerk to contact Warkworths Clerk to confirm that NCC are responsible for the one on the Braid .

There is ongoing debate regarding a community hub for Amble and proposals are being worked on- he felt Amble needs a community centre. JW has been contacted by a number of football clubs and the welfare area could be suitable with the correct organisation behind it. There remains an issue with dog fouling on the current grassed areas. Maintenance and refurbishment of high grade artificial surfaces is extremely high and unlikely to be funded by local usage.

The speed sign for the Wynd entrance on the A1068 has been ordered, maintenance is being covered by Warkworth Parish Council.

NCC are looking at ways to ring fence monies for affordable housing in Amble.

There has been concerns expressed regarding second homes at Longstone Manor.

JW gave an update on the vehicle transporting a train that jammed the A1068. NCC were not aware of this or how large it was.

The motorhome pilot on the Braid is progressing. There are no ongoing costs as the site will not have any facilities.

Discussion took place on car park charges for Turner Street although nothing had been decided yet.

158. 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)

158.1. ADT 17 November 2021

Noted

The SLA meeting was cancelled due to the storm damage.

NTC have also had a lot of storm damage.

A meeting took place with Paul Hindhaugh

A meeting took place with Robin McCartney – notes to follow

A meeting took place with Stephen Rickitt – notes to follow.

Cllr Parks gave an update on AYP. The appointment of officers has been delayed until 2022 whilst AYP actively look for new trustees. More updates will be available in January.

Cllr Lewis made members aware of the Lindisfarne Gospels coming to the Laing Art Gallery next year and how they were looking for outreach projects to get involved in this. This info has been passed to AYP.

Cllr Parks also gave an update on JCSC Forum 52 which looks at better interaction with the community. They had talked of subjects available for year 9 options. It was queried whether there was still a business club in Amble and whether they could get involved with the school.

Cllr Bewley is meeting NALC tomorrow.

159. FINANCIAL REPORT:

159.1 To consider voucher numbers 179 – 214 for payment and receipt vouchers 52 - 60

TC

TC

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The payments and receipts were approved. Voucher 202 - £1200 allocated to Christmas Lights- last year's amount in grants would be used first and the excess should be coded to the Lights – Clerk to amend.

159.2 Bank Reconciliation

Accepted

159.3 YTD figures

Noted

159.4 Grant requests

- **To seek retrospective approval for a grant to the Events Committee of £100.00**

Accepted

- **Puffin Theatre Club**

The Council was asked to fund a place at the Puffin Theatre Club for an individual child. The Council is unable to support with requests for individual's personal support. The requester has been advised to contact Northumberland Communities Together who may be aware of other funding available.

TC

159.5 To discuss the 2022-2023 Precept Request

The budget was reviewed and no amendments were put forward. Next meeting would be the final date for amendments.

160. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

160.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held 25/11/2021

The minutes were approved.

160.2 To discuss proposal of compensation request for tree removal at Percy Drive / Hauxley Grange

As these trees were removed without permission it was agreed that they should be asked to replant 2 more trees of similar stature between the estate and the roundabout and replace any others involved in their verge works.

160.3 To note response re: missing memorial at Amble West

Members were made aware. All those erecting memorials are advised to take out insurance to cover any incidents.

160.4 To note outcome of discussions with ESH re access to drainage

Cllrs Weir, Parks and Lewis met the contractor onsite and explained their concern regarding damage to the driveway from heavy machinery. Options to avoid this are to use pneumatic tyres or to access over the wall at the bottom. ESH would look at their options and come back to ATC. ESH would restore 'as was' if any damage occurred. Whilst there, it was noted that the large tree outside the compound entrance was lifting the ground. They are unable to proceed with any works until this is stabilised. The Clerk has asked NCC to assess the tree.

It was also asked of ESH why every culvert needs to be checked and it is because their cameras only go so far and a certain depth they are reluctant to push them beyond those.

160.5 To note update from LATF

The trees from the Local Authority Treescape Fund have been delayed.

An update will be provided as soon as available.

The trees from the Woodland Trust have been temporarily planted at the west cemetery.

160.6 To note the complaint regarding the Quayside toilets

A complaint was received from a visitor who was unhappy with the Harbour toilets. NCC have been made aware

160.7 To note response to DEFRA consultation and to discuss any further actions needed.

The response for DEFRA has been sent to NALC to aid their response. A copy has been sent to our M.P. urging her to look carefully at the implications if these become regulations. Members

TC

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discussed whether they should inform those who have reservations now about the possible effects of the consultation or wait until a decision has been made by the government. Members agreed it was best to wait until a decision has been made.

160.8 Request to use Paddlers Park for Playground Training

NCC have requested to use Paddlers Park for playground training if their current site is not adequate. This was agreed.

161: PLANNING COMMITTEE

161.1 To note planning outcomes from October 2021

The minutes were approved.

161.2 To discuss proposal of ratification of comments to planning application ref 21/03144/FUL Boat Yard East of Coble Quay, Coquet Street.

The response to the above planning application was approved.

161.3 To discuss proposal of clarification of Committee Terms of Reference

Members were previously made aware of a concern regarding the governance of the planning committee and its responsibilities and powers as a committee.

After extensive communication with NALC- It is confirmed the actions taken by the council and the planning committee are correct and legal.

The advice received going forward: 1) Reaffirm comment on this application as sent to NCC are agreed by all- this is a precaution which would then cover further enquiries as it shows council have taken all the action they could to confirm their response. 2) consider dealing with all planning at full council; however council reasons for having a committee- timing and the delegation of responsibility to give experience- are reasonable and sound. Therefore as any chair of any committee can defer an item to full council, the suggestion is to remove that line from the terms of reference of the committee.

TC

Members considered the proposal and agreed to amend the ToR so that there can be no misunderstanding.

Members are to be reminded at all committees that a minimum of any 3 of them can request that an application should be considered by Full Council and that all members have the opportunity to make comments should they wish.

TC

162. AGENDA ITEMS:

162.1 To discuss the request for support re Beach Wheelchairs

Brian Docherty is looking into what was used at Park Leisure and if it is still there. ATC support the project in principle and would like the leaders of the project to get back in touch if the project gets going. Clerk to write a letter.

162.2 To receive an update on jubilee arrangement and costs

The size of the area needs measured and submitted and permission is required from the owner to use the small tarmac area for parking. The Clerk is seeking clarity on insurance cover. The events committee would like to know what we are doing so that there is no clash. Members were asked to be on hand on the day to help manage the queue.

The lighting of the Braid was agreed at a cost of £540 plus fuel. The background Audio before the event is to be arranged. It was suggested to ask the Rotary if they could use the sound system on their sleigh and carry out some marshalling in exchange for them being able to collect monies. It is not known if their system would be suitable for such a large event.

There was a suggestion of inviting local vendors to provide refreshments. Further discussion is needed on whether we would charge a stall fee.

First Aid – suggestion to ask RAF Boulmer/ Coastguards/ Lifeboat personnel and if not ask St John's Ambulance.

NCC are to be contacted for licenses and to clear up after the event.

The slide show at NTC was being put on hold for now due to the storm damage there.

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162.3 To receive an update on website accessibility

As a Public Body, it is our responsibility to ensure that our website host meets a good level of security and best practices. It is recommended that our web host service provider has attained the Minimum of Cyber Essentials Certification (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyber-essentials-schemeoverview>) which demonstrates that organisation has a documented and tested security and best practice I.T methodology. – Our host are currently working on their Cyber Essentials certification and expect to have this completed in late January or early February. *The website must conform to WCAG2.1AA Standard and maintain it. ATC must publish an Accessibility Statement that conforms to the required standard and is a genuine reflection of your assessment of the website and its contents.*

TC

At the time of the last review the website did meet the latest standards, there may have been some changes to the government expectations, if ATC would like the host to undertake a full audit of the website the cost would be £240+vat. Every page will be checked and brought up to standards although they cannot check or amend any pdf files.

It was delegated to Chair and Clerk to ascertain if their check would cover more than 50% of the website and if so to do that.

TC

162.4 To discuss reconsider storage offer for contractor

The Council has been approached to reconsider allowing a contractor to store items in the old mortuary building. The contractor would like members to consider a 6-month agreement at a cost similar to the cost of a rented garage. The majority of the contractor's work is for Amble. The Clerk to contact NCC to ascertain if renting out the building would have an impact on the rates to be paid.

162.5 To discuss and agree agenda items for the meeting with Director of Planning NCC

Members agreed a bullet point agenda to focus on S106, Second Homes, Holiday Lets, Highways and Infrastructure. A draft agenda to be circulated in advance.

162.6 To discuss concerns regarding the lack of a community hub due to the closure of the URC Church

It was felt that with the closure of the URC, Amble desperately needs a community hub; s106 monies, NCC, ATC, Grants etc.- something should be pulled together that is workable for the town. The example of Cramlington was discussed which houses the Town Council, a TIC, Library and Café, SEND space and a meeting room.

TC

162.7 Storm Damage Insurance Claim

The Clerk is collating a list of issues and costs relating to Storm Arwen and will be putting a list of claims in.

The tree damage at Amble West is significant and the tree root balls are very very large. NCC have agreed to remove these free of charge. Once the wood has been cleared, a stone mason will be asked to attend to the broken memorials. The main concern at the moment is the tree next to the mortuary building.

A letter of appreciation is to be sent to NCC for all their sterling work during and after the storm.

162.8 Covid Guidance

The Chairs reception will still go ahead. Guests will be asked to wear masks when walking around. It was proposed and agreed to hold full Council meetings at the Masonic Hall for the next 3 months. The location of the next Amenities Committee will be decided at the next Full Council meeting. Staff have the opportunity to work from home.

One member of staff will work from home on Mondays, and one on Tuesdays with all other members of staff in the office and making arrangements to suit.

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

163.1 Carers Rights Day

163.2 Amble Path Development

163.3 Kickstart – The Next Steps

163.4 Northumberland Parent and Carer Sessions

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163.5 Anne Marie Trevelyan Newsletter 5/11, 12/11

163.6 NALC News 12/11, 23/11

163.7 CAB 8th AGM Invitation

163.8 To note resident correspondence re Gulleys

163.9 To note the Remembrance Invite complaint and subsequent response

All noted en bloc

163.10 Welfare CCTV report

Alncom have been contacted.

163.11 Letter from Mr Roper

The letter and response was noted

163.12 Letter from Mt Donaldson

The letter and response was noted.

164. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

164.1 To note confirmation letter to ADT re confirmation of lease of premises

Noted

164.2 To note the Chairs Reception on 10 December 2021

Noted

164.3 To note the meeting with Rob Murfin on 11 January 2022

Noted

164.4 To note the meeting with Robin McCartney on 7th December 2022

Notes to follow

164.5 To note the xmas tree lights have been erected

Noted

165. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

165.1 13 January 2022 6.00pm, Venue: Masonic Hall, 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

166: MINUTES –

166.1: Town Council meeting held 11 November 2021, Items 148 – 151.2

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

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

167.1 Cllr Weirs report from meeting of ADT 17 November 2021

Noted

168. AGENDA ITEMS

168.1 To discuss land matters

An update was given

168.2 To receive an update on Leisure / Recreation offer if available-

The latest update from NCC was discussed.

Clerk to contact the team at NCC

169. NFORMATION ITEMS

TC

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169.1 To note meeting with Cllr Glen Sanderson

Noted

169.2 To receive notes from meeting with Paul Hindhaugh

Noted