

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – APRIL 2022

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 14th April 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), H Lewis, I Parks, D. Bewley, K Morrison, J Watson, P Dancer, J Dargue

V Smith – Minute Taker

223.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

224. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

224.1 To receive an update on the Co-Option

There has been no interest expressed in the co-option vacancy to date. The Clerk to keep advertising.

225.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

225.1 Report from Northumbria Police

The report was noted. Members of Amble Town Council are meeting with Northumbria Police on the 19th of April. Discussions are to include attendance at AYP and Church Street Bus Shelter.

Covid Rock Trail – Jackie Jones

Jackie Jones attended to discuss the Covid rock trail that was started by her stepdaughter in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic. The rock trail became more popular as more people added to it and now Jackie is looking for it to be made into a permanent feature.

Other locations have been considered however it is not possible to have this at the harbour but ADT have agreed that it can be placed on the amphitheatre subject to there being a maintenance plan in place not provided by them. Therefore, Jackie Jones would like to ask Amble Town Council to take over the maintenance of the Rock Trail. As this item was on the agenda the chair agreed to move that agenda item forward and discuss the matter here.

Members were concerned that if they agreed to take on the maintenance of this project that it would set a precedent for future projects. It was proposed by Cllr Lewis to approach ADT with the suggestion that ATC donate £500 to ADT to specifically ring fence for the rock trail maintenance i.e. painting, varnishing and resetting. This was seconded by Cllr Bewley.

Jackie Jones and Councillor Morrison to approach Amble development trust to see if they would accept the solution suggested with regards to financing the maintenance.

The clerk queried that the insurance element of the rock trail would be covered under ADTs public liability and ATC would incur no liability.

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226. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

226.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022, items 205 - 221.1

The minutes were approved.

227. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

227.1 Clerks Report attached

The Clerks report was accepted.

228. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

228.1: Chairman

The chairman was unable to attend a civic event on Friday 8th April due to illness. He informed members that it was unlikely he would be able to get a refund for the ticket of £35 but had contacted organisers.

228.2: Vice Chairman

All reports are contained within the agenda.

229. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

229.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Councillor Clark gave an update on housing matters that he has been involved in since the last meeting. Councillor Clark has also been involved in repairing the cracks and potholes on Links Avenue and dropped curbs on Bay View.

Councillor Clark confirmed that Gordon Villas is a private road and has not been adopted by NCC.

Councillor Clark was approached by the allotment society regarding garden waste permits. NCC did relax rules after Storm Arwen however this ended on the 31st of January.

Councillor Clark updated members on the St Cuthberts Church roof repairs and explained that they may need to close Church Street for this work to be carried out.

Councillor Clark has contributed £2000 towards Amble Juniors Football team's fees and training at James Calvert Spence College. Amble juniors have been made aware that they can now apply to the Northumberland Children's Trust Fund where they may be able to access future finance.

Councillor Clark attended the Local Area Committee where he queried the number of zebra crossings on Percy Drive. He was made aware that only one was included this year and this would be the one nearest to health centre. The second zebra crossing would be in place in 2023 unless funds become available sooner. Councillor Clark to query if NCC have done a footfall survey and if there is a reason why they have chosen this particular zebra crossing at this location first. Cllr Clark was asked if he could urge for the other one between Fontburn and the grass area of Dolphin Court to be done first as this is most important for children going to school. This may also help Cllr Clark get the barrier needed to stop the motorcycles in this area.

Councillor Clark has liaised with Rob Murfin with regards to footpath No.16 at Southmead. Councillor Clark as requested urgent action here. Now that it is known that it

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is not Northumbria Waters responsibility, NCC need to look at drainage as this has got low-level topography and a survey will be needed. It was queried whether there can be an easement to the road straight into the existing drain. Councillor Clark to ask for a meeting on site.

Councillor Clark was made aware of the communications relating to 17 Edwin Street. Councillor Watson has begun investigations and will update members as appropriate. Cllr Clark was made aware of the assets survey carried out by Amble Town Council staff which has identified the bus shelter on Links Avenue is needing its roof repaired. Town council staff are currently seeking quotes for this work.

229.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Councillor Watson explained that there may be up to 4 payments for Amble out of the Jubilee fund.

He confirmed that Amble Juniors also came to the Rotary asking for finance assistance. Amble Development Trust have now been given planning permission for the sculpture Trail.

The development of the former Artique site has submitted a variation. Cllr Watson was made aware that the alterations have already begun.

Cllr Watson gave an update on the green spaces in the back lane of Westfield. The use of these is being looked at.

Concerns have been raised regarding the trees on West Avenue. These were looked at prior to Storm Arwen and it was recommended that they are looked at again.

The motorhome car parking at The Braid is now up and running. Councillor Watson was asked to make sure that NCC make attendees aware that there is a fireworks event on the 21st of April.

Councillor Watson gave an update on the wildflower proposal for The Braid. Warkworth Parish Council were not happy that this was to be in the large grass area. Councillor Watson was informed that as it is a registered Village Green there may be restrictions to adhere to because this area must be made available for the public enjoyment.

It was suggested rather than having a wildflower area to discourage parking, to instead have birds mouth fencing on both sides of the road would be a better solution. Councillor Watson confirmed that no parking signs are due to be placed here. It was agreed to add this as an agenda item at the May meeting. Councillor Watson was made aware of the caged bins at each of the parking bays and agreed to follow this up.

Cllr Watson was asked the start date of the Turner Street car park. The car park is expected to open in July and August.

230. 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)

230.1. The notes from Amble Youth Project were provided.

The notes from the Events Committee were provided. The Events Committee plan to publicise activities for the Puffin Festival mid May.

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There remains concern that the sculpture trail has no maintenance plan. If the sculpture becomes a health and safety issue than as with any other item, Northumberland County Council will have no choice but to remove them.

Councillor Dargue has judged the flag competition.

231. FINANCIAL REPORT:

231.1 To consider voucher numbers 302 – 330 for payment and receipt vouchers 70 - 85

The Payments and Receipts were approved.

231.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

231.3 YTD figures

Noted. A meeting to allocate any unspent budget funds is to be arranged.

231.4 Grant requests

None

231.5 To discuss and approve insurance quote for 2022-2023

Two quotations were discussed. Clerk was asked to clarify with the existing provider what the cover for Memorial Gardens fencing and both Cemetery Gates, Identity Fraud, Loss of Electronic Data or Documents, Items out of Office

If this is covered to an acceptable level it was agreed to proceed with current supplier on the 5 year basis.

231.6 To note the agreed National Salary Award

The national salary award has been agreed and all staff will be backdated payments to the 1st of April 2021.

Members were given an update on the salary issue that staff are experiencing due to the difference between the NALC salaries and the NCC salary scales.

It is expected that the change will not be significant amount of money however it is important that staff are paid correctly.

Northumberland County Council are currently working out backdated arrears.

232. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

232.1 Branch removal West Cemetery

A contractor has been asked to attend to remove some loose branches.

The 18 months tree survey has now been complete. Only one tree was identified and needed some work done the rest is simple tidying up. Staff were given approval to proceed with these works.

232.2 To note response from the SAG re Community Event

The safety advisory group have come back and have not expressed any concerns with the event on the 21st of April. Northumberland County Council have confirmed by email that we are able to use The Braid.

232.3 To note history trail sign slight relocation

Members were made aware that the history trail marker down at the Harbour Village has been moved further along to allow for better vehicle access.

232.4 To discuss issues with proposed seafarers memorial

Members have been asked to remove the anchors and the bollard from their storage place. The contractor has been asked if they will be able assemble the structure before it needs to be removed. If there has been no response within the next week, it was agreed that we

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would have to move the anchor to the cemetery for storage. Councillor Weir to discuss the situation with Anthony Nelson to see if they could be stored in his yard.

232.5 To discuss Harbour Village Bins

The bins in place opposite the harbour village were placed there without any consultation from Amble Town Council. The bins have been out of use for some time and now are covered in black bags. Amble Town Council staff contacted Paul Jones who informed us that as part of the parish council charter the bins are now the responsibility of Amble Town Council and our choices are to replace and consult with neighbourhood services where the new one should go or remove and not have any there. We have asked the NCC operatives to let us know if the bins are well used and if worthwhile keeping them there.

It was suggested writing a letter to all outlets ask them to encourage customers to take their litter home however this would mean having to identify every outlet who uses takeaway boxes. It was suggested that it would be more time efficient to add something to the next newsletter.

Councillor Lewis proposed that we take out the two large ones and replace with another one that we have in storage. This was seconded and agreed.

When the bin refurbishment programme starts again, areas could be looked at to house the larger bins containing wheelie bins that cannot go on regular footpaths.

232.6 To approve the Amenities Committee Minutes from 31 March 2022

The notes were approved.

233: PLANNING COMMITTEE

233.1 To note adoption of Northumberland Local Plan

Noted

233.2 To note the Planning Validation Checklist Consultation

Noted

233.3 To note response re 22/00050 / PRUTPO Application Tree Preservation order

Noted. There has been no further response from NCC.

233.4 To note information regarding water runoff from Home Group development

Noted

233.5 To receive an update on the bird trail and location of Paddlers Park sculpture

Noted.

233.6 Future Hosting of Planning Training for Town & Parishes

The Town Council confirmed it was happy to host some planning training for other neighbouring parishes if acceptable. The only cost implication would be room hire and staff. Members confirmed that the next planning committee would take place on the 10th May 2022. Staff to book a room and ask for an extension for comments. Staff to provide an agenda in due course. Northumberland Estates are to be asked to send a representative to the Planning Committee if possible.

Clerk to contact Northumberland Estates to request copies of larger plans and make them aware that ATC are having a Council meeting to discuss the application and as usual the meeting is open to the public with time allocated to them.

233.7 To approve the Planning Report for March 2022

Approved.

234. AGENDA ITEMS:

234.1 To receive an update on the Community Engagement post

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There has been no further update received on the Community Engagement Post. Northumberland has been invited to submit a portfolio of potential venues to develop Play Zones. These are multi-sport or football only areas, like MUGA's.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop multi-sport and football activity. NCC need to submit an EOI by 10th June on a portfolio of ideas that we have for the county. This needs to be a consortium approach with a lead applicant. Match funding is required across the portfolio with a sustainable plan.

ATC have stated they are interested in taking part and have contacted the sports development team for further information.

234.2 To discuss and agree comments to the LCWIP

The comments received from Cllr Lewis were agreed to be sent to the LCWIP team.

234.3 To discuss a charge or donation for the Rollerskating event

Members available to assist on the days are Councillor Bewley, Dancer, Dargue and Weir. Members discussed whether to charge users or request a donation. It was thought charging on this occasion would be unseemly and donation points on the entrance and exit would be better. Discussions continued around who the donations would be in aid of. It was agreed that the RNLI specifically for the Amble branch would be the recipients of any donations raised. Council Weir to discuss on Sunday and request volunteers from them.

234.4 To discuss the future ideas for launch of Amble Connect and to discuss funding a page in an edition of The Ambler

The renewed call to launch Amble Connect after the demise of the Business Club was discussed. Councillor Weir and Councillor Bewley are in discussion with Park leisure who are also willing to help. It was confirmed that Amble Connect is not only for businesses but also for members of the community. It was felt that the ideal time to restart this project is now and there is money in the budget for advertising. It was agreed to provide a news page in the ambler to explain what Amble Connect is about. It is not the council's intention to run this project long-term. Once the project is underway members anticipate that this will be taken forward by members of the group. A small group would meet with Cllrs Weir, Bewley and Dancer to formulate the draft. It was agreed to pay for a page in The Ambler.

234.5 To discuss a request to enter into a maintenance agreement for the Covid Rock Trail

Discussed earlier

234.6 to discuss attendance at Invitation to Attend a Coastal Summit, 6pm to 7.30pm, Wednesday 20th April 2022

Cllr Watson to check whether the summit is going ahead. If so, the Councils usual representative is Cllr Morrison, or if unavailable Cllr Weir would attend.

234.7 To receive an update on the Firework event and assign tasks to volunteers.

Some music suggestions have been provided to the fireworks company who are preparing for the music to be put onto a memory stick and given to the sound technician on the day.

Volunteers are requested from 2:30 pm onwards for the initial set up and to place signage.

Marshals and other volunteers for the event are asked to arrive at the footbridge at 8 pm. The security is a minimum of four hours. It was agreed to have security on site from 7:30 pm to 10 pm. Councillors are asked to line the main footpath around the firework site from the car park exit to the Marina vehicular access. The clerk has met with Tommy Boswell

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with regards to the food van positioning and has requested that Coquet Yacht Club have their light on. All contact details must be on the event plan and circulated to all in advance.

234.8 To receive an update on the Motorhome Pilot

Covered in Cllr Watsons report

234.9 To discuss possible renovation and installation of Muriel Usher plaque

Members discussed the possibility of refurbishing the dedication plaque for Muriel Usher. Members agreed to fund a similar new plaque with the bronze signage that has been used previously. Staff to ascertain costs.

234.10 To note concern regarding old CCTV Camera Leases Street

The CCTV camera on Leases Street does not belong to the Town Council. This has been referred to the county council who may remove it if it is deemed a health and safety risk.

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

235.1 To note the update from Amble Business Club

235.2 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund

235.3 CAN News 3/3, 18/3, 1/4,

235.4 Complaint regarding state of Amble

235.5 To note the Freedom of Information Request re The Braid and subsequent response

235.6 To note complaint regarding litter and dog fouling on the dunes

235.7 Newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 18/3, 25/3, 1/4 and Spring Statement Special

235.8 NALC News 16/3, 22/3, 29/3,

235.9 To note letter from Newcastle Hospital Charity

235.10 Support for tree planting in the parish

The above communications were noted en-bloc

235.11 To note concern re traffic on Acklington Road and response

Further updates are requested on the 20 mph speed limit that is due to be implemented on Acklington Road.

236. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

236.1 To note 20mph / traffic calming measures on Acklington Road / Woodbine Street and subsequent response from NCC

236.2 To note the Motorhome Pilot Scheme Signage

236.3 Empty homes for Ukrainian Refugees

236.4 Changing Places Toilets

236.5 Diary of events JPI Media

236.6 Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust request for feedback

236.7 To note the date of Annual Parish Meeting

236.8 To note minutes from the Sports Development meeting 7 March 2022

236.9 Urban Tree Challenge Fund

236.10 To note confirmation of Jubilee Grant

236.11 Minutes of meeting with Rob Murfin

236.12 Notes of Partnership Meeting with NCC.

Noted en-bloc

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237. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

237.1 The Annual Parish meeting takes place 3 May 2022, Masonic Hall

237.2 AGM 12 May 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

238: MINUTES –

238.1: Town Council meeting held 10 March 2022, Items 220 – 221.1

The minutes were approved.

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

239.1 Notes of Amble Development Trust meeting

To follow.

Councillor Weir has expressed his concerns with regards to fire regulations and fire drills.

240. AGENDA ITEMS

240.1 To receive an update on land matters if available

An update was given. Members will be updated when more is known.

240.2 To note the update on Turner Street Car Park

Covered above in Cllr Watsons report.

240.3 Discussions with Social Landlords.

Members agreed to have initial informal discussions with NCC/Social Housing Providers.

241. INFORMATION ITEMS

241.1 To note the minutes of the meeting with Guy Munden Northumberland

Noted.