

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2022

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 10 February 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), I Parks, D. Bewley, K Morrison, J Dargue
V Smith - Town Clerk.

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs Lewis, Watson. accepted

188. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

Since the last meeting Cllr Tracey Hinton submitted her resignation which was formally accepted at this meeting. All members wish Tracey the very best for the future. Clerk to draft a letter and contact NCC to begin the Co-Option procedure again.

TC

188.1 To receive applications and determine outcome for the Co-Option Vacancy

There were two applications for the Co-Option Vacancy, and both had submitted applications of which Members had received in advance.

No Members wished to add any additional questions to the candidates.

The candidates left the room whilst the applications were considered. An anonymous vote was held whereby Paul Dancer was agreed to fill the vacancy.

The other candidate was informed that due to the recent resignation of another Councillor that there would be another position coming up should they wish to apply.

Mr Dancer is to make an appointment with the Clerk to sign the relevant paperwork.

TC

189. 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 present.

189.1 Report from Northumbria Police inc data trends if available and an update on VOL

A report from Northumbria Police was received and noted. Concern was raised regarding nonattendance and the generic details received in the reports. Northumbria Police have raised issued with the quality of the images of the CCTV specifically on Church Street, Queen Street and Bridge Street. Alncom are due to attend on 25 February and have been asked to provide a maintenance report.

Members queried what the update was regarding relocating the camera to a different post on Church Street. The camera signal would not reach and so another relay kit would have been required.

Members were updated with regards to the VOL meetings and that ATC are able to feed into these meetings via the Chair, Emma Beniams or Northumbria Police.

189.2 To note the concerns received regarding the growing anti-social behaviour on Queen Street and responses to date

Members were concerned to read the latest issues regarding ASB on Queen Street and especially the intimidation of staff in Tesco. The Clerk has asked that this matter be addressed by the VOL meetings and has passed it on.

Whilst it was appreciated that there are resource difficulties it was still felt that Amble needed a greater police presence and more engagement with businesses and local people.

If unsatisfactory responses to the issues continues, Members feel the Clerk should contact the Police and Crime Commissioner.

TC

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190. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

190.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022, items 170 – 186.3

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

191. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

191.1 Clerks Report

The Clerks Report was noted.

192. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

192.1: Chairman

The Chair attended a function at Bedlington Station Community Hall

192.2: Vice Chairman

All reports are contained within the agenda

193. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

193.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark gave an update on the flooding footpath 106017 Persimmon / Percy Drive – there is the possibility of a planning application being submitted which would result in the path being diverted therefore it is being left as is for now.

Footpath 106016 Southmede – The urban drainage team are still trying to liaise with Northumbrian Water.

The line running from Dolphin Court / Fontburn Footpath 106010 – NCC does not think they own this piece of land but if this is a right of way then NCC have powers to make sure the area is safe and it has been suggested that staggered barriers are placed here. Highways will be carrying out this work on behalf of Rights of Way Team.

Councillor Clark has been assisting residents whose properties were damaged in recent storms.

Work has been taking place regarding the lighting on Queen Street as some of the bowls were full of water. NCC are carrying out a full survey of the heritage lights however there is a 12-20 weeks wait for delivery of lead. ATC explained that this has been going on for a number of years and there has been no progress. It was strongly felt that this needed to be pushed in terms of safeguarding and making safe very dark places. Cllr Clark to progress.

NCC are currently reviewing all residents parking guidance and policy. When this is updated T&PC will receive copies.

Cllr Clark was unsure of Town Centre Car Park date.

Anti-social behaviour on Charles Road continues.

There have been reports of a beach buggy driving on the Lord Mayors Field.

Cllr Clark gave an update on the issues on Turner Street. The pest control officer has visited, and the abandoned car has been removed. A letter drop to all residents and businesses will be carried out.

193.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson submitted apologies

194. 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**)

194.1. Cllr Parks reported that Matthew Connelly was now the new chair of Amble Youth Project. There was no update on the siting of the Porta Cabin.. The AYP Vice Chair is Ray Sanderson.

Cllr Bewley will be attending the next NALC meeting on 24th February 2022.

Cllr Morrison reported on the event on the Little Shore on 20th February between 5pm = 7pm.

The next NTC meeting is 25th February.

195. FINANCIAL REPORT:

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195.1 To consider voucher numbers 250 – 284 for payment and receipt vouchers 64 - 66

Cllr Morrison declared an interest on payment voucher 263.

The payments and receipts were approved.

195.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

195.3 YTD figures

Noted

195.4 Grant requests

None

195.5 To note the final version of 2022-2023 Precept Request has been submitted

Noted

195.6 To note the Annual Management Charge from CCLA will cease on 31 March 2022

Noted

195.7 To receive an update on Town Council insurance comparison if available

No quotes available

195.8. To discuss event insurance quotes if available and items covered.

As the Councils current provider does not provide Event cover the Clerk is seeking alternative quotes.

TC

196. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

196.1 To receive the Minutes of the Amenities Committee on 27 January 2022

The minutes were accepted.

196.2 To approve the 2022-2023 Cemetery Fees

The cemetery fees and amendments were accepted and need to be forwarded to funeral directors/memorial masons and placed on the website.

TC

196.3 To note amendments to the Equipment Loan form

It was agreed to proceed with the amendments to the form to include a staff member or Cllr to make sure that equipment is in a good condition before being packed away.

Further discussion is needed on whether the Council would like to implement a deposit system and how this might work. This is to be discussed at Amenities.

TC

196.4 To note the registration of the Queen Street defibrillator

The Clerk is in the process of finalising the registration.

196.5 To discuss recommendation to store URC Memorials if in the future the building is due for demolition

In principle ATC agreed to house the memorials temporarily in order to preserve the history and honour their civic responsibility for the town. One of the Memorials is very large and is set into the wall so will need a professional to remove. It is unclear whether the memorials will be able to be outside.

196.6 To receive an update on and discuss the works required to the Clock Tower and clock mechanism

An engineer has been out to remove the spring from the clock tower and whilst there also noted some damage to the quarter bell and the drum chains. It has been suggested that a waterproof membrane should be fitted to the flooring above the clock mechanism to minimise the impact of any future water ingress. The cost of the additional clock works is £1076 plus VAT. This was agreed. A further meeting was held with the electrician to ensure that the works are coordinated. The mains entry and trip switch cannot be moved and would be retained on the wall behind the clock mechanism. However, all the cabling and fuse boxes etc. can be removed from that position.

TC

The cabling etc. would be rerouted from a point above the covering shelf to the wall on the right-hand side of the door as you face the clock works (above the P.A. system).

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This relocation would mean the repositioning of the electrical boxes for the clock mechanism to the left of their present position in order to leave space for the new fuse box etc. to be fitted. [It had been suggested by the clock technician and agreed that our contractor could carry out these works.]

The shelf over the clock mechanism would be made as waterproof as possible as suggested by the clock technician in case of any future water ingress.

The present sockets and a new double socket would be fitted to the door wall on the right-hand side so as to be more easily accessible when using other apparatus outside the tower. A new light would be fitted above the door to give better illumination than the present bulb.

Cabling would be in conduits and wherever possible waterproof items would be utilised. All electrical work would be to current commercial standards and a certificate would be issued on completion.

Due to current commitments the Contractor would not be able to attend for 3-4 weeks to carry out the work. He would consult his diary and inform the Clerk of the date so she could liaise with Smiths of Derby and book the refurbishment of the clock items for after the electrical work was completed.

Quotes were being sought for the repairs to damaged memorials from Storm Arwen and for other remedial work required for the Radcliffe School Memorial – these are to be discussed at Amenities. [Due to the resignation of Tracey Hinton, Cllr Bewley stepped in and agreed to walk the History Trail route with Cllr Parks.]

197: PLANNING COMMITTEE

197.1 To note planning outcomes for January 2022

Noted

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

There has been no response yet.

197.3 To note the notes from the Planning Enforcement Training

Noted

197.4 To note response from NCC Planning re neighbouring parishes applications

Noted

There remains concerns for the trees outside of the former Marina Arms which are the subject of a pollarding application. The trees all have TPOs however it is felt that whoever carries out this works needs to be supervised as to how much they take off.

197.5 To note agreed topics for Rob Murfin meeting to be held 8th March at 6.30pm- housing needs, the implementation of an Amble survey and S106- and to determine the venue.

The topics were noted and it was agreed to book the Masonic Hall again.

197.6 To note the update from Highways and Planning training 8 February 2022.

Noted.

198. AGENDA ITEMS:

198.1 To receive an update on the Physical Activity Survey

It was felt that 200 responses out of a population of over 6500 was poor and will not give a true representation and the data will be flawed. ATC awaits to hear from the team after the analysis has been carried out.

TC

198.2 To receive an update on the Rollerskating Rink and Jubilee arrangements

A quote for first aid from St Johns Ambulance was agreed at £231 plus VAT.

The Clerk has applied for the Jubilee Grant.

Amble Army Cadets have offered to help out over the weekend.

It was felt that the Council may wish to book the rink and sort out utility insurance afterwards or we run the risk of the equipment being hired out elsewhere. Clerk to proceed.

TC

Clerk to begin pulling together risk assessments and additional information as requested by NCC.

198.3 To agree a date for the planting of trees with schools

IP

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Dates have been given to JCSC and the Clerk awaits a response. Cllr Parks to chase them up. It is thought that AYP would like to take part on a weekend.

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

199.1 To note: REVIEW OF STORM ARWEN RESPONSE: SCOPING REPORT

199.2 CAN 21/01,

199.3 Cheviot Centre Whats On

199.4 Northumberland Community Investment Fund

199.5 Whats on – Womens Workshop

199.6 Opportunity to join online discussion groups on Health inequalities and young people: opportunity for VCSE colleagues in the Youth Sector

199.7 Anne Marie Trevelyan Newsletter 14/01, 25/01, 28/01,

199.8 NALC News 12/01, 20/01, 28/01,

199.9 NHS Improving Access Survey - January 2022

199.10 Northern Power Supply update

199.11 NCC Climate Change Q&A 19 January 5.00pm

199.12 To note complaint and action taken regarding Turner Street issues

199.13 To note updates from Ruth Armstrong

199.14 To note communication from Amble Youth Project regarding University student involvement in survey work

All items noted.

That the Council discuss the items.

199.15 To discuss the offer from Asset Watch

After discussion it was felt that this was very expensive and as the Council already has a contract with another business that the Council would not pursue this.

TC

199.16 To discuss the request for business advertisement on town bins

It was felt that the Council could not support this at the moment however it was suggested that in future new bins could have the facility to place posters into a display screen sited on the bin. This would allow ATC control over the content and would ensure that the bins still look tidy. This is to be discussed at Amenities.

TC

199.17 To discuss Local Free Newsletter

Members agreed that as we already have a local magazine and newsletter that they would not like to pursue this.

TC

200. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

200.1 To note letter sent to Advance Northumberland re surplus whips available

200.2 To note letter of support sent to Transport North East

200.3 To note the minutes from the SLA meeting 25 January 2022

200.4 To note the letter to Highways re Acklington Road

Noted enbloc

201. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

201.1 10 March 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

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2022

202: MINUTES –

202.1: Town Council meeting held 13 January 2022, Items 184 – 186.3

The minutes were agreed a true record

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

203.1 Notes of ADT meeting from 19 January 2022

Noted

204. AGENDA ITEMS

204.1 To discuss land matters & to note amendments submitted

An update was given.

204.2 To discuss lease request

Members were made aware of the request and Clerk to respond.

204.3 To note the letter regarding the office lease from Amble Development Trust

The contents of the letter were noted however there remains confusion on some items.

TC