

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2023

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 9 February 2023, 6.00pm Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

C Weir (Chair), H Lewis (Vice Chair), I Parks, P Dancer, K Morrison, Jackie Turpin
V Smith – Minute Taker

187.APOLOGIES

David Bewley (accepted)

188. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

188.1 To receive an update on Cllr Vacancies

There remain two co-option vacancies on the town council.

188.2 To note future changes to electoral procedures

Members were aware of the ID required for 2020 for elections. Members were reminded that this was for all elections and not just the local council elections. The government have released a form for those people who do not have a form of acceptable ID.

189. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Mrs Eileen and Mr Paul Donaldson and Mr Peter Griffiths attended the meeting to express their concern with regards to the new school build and its layout affecting South Avenue.

It appears that the drop-off points will be on South Avenue. South Avenue cannot accommodate to passing cars currently and there is very little, if any, turning space.

They expressed disappointment at the showcase event as this was only an artist's impression and not the final plans.

Members reminded residents that a full planning application will need to be submitted and final details must be included. They also expressed concerns that squirrels are known to live in the trees along South Avenue should there be any plans to remove these.

Any development in this area will be subject to an ecology report and NCC must abide by the outcomes highlighted in that. The Town Council is not aware that these trees have a TPO on them. If the trees are in a conservation area, permission is needed before anything can be done to them. Clerk to check whether these are part of the conservation area.

It was queried why the entrance had to be on South Avenue. The residents and members are aware of a strip of land next to the south roundabout which could be utilised to create a safer entrance and exit for the children. Discussion also turned to concerns regarding Acklington Road and the Masons junction, which is already a very busy section of road. The residents were advised to get together and submit all of their objections and concerns individually on the planning portal when the planning application is submitted. There were concerns of what type of fencing will be used when the school building is finally complete. The Clerk to send Mrs Donaldson the Town Councils response to the James Calvert Spence consultation. Councillor Parks to ask that when the final plans are out, another consultation as arranged.

The residents also wished to discuss the antisocial behaviour within the town. They had recently been made aware of a group of young people pulling things off shelves in the local shops. Members made the residents aware that they meet on a monthly basis with Northumbria Police and do report these issues. The Town Council has also written to the Police and Crime Commissioner but did not receive an adequate response. Members have also provided information to Glen Sanderson at NCC and Ann Marie Trevelyan MP. Members attend an estate walkabout regularly with officers of Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police to highlight the specific areas which need action. The Town Council has also upgraded its CCTV system and switched supplier which should give a better service. Amble Youth Project are

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working on recreation and leisure projects to try and engage the young people. Members are actively encouraging all residents to report all issues of antisocial behaviour or any criminal offence so that the police force has the data to back up the resources needed for the town as without it, there is no evidence to back up the fact that there is a problem in Amble.

190. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

191.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023, items 168 – 186.3

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

192. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

192.1 Clerks Report attached

The Clerks report was noted and the Clerk was thanked for the work.

193 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

193.1: Chairman

All items on agenda.

Cllr Weir has been approached by Paul Creighton to install a plaque in dedication of a pediatrician born in Amble. All costs have been accounted for except for installation. If the Town Council was approached formally, Members would be asked to consider financing the installation.

193.2: Vice Chairman

All items on the agenda.

The Clerk is arranging a meeting with the allotment society with regards to Gloster Hill.

194. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

194.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark submitted apologies for the meeting but provided the below report.

- I attended the meeting revealing the new school plans for CSCA pre-planning consultation event, which seemed very well attended.

The plans look very impressive including send places modernising of South Avenue, the enhanced facilities including 3G football pitch, Multi use games area, running track etc.

Very impressive.

- Percy Drive (Highways Schemes Report) still stating with Design.

- A1068 roundabout island signage (taken out before Christmas with a car) Questioned Highways officer when this will be fixed at last LAC, He stated it was in the works programme.

- NCC confirmed proposed one-way system - cross street will be implemented in order to alleviate road safety issues.

- Still plenty of Housing issues coming in questioning why property is standing empty for so long. (Extensive work needs doing, bringing them up to standard)

- Question Why has the Links bus stop roof been taken off.

I explained the reason bus service no longer exists.

Anti-social behaviour. Rubbish being left.

Any update on Southmead footpath trying to get a cheaper solution

194.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

JCSC meeting was well attended. Terry and I went Cllr Dickinson hasn't attended any meetings re the school.

Good comments from attendees, mainly concerning accessibility to community sports activities and car parks. It was made clear the school will have to manage access and the Head seems up for that. Also concern about safe routes to school for bikes particularly from Warkworth

New traffic signs about to be erected on Acklington Road and I have agreed to let the TC decide the placement of existing cameras.

The overnight camping sites on the Braid are to be made permanent and altered slightly to accommodate original planned number of mobile homes.

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WHC are aware of TC plans to remove Coal Truck from current site and that the offer to weed kill it was rejected.

Cllr Lewis proposed the location of the interactive speed sign to be placed on Percy Drive near the vets before the houses. This proposal was accepted. The Clerk to contact NCC. Clarity is needed on the motorhomes and whether this is a permanent solution all year round or whether this is seasonal.

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

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

To note the notes of the T&PCWG attended by Cllr Weir

Noted.

Councillor Weir attended the Town and Parish Council Working Group, the Amble Development Trust Investment Plan meeting and meeting with Northumbria Police, James Calvert Spence College, Playzone, Ann Marie Trevelyan and a site visit to Longhoughton Parish Council. Councillor Weir also attended a meeting with Rudi Wright of Amble homes. Notes of various meetings have been provided.

Councillor Morrison attended a meeting of the AONB, the Amble Youth Project AGM, NTC, Events Committee and also made members aware that the Puffin Festival will take place on the 27th and 28th of May 2023.

Councillor Dancer will be attending the NALC meeting on Sunday the 12th of February.

Councillor Parks has attended meetings with Amble Youth Project and James Calvert Spence College.

196. FINANCIAL REPORT:

196.1 To consider voucher numbers 271 – 287 for payment and 80 - 92 for receipt.

The payments and receipts were approved.

196.2 Bank Reconciliation

Accepted

196.3 Year to date figures

Noted

196.4 Grant Requests

- **To discuss grant request from Hadston House**
A grant of £100 was agreed. Clerk to action.
- **To discuss the grant request from the Rotary Santa Sleigh**
A grant of £160 was agreed. Clerk to action.

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196.5 To note the periodic review carried out by Barclays

The review has been complete. Clerk to contact the mandate team to check progress of their work.

196.6 To note future report on comparison of bank business accounts

Members will receive an update once this has been complete.

197. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

197.1 To agree the cemetery fees for 2023-24

Members agreed to a 2% increase on all main items and a small increase on others.

197.2 To receive an update on the painting of the Church Street Bus Shelter

The painting has yet to be done.

197.3 To receive an update on Links Avenue Bus Shelter

The work to the Links Avenue Bus Shelter has been completed. Clerk to ask NCC who is responsible for removing bus shelter signage. Clerk to ask NCC if they would like anything painted on the shelter similar to that on the Church Street shelter.

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197.4 To receive an update on removal and replacement of old seats

All seats except the Dilston Terrace seat have been done. Members agreed that Cllr Weir could

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have the old seat ends for use in a project.

197.5 To approve the minutes of the Amenities Committee 26 January 2023

Subject to a change of the date, the content of the minutes were approved.

197.6 To receive an update on the relocation of the Coal Truck

The coal truck has been emptied however is in a state of disrepair. NCC can repair this with marine ply although there have been no costs received regarding this. It was queried how much another contractor had charged for the refurbishment of the others. Clerk was instructed to seek quotation and if within £50 of previous costs, to proceed with the refurbishment.

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Items received outside of meeting.

Acklington Road Dog Bin

post on the Industrial Estate is no good for this location. It was agreed to place a proper bin on Gloster Meadows and a lamp post bin opposite the school for Robsons Way.

Interment Costs

The Council was asked to consider costs for a Full Body Interment and ashes at the same time. As this is only one dig, it was proposed to charge a full body interment fee and a £100 admin fee for the ashes interment. This was agreed.

Memorial amendments

Members were asked to consider a new plinth to an old grave plot. A blank headstone is also to be erected here. Members had no objections.

NCC Asset Check update

Staff have carried out a review of the asset work and have expressed concerns at the quality of work. The Clerk has contacted NCC and has been requested to provide a list of work ahead of the SLA meeting on 7 March 2023.

Water Point instead of Single Use Plastic

As there is already a water point at the Bunk House, and concerns around installation and ongoing costs, Members decided not to proceed.

It was suggested that perhaps local coffee establishments could offer a donation in return for returned coffee cups. CW to raise with ADT.

CW

198: PLANNING COMMITTEE

198.1 To note the planning outcomes for January 2023

The outcomes were noted.

198.2 To receive an update on Conservation Approval pollarding of trees in Memorial Gardens

An application form has been submitted and staff await to hear the outcome.

199. AGENDA ITEMS:

199.1 To receive notes on meeting and an update on the culvert works

Notes of the meeting were circulated. Esh intend to start on site on 20 February 2023.

199.2 To agree to Chairs attendance at NCC Race Night 10 February at a cost of £10.00 and to also agree to attendance to NCC Black Tie Event £35 on 11 March 2023.

Attendance was agreed. Clerk to action.

199.3 To note and discuss information provided on EV Charging points

As there are already charging points in the Turner Street Car Park and TIC car park members decided not to proceed with this. There was concern that the 4 hour car park at the TIC was now only 1 hour. The Clerk was also requested to ask the traffic warden to attend the Bluebell Car Park.

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199.4 To note guidance received from NALC

NALC provided information with regards to a vote of no confidence. NALC have stated that there is no legal way a vote of no confidence can remove a Councillor.

199.5 To receive an update on the visit to local facilities

Members attended a site visit to Longhoughton Parish Council to discuss how it is operated and managed. This building is not managed by a Town Council and is therefore able to apply for extra funding. The site visit was successful. It was suggested that at the Parish Meeting, Members could

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explain the idea of a Community Steering Group with bullet point expectations and perhaps a draft constitution. Once the steering group is established the next step would be to set the group up as a charity which can take some time.

A visit to seahouses is to be arranged next, suggested dates 20/21 February 2023.

Clerk to arrange the Parish Meeting.

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199.6 Update on Play Zone and Cycleways

Notes of the online meeting were circulated. A meeting to discuss cycleways with Stuart McNaughton is needed.

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199.7 To receive an update on coronation gift

Approximately 1080 mugs would be needed to cover all schools in the Town totalling a cost of approximately £6000. It was acknowledged that £6000 was a substantial sum of money from the budget for this but it was noted that this was instead of the fireworks usually held.

Cllr Lewis proposed to proceed with the mugs. This was seconded by Cllr Parks. A vote was held, all in favour.

Discussion then took place regarding the design options. Members agreed to use the bunting design with the standard message. There may be some left over which could be available for donations.

199.8 To receive an update on the EIIR bed

NCC have said that the bed at Gibson Street is no longer suitable for the EIIR plans due to the following issues.

- The raised bed will have to be built so high that you will not see anything behind it.
- The height of the timbers will need substantial support.
- The bed will look obtrusive from the side and behind
- This may create sight line issues.

The bed that sits alone at Dilston Terrace street may be more suitable.

Members are to discuss further at the SLA meeting on 7 March 2023 and to also discuss the options for Gibson Street then too.

199.9 To note the feedback from NCC with regards to the purchase of grit bins

NCC have confirmed that they would not sell a bin to a group of private individuals.

They would suggest that residents purchase these from a regular hardware shop.

The siting of any grit bin within the adopted Highway would have to be agreed with NCC. The residents would assume full responsibility for maintaining the bin and keeping it topped up.

199.10 To note the feedback on the toilet refurbishment

NCC have confirmed during February, the Property Services Team will be formally assessing the work required to affect a repair for the Harbour toilets and that after this has been complete, they will be working on a plan of action to get the work done and the toilets back open as soon as possible. Alternative PC sign to be erected in the meantime.

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

200.1 Crime Stoppers 9/01,

200.2 Anne Marie Trevelyan Newsletter 16/01, 20/01, 27/01,

200.3 JCSC Consultation event 25 January 2023 and subsequent comments.

200.4 To note correspondence from resident re Right of Way West Avenue – New Hall Farm and subsequent Freedom of Information Request

200.5 NALC News January

200.6 To note the update from Northumbria Police re Acklington Road

200.7 Northumbria Connected 16/01,25/01,

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- 200.8 Healthwatch Northumberland 26/01,**
- 200.9 International Womens Day 8 March 2023**
- 200.10 Walking in Northumberland**
- 200.11 Note: Response to Warkworth Neighbourhood Plan**
- 200.12 Note: Response to Coquet School Partnership Presentation**
- 200.13 To note complaint re Coble Quay Walkway**

Noted en bloc

201. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the information items.*

- 201.1 Alnwick Garden Club event 31/01,**
- 201.2 To note the minutes of the meeting with Anne Marie Trevelyan 27 January 2023**
- 201.3 To note the events taking place at The Women’s Workshop**
- 201.4 Can Enews 6/01, 20/01,**
- 201.5 Choices for Growth Newsletter**
- 201.6 Digital Catapult Workshops**
- 201.7 Green Matters Community Day**
- 201.8 NCC Charter / Who’s Who**
- 201.9 Notes of the Estate Walkabout 18 January 2023**
- 201.10 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 24 January 2023**
- 201.11 To note the notes of the Partnership Meeting with NCC 10 February 2023**
- 201.12 Scams and Fraud Advice – Northumbria Police**
- 201.13 To note the notes of the Teams meeting with Kathy Keadie**
- 201.14 To note the notes of the Locality Meeting 10 January 2023**
- 201.15 To note the notes of the meeting with AAHS 7 January 2023**

Noted en bloc

202. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

- 202.1 9th March 2023, 6.00pm, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2**

203. DATES FOR DIARIES

- 7 February 2023 PlayZone Funding**
- 9 February 2023 Alnwick and District Sports Awards**
- 10 February 2023 Councillor Weir Charity Race Night**
- 15 February 2023 Mapping Software Training**
- 20th February 2023 – ESH start date**
- 21st and 22nd February 2023 – Staff Training**
- 21 February 2023 – Northumbria Police**
- 28 February 2023 – Robin McCartney TBC**
- 7 March 2023 – Partnership Meeting**
- 3 April 2023 - Estate Walkabout and meeting location 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.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

204: MINUTES –

- 204.1: To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 12 January 2023, items 184 – 186.3**

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The minutes of the meeting were approved.

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

205.1 To receive an update on the Amble Investment Plan meeting of 18 January 2023 and subsequent notes

Noted

205.2 Cllr Weir notes of the meeting with Amble Development Trust 18 January 2023

Noted

There was some discussion with regards to the Peace Sculpture being included within the sculpture trail. Permission was granted subject to discussion on where the QR code would be placed.

206. AGENDA ITEMS

206.1 To receive an update on recreation projects if available.

Work is progressing on PlayZone sites although there has been no decision as of yet.

Feedback was received from the football foundation. Amble is one of their targeted areas and they are very keen to do more sessions.

206.2 To receive a legal update if available

The Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair met with the developers. They are liaising directly with Home Group.

206.3 Update on CCTV

The CCTV maintenance reports were reviewed. Members considered replacing 2 cameras before the next quarterly check as they are showing some water ingress. This was agreed. Clerk to contact contractor.

Clerk to purchase a log book.

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