

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 11th August 2022, 6.00pm
Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

H Lewis (Vice Chair), D. Bewley, P Dancer, J Watson

V Smith – Minute Taker

69.APOLOGIES

Cllr Weir, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Parks- accepted

70. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

71.1 To receive an update on the current Councillor Vacancies

To date there has been no interest in the Councillor vacancies and as a result Robin McCartney has been asked to put the governance review and request for additional Councillors on hold.

72.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

72.1 Welcome Tina Gibbinson – Amble Youth Project

Tina Gibbinson attended from Amble Youth Project to give an introduction and an overview of what her role in the youth project will be.

Tina is the Delivery Manager, which is a different role to previous managers. She will look at 13+ provision and whilst she will support the whole team during holiday periods, the main focus will be on trying to engage with the older teenagers.

Youth workers are going out on Friday nights to try and engage some of the youngsters and as the nights get darker these will be replaced into youth club provision or the activities will keep going depending on what the youngsters want.

The young people will be consulted throughout the summer, electronically, so that the Youth Project can find out what it is that they want to do. There is a youth work week in November which will possibly be used as the relaunch/ rebranding of the Youth Project.

The youth project has been working with James Calvert Spence College on a drama with regards to keeping safe and exploitation.

Junior provision runs for three days a week for 8 to 13-year-olds however it is felt that something more is needed for the older ones.

Tina lives locally and has a passion for young people and is striving for the youth project to be a success.

Tina queried if there were any suggestions that they could use in terms of publicity to help them get their name around. Many parents did not know there was a youth project in Amble. Tina suggested signage / noticeboard type in key areas in the town. The Town Council made Tina aware that there is a grant pot available from the Town Council and we have in the past supported the Youth Project with finance. Tina felt the bus shelter could be a potential project for the young people to get involved in.

Tina asked whether there was anything that the Town Council would like her to take back

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

to the youth project. All were in agreement that there needs to be some provision for the 13+ Children.

Discussions took place around some of the incidents that have been reported lately which are increasingly aggressive and a lot of intimidation. It was felt that this was becoming a bigger issue than ever before. Tina confirmed that they were working together with PCSO Darin and PC Dan and had offered support with home visits if that was what the police thought would help, however there was a feeling that if the youngsters felt the youth project could not be their advocate that that would put some off attending the youth project. This relationship may have to be a back office working relationship so as not to put them off coming to the youth project.

Discussion took place around the decoration which has not been done yet and it is likely that the youth project will require some public support on this.

The women's workshop are using the building Monday and Friday so the decoration work is not expected to be started until September. County Councillor Terry Clark has purchased play stations and kitchen equipment.

Last year there were two projects completed with James Calvert Spence College regarding maintaining attendance and behaviour. There was also work done with the Duke of Edinburgh award and there were 7 x 15 to 17-year-olds taking part in the young leaders programme.

It was understood that the antisocial behaviour in the town is a small cohort of youngsters and there are many others who want to be involved in the youth project. The youth project is a universal service and not targeted for specific groups alone. There needs to be different types of projects for different cohorts of young people.

County Council of Watson reminded Tina that Cheviot Holmes had agreed a contribution of £5,000 per year for 10 years and advised that she check that this had been received. She was thanked for her attendance and reminded to contact the Clerk if she needed advice on who to contact.

73. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

73.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 items 50 – 68.2

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting on 14th July were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

74. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

75.1 Clerks Report

Resolved: The Clerks report was noted and the Clerk was thanked for a comprehensive report.

76 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

76.1: Chairman

Apologies were received from Cllr Weir.

76.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Lewis reported on both the Vice Chair and Chair activities. The Chair and Vice Chair both attended meetings with NCC partnership meeting with the county council, a meeting with Northumbria police, the Locality meeting, and the Vice Chair will be meeting with

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

contractors tomorrow morning with regards to fire extinguishers at the West Cemetery. All notes of meetings have been circulated.

77. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

77.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Councillor Clark has been liaising with Richard McKenzie with regards to crossing points on Percy Road. Richard McKenzie is currently on leave and Councillor Clark will take this up with him when he returns to work.

The Southmead footpath is now with the design team and costings are to be sent over to Terry Clark. It is expected that this will be quite a significant cost and may have to be part of next year's LTP unless there are surplus funds available in this year.

Councillor Clark confirmed that a two-way barrier will be installed at Dolphin Court and will take this up with Graham Bucknell going forward.

The 2022/23 LTP have been submitted and a traffic survey is being carried out on Church Street. Richard McKenzie was asked for additional 20 mph signage however it is the opinion of the County Council that there is adequate signage available. The Town Council when meeting with the Locality Officer explained that they did not agree and neither did Northumbria Police. Robin McCartney agreed to ask for repeater signs.

Residents of Church Street have been complaining of speeding and this has been reported to Sgt Les Robson and the traffic team have been notified. All residents are asked to report all incidents so that a data file can be kept.

Councillor Clark made members aware of the antisocial behaviour on Cross Street, North Street, Queen Street and Church Street and Bridge Street. There is a request for a camera for North Street and it may be possible for the police to request this from the county council.

Councillor Clark gave an update with regards to Coble Quay. Robin McCartney is liaising with Leslie Wood to ascertain whether it's possible to have the Heras fencing around the affected area only which will then allow for the footpath to be opened. Robin McCartney to report back to the town council in due course. Jeff Watson to discuss the issue with Mike Turner.

Councillor Clark has received complaints with regards to the odour from Coquet Seafoods. Mitigating measures have been carried out and the County Council will follow up to ensure that the odour is under control.

The Turner Street carpark is now open. There were some issues with regards to the fence encroaching onto private land, however the position has been checked and the fence does match the position of the old one. Another issue was an electric point had been placed in the wrong place and this has now been corrected. There are queries with regards to the removal of a fence which is still under investigation. Some more work to the wall on the left-hand side is taking place in September.

The planning application for the Sculpture Trail is being heard next week and is recommended for approval. The town council still feel that its comment is valid. Where the structure is going on the car park is where the county council highways team initially flagged that it would disrupt the display of visibility, so we are unclear as to why now highways have decided that there is no obstruction. Councillors Clark and Watson to enquire further ahead of the meeting.

Councillor Clark received an email offering assistance with the water pump at paddlers park if necessary.

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

Councillor Clark was made aware of the pavement license for the Harbour Inn on Leazes Street. Highways have said that they have no objection to this however members felt that they needed to come out and measure the area properly as there is no room where a mobility scooter can get past safely when there are tables and chairs on the path.

Councillor Clark to follow up with Mitch Young and Helen Tate.

Councillor Clark has submitted his top priority for the 2023/24 local transport plan as being further crossing points on Percy Drive.

77.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson has purchased lanyards and envelopes himself and gifted them to the town council so that ID badges can be made for Cllrs going to external meetings.

The motorhome pilot scheme on The Braid has been reduced to 3 spaces as they were too small. Councillor Watson was not happy that he was not informed of this before the work was carried out. On the whole, the main bulk of complaints seems to be around litter but most feedback has been positive.

Councillor Watson has had some complaints with the regards to Long Stone Manor and disruptions to Ethel Close due to building works here which appear to be sorted now.

Councillor Watson gave an update on the James Calvert Spence College consultation and it appears a clear decision has been received which will be publicised in due course.

The speed sign at the bottom of The Wynd still has not been done. Councillor Watson is chasing up.

77.3 Whilst both County Councillors were present the item 82.5 was brought forward for discussion. Local police officers have said that the purchase of a camera with the long zoom lens would be really beneficial in tackling some of the issues we are experiencing in the town at the moment such as motorbike ASB. These cameras have been successful in other areas and a number of parishes have been asked to contribute.

Whoever contributes to the purchase of the camera will have use of the camera in their areas. If a parish has not contributed to the purchase, they will not be able to benefit from the use of the camera.

It was queried whether it was possible for Cllrs. Terry Clark and Jeff Watson to combine the small members schemes and to purchase the camera jointly which would then enable a wider coverage but within this locality. It is expected to cost around £2000. Terry Clark and Jeff Watson to take this forward to see if they can use their funds for this purpose. Staff to check for more details and send on.

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

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

78.2 Amble Development Trust AGM – To note postponement to September 2022

Noted. Cllrs Watson / Weir to confirm the new date.

CW
JW

Councillor Paul Dancer reported on the recent comms from NALC regarding their New Chief Officer Graeme Popay who will be taking over from Stephen Rickitt in September.

Councillor Dancer to forward the introductory email received from NALC.

PD

79. FINANCIAL REPORT:

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

79.1 To consider voucher numbers 89 - 117 for payment and 21 - 29 for receipt.

Cllr Morrison had an interest in vouchers 101 and 102.

Resolved: The payments and receipts were approved.

79.2 Bank Reconciliation *Members*

Resolved: The Bank Reconciliation was noted.

79.3 Year to date figures

Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

79.4 Grant Requests

The Puffin Lounge

A grant request was received from The Puffin Lounge for £300 for the rent of their room. The grant guidelines state that these funds cannot be used for revenue items except in exceptional circumstances. Members felt this was a very worthwhile venture and discussed a one-off payment for this purpose on the caveat that within the next 12 months they must find alternative ways to cover this cost. Councillor Lewis proposed to donate £300. Councillor Dancer seconded the proposal.

Resolved: The Town Council to support The Puffin Lounge with a grant request of £300.

79.5 To note the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22, Accounting Statement 2021-22 and External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22

Resolved: The AGAR was accepted and noted. The Clerk was thanked.

80. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

80.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 28th July

Resolved: The minutes of the Amenities Committee items 16-31.1 were agreed

80.2 To note order of Kompan exercise equipment

Noted.

80.3 To note recent media with regards to cemetery records

Noted. Staff are ensuring that all records are maintained accurately so that similar incidents do not occur here.

80.4 To note the intention of maintaining / removing trees at bottom of Gloster Hill

Cllrs Lewis, Parks and the Clerk met with a contractor to discuss the intentions of removing damaged trees from a plot on Gloster Hill.

The proposal is as follows:

Remove 3 Sycamores on boundary with allotment, one of which has poor form and is prone to windthrow, the other two which have extensive decay to the main stems and should be removed on the grounds of safety

Crown raise and thin remaining Sycamore by 15% removing all previously poorly pruned limbs and rubbing and crossing lateral minor limbs

Crown raise and thin Ash by 15% removing all previously poorly pruned limbs and rubbing and crossing lateral minor limbs

Remove all minor Sycamore regrowth and Hawthorn scrub from boundary to allotment

Leave all arising timber on site (in allotment) and leave woodchip on site, on boundary to suppress regrowth

An Ecology report has been received confirming there are no restrictions to this work.

Resolved: Members had no objections subject to discussions taking place with the allotment tenants.

81: PLANNING COMMITTEE

TC

TC

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

81.1 To note Planning outcomes for July / August 2022

Noted

81.2 To note query to NCC re lack of notification of applications

Noted

81.3 To note response to a pavement licence

Noted.

81.4 To note some motor home bay removal

Noted

82. AGENDA ITEMS:

82.1 To receive an update and discuss coastal safety requirements

Discussions have been ongoing with regards to the lifebelts and life vests available along our coast. Staff have queried with NCC who have said that it is the responsibility of the parish council to provide these. Staff have asked when it was decided that this would be the responsibility of parish in town councils. If it is shown that it is the responsibility of the parish and town council to provide these, staff will liaise with the Coast Guard and RNLI to consider their thoughts on what is needed and where they should go before discussing whether provision should be made.

TC

82.2 To discuss the detail of the Rotary plaque on Memorial Gardens planter

Further information is needed on the type of materials to be used.

CW

82.3 To note Proposed Parking Restrictions: Leazes Street, Amble, decision report

The decision report on the installation of Double Yellow lines on Leazes Street was noted.

82.4 To note the part fund agreement and agree to replacement defibrillator pads at Warkworth Harbour Commissioners

The defibrillator pads on the Harbour Commissioners defibrillator have expired. The town council agreed to pay 2/3 of the cost and are waiting for the invoice to come through from the Harbour Commissioners.

TC

82.5 To discuss purchase of camera to aid identification and evidence

See item 77.3

82.6 To discuss becoming a member of Rural Market Towns Group

Members discussed the benefits of the joining the Rural Market Town Group but given that its advice covers only 200 areas and there are 150 parishes in Northumberland alone it was felt that it would be of limited benefit for our area.

Resolved: Members agreed not to proceed with the Rural Towns Membership.

TC

82.7 To discuss the painting of town furniture on Queen Street

It was noted that the lampposts have now been painted blue. Therefore, there is little point in requesting the rest of the furniture to be painted black. The Locality Officer was asked to find out how often the furniture is painted so that the next time we can request that the street furniture is black.

Resolved: Members agreed to wait until a schedule was determined and discuss further.

Resolved: Staff to contact John Young to plan when the seats can be painted.

SM

82.8 To agree chairs attendance at Senea Welcome Service for Revd. Denise (Den) Harding and Revd. Christopher Wood-Archer and investiture of Revd. Antony Oakley as Area Superintendent.

Resolved: Members agreed to the Chairs attendance

CW

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

82.9 To receive an update on surrender of lease for Land and Buildings to the North Side of West Avenue, Amble

There has been no further update with regards to the surrender of the lease for land and building to the north side of West Avenue. A meeting has taken place with Claire Skene of Adam Douglas who is aware of our requirements and is in contact with NCC. She has asked NCC whether they will be covering our expenses. There has been no reply to date. It was agreed that ATC had no objections to this.

83. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note or discuss where necessary the items.*

83.1 To note visitors unpleasant experience of Amble

83.2 To note letter sent to Kim McGuinness PCC

83.3 To note complaints of litter in town square and harbour areas

83.4 End of Summer Party – South Tyneside Council

83.5 Newsletter from Anne Marie Trevelyan 11/7, 18/7,

83.6 NALC 7/7, 29/7,

83.7 To note the complaint regarding parking in Gordon Street

83.8 To note the complaint regarding litter under the Gut

83.9 To note compliment regarding the town and its development

Resolved: All communication items were noted en-bloc

84. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

84.1 Our News August 2022

84.2 Highways and Public Rights of Way Presentation and training notes

84.3 CAN News 8/7

84.4 Northumbria Connect 17/7, 19/7, 27/7

84.5 To note Cemetery Management and Exclusive Right of Burial training for all staff

84.6 Queens Baton Relay 15 July 2022

84.7 Notes of Partnership meeting with NCC 9 August 2022 if available

84.8 Notes of Locality meeting 9 August 2022 if available

84.9 To note update in The Ambler re Rock Trail

Resolved: All information items were noted en-bloc

Cllr Watson made all aware that the Beach Huts will no longer be rented out daily.

85. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

85.1 8 September 2022, 6.00pm, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2

86. DATES FOR DIARIES

86.1 17 August 2022 10.30am – Estate Walkabout – Cllrs Weir, Bewley and Dancer would attend

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

Item - RESOLVED that due to the sensitivity of the items listed below, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting *under Section 1(2) the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

87: MINUTES –

87.1: To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 14 July 2022 items 65 – 68.2

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of 14 July 2022 were agreed as a true record

87.2 To approve the minutes of the Amenities Committee 28 July 2022, items 31.1

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of 28 July 2022 were agreed as a true record

87.3 To approve the minutes of the Locality meeting 9 August 2022

Resolved: The minutes were accepted.

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

88.1 Reports from Cllr Weir

Cllr Weir to update at the next meeting.

89. AGENDA ITEMS

89.1 To update CCTV discussions

Resolved: Staff to request a new camera be ordered to replace the old one at Queen Street. This camera it to be the higher spec camera with the longer warranty.

89.2 To receive a legal update if available

A legal update was given.

Resolved: Clerk to clarify some points in the final document.

Clerk to agree the fee proposal.

89.3 To receive an update regarding recreational project if available

To date there has been no further update from NCC since March / April. Cllr Watson to chase up.

89.4 To discuss culvert proposal

Discussion took place around the culvert diversion.

Claire Skene is investigating riparian rights and is expected to provide an update in due course.

Resolved: Members had no objection to the diversion of the culvert and the placing of surface manhole covers.

90. Information Items

90.1 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 12 July 2022

Resolved. The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

90.2 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 9 August 2022

Resolved. The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

90.3 Notes of meeting with Standard Security Services 3 August 2022

Resolved. The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

TC

JW

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AUGUST 2022

The meeting closed at 7.30pm