

CLERK REPORT – MARCH

206. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

206.2 To receive NCC response to vacancy position and determine the way to proceed

The deadline for an election request is 4th March and after which a time NCC will be in touch with information on how we are to proceed.

207. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

207.2 To note plans to tackle ASB in Amble

PC Dan Richardson is working on plans for a venue suitable for the town's young people who are not keen on attending some of the other venues. He may approach the Town Council for funding if necessary. PC Richardson is keen to hear from Members if they have any suggestions and when shift patterns allow will attend a Council meeting to discuss further.

213. FINANCIAL REPORT:

213.1 To consider voucher numbers 285 – 301 for payment and receipt vouchers 67 - 69

Cllr Weir declared an interest in V294 and Cllr Lewis in V282

213.4 Grant requests

- **AGE UK.** As agreed at the AGM it is recommended that a donation of £50.00 is made.
- **Citizens Advice** As agreed at the AGM it is recommended that a donation of £50.00 is made.

213.5 To approve the Financial Risk Assessment and appendix for 2022

Members are asked to approve the above documents.

213.6 To approve the Statement of Internal Control 2022.

Members are asked to approve the above documents.

213.7 To receive an update on Town Insurance requirements

The Clerk is seeking an updated insurance quote to ensure the town council is adequately covered however there is a requirement to have a figure for the replacement and or repair of all war memorials. The War Memorials Trust are unable to provide assistance on this and have suggested contacting a stone mason for costs. The Clerk has contacted a stone mason who has expressed that he would be unable to value something so historical. The insurers are adamant that a value for the memorials is included into the policy therefore it may take some time for this to be provided. The current policy expires in May 2022.

214. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

214.1 To discuss quotations received to repair memorials damaged during Storm Arwen

A quote of £3500 has been sought for the replacement / repair of 4 damaged memorials. Staff are seeking alternative quotes although none have been forthcoming.

214.2 To seek retrospective approval regarding planter requirements.

The Royal Family have released a new logo for the Queens Jubilee. With that in mind, NCC asked whether the Town Council wanted to change their plans and try to replicate the royal logo. Members were asked their thoughts on email and the decision was supported. Members are asked to agree retrospective approval.

214.4 To agree seat relocation from Island View to Bay View Promenade

Members are asked to agree for a "seat swap" re the end seat on Bay View with the one on Island View so that all on Bay View are alike.

215: PLANNING COMMITTEE

215.5 Advertising signs at Amble Sports Development Centre

Staff are seeking guidance as to whether planning permission was granted.

216. AGENDA ITEMS:

214.8 To receive an update regarding ESH investigations

ESH located the manhole which is more of a small chamber some depth below the surface. A report will be sent to ATC in due course.

214.8 To agree dog sign locations for welfare

Members are asked to consider the locations preferred by ADT for the erection of dog signage. A quote of £100 has been received from a contractor to install the signage. As yet no locations have been suggested.

214.9 To note queries made with Advance Northumberland and subsequent response

A number of queries have been sent to Advance Northumberland regarding Coquet Enterprise and Retail Park re Hoarding, Health and Safety and Parking. Their response has been included within the agenda papers and is being followed up by staff. We are yet to receive a response re hoarding alongside Morrisons car park.

216.1 To agree views on Fourways2 Covid Control

Members are asked to consider their thoughts on visitor access arrangements for Fourways2. The landlord is recommending that the middle door remains closed and access to the building is through the Trust's door so that covid protocols and preventative measures can be adhered to. Members are asked to confirm their agreement or suggest an alternative to be discussed further. Members need to consider full council meeting venue going forward.

216.2 To receive an update if available re Beach Wheelchairs

An update will follow

216.3 To discuss potential hosting of Alnwick Triathlon Event in Amble

Alnwick District Triathlon Club are considering hosting their annual triathlon (swim/bike/run) in Amble due to issues at their usual location in Alnwick. They are also in touch with the yacht club and harbour master to discuss options and also wanted to give the town council an opportunity to input and ask whether they would need any permissions from ATC.

Plans are at a very early stage but they are happy to meet should members wish. The Clerk has advised that they contact Warkworth Parish Council too. Members are asked to discuss.

216.4 To receive an update on Jubilee Weekend arrangements and to decide whether to include the Climbing Wall and to receive Risk Assessments and safety protocols for 21 April 2022 Jubilee Fireworks

Fireworks

A quote for the event insurance has been received at £722 and covers both events for cancellation due to inclement weather.

The Clerk has contacted the SAG for approval to go ahead with the event who have had some queries relating to numbers in attendance and ensuring adequate first aid responders. St Johns Ambulance will be in attendance with 2 first responders however it is recommended that a further 2 are asked for. Members are asked to agree

TENs are not required as there are no licensable activities taking place.

NCC are concerned about any potential impact on wildlife on this area around the estuary and the AONB. At present the Conservation Team and AONB are being approached for their views and NCC will get back to the Clerk with any comments they might make as soon as they respond.

Cllr Dargue is liaising with Reaction Fireworks with regards to suitable music for the event.

Reaction Fireworks have sent through their risk assessment and operational procedures.

Roller-skating

The roller-skating activity has been booked as there was concern that if left much longer, we would lose the slot. Underground utilities have been located and maps of these will be sent to the company. A risk assessment from the Council is required. The Clerk did apply to the Jubilee Fund however as

a stand-alone activity it was suggested that it did not meet the criteria for the grant. Some further information was provided to explain it was part of a wider event programme, and staff are waiting to hear from NCC.

Climbing Wall

Amble Army Cadets have asked if the Town Council would like to have the climbing wall for that weekend as it is available. If agreed the Clerk would need to seek permission to have the former TIC Car Park closed for its use. All risk assessments need to be provided so that the Clerk can provide these to the Safety Advisory Group. Confirmation and clarification is needed on who will manage and monitor the climbing wall and its users. Members are asked to consider whether to go ahead or whether the events committee should be approached to arrange this activity.

216.5 To discuss Proposed Parking Restrictions, Low Hauxley

The County Council has received concerns about roadside parking at Low Hauxley by visitors to the area. This parking is interfering with the safe flow of traffic through the road junction and bend, as well as along the access road into the village.

In order to address this, double yellow lines are proposed to keep the road clear, as shown on the plan circulated. NCC are writing to ask for Members views on this proposal with the closing date for any comments you may wish to make being Friday 4th March 2022.

216.7 To discuss the outcome of the meeting with Jake Preece

An update to follow

216.10 To request an update on the closure of lower Queen Street

The road closure have now been lifted.

216.11 To discuss planting of whips by schools and to note the planting of some whips at Amble West

With some help from Amble Youth Project and volunteers, members were able to plant some whips along the border of Section N. We still await a date from JCSC and Amble First as to when they will be available to support more planting.

216.12 To note increase of costs for newpage in The Ambler and retrospectively agree to continue

The Ambler has had to increase its charges from £150 to £165 due to an overall increase in costs. Members are asked to agree retrospective approval

216.13 To agree the newspaper content – to follow

216.14 To agree staff training

Members are asked to discuss and agree staff training of the CILCA Qualification at a cost of £410.

216.15 To agree Staff Working Arrangements

Following Covid restriction removals Members are asked to consider the above

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

217.6 To note email from resident regarding New Hall Right of Way and responses from officers if available

The Town Council have again received complaints about the Right of Way from New Hall to West Avenue with reports of a hedge being cut down and the resulting debris being left in the ditch which already has stagnant water and rats with an unpleasant smell.

Staff have asked NCC if it is possible for a member of the Rights of Way team to take a look at how much of the ditch is impacted and if it can be ascertained where the cuttings have come from. If from the farmers' hedge then NCC will be able to make contact. Whilst it is understood previous contacts have said this is not NCC responsibility, the safe traverse of a Right of Way is in NCCs domain.

NCC have agreed to take a look. Staff also contacted Northumbrian Water who advised that when surface water connections are installed for housing developments, an agreement must be made with the landowners, to ensure they are happy with the amount of surface water being discharged into their culvert/watercourse.

The surface water network at this development has not been adopted by Northumbrian Water and they haven't given consent for the installation. Before they adopt any networks, they always require the developer and the owner of the culvert/watercourse to grant them legal consent to discharge at an agreed rate.

They recommended speaking directly to the Local Authority which staff have done.

217.12 To note query on Council's objection to TPOs Robsons Way

Council was contacted for information on what grounds they supported the County Councils request for TPOs adjacent to Robsons Way as very little information was listed on the public access website. The Clerk is to respond to the resident.

217.4 Visitor Access and Travel Management Strategy for the Northumberland Coast AONB – Questionnaire

Members to respond individually and staff will add to social media.

218. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

218.1 To note the Lifetime Neighbourhood Proposal Development

218.2 Historical Promotions leaflet

218.3 CAN News 4/2,

218.4 To note newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 4/2,11/2,

218.5 NALC Newsletter 9/12, 16/2, 18/12, 24/2

218.6 To note invite to take part in Northumberland Local Plan - Examination Survey

218.7 To note Northumberland Local Plan – Inspectors' Report and NCC adoption procedures

218.8 To note the update re A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham Project

218.9 To note update from Northumberland Recovery College

218.10 Andy Man Cave - Berwick

218.11 Chairs Invite to Charity Race Night Saturday 9th April 2022 and Charity Ball Friday 6th May 2022 – Gateshead Council.

218.12 To note the update re: Turner Street Car Park

Paul Jones has provided an update on the Turner Street Car Park.

The bungalow on site has now been demolished and ground investigation work undertaken. The ground work investigations have enabled the detailed construction design, which includes details of drainage, to be progressed and this work is now nearing completion which will allow procurement of sub-contractors. The final construction design has been slightly delayed as NCC have had to amend the proposed drainage outfall for the site. Further investigation to confirm the drainage outfall proposal is being undertaken as it requires drilling through an existing sea wall. It is currently expected that works will be able to commence at the start of May for completion in late July / early August, although further details of programme will be confirmed pending completion of design / sub-contractor procurement.

NCC are issuing a press statement to update stakeholders of the position on this and other parking schemes that we are taking forward.

NCC understand and appreciate the frustration over the time that it has taken to get to this stage, however brownfield sites such as this are inherently more challenging to develop and this site has been no exception to this. NCC have assured that they will seek to start (and complete) the construction works as soon as quickly as is possible within the constraints that we are working within.

219. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

219.1 14 April 2022 - 6.00pm, Venue: tbc

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.