

Annual Parish Meeting 4 May 2023

Present:

Amble Town Council: David Bewley, Helen Lewis, Kate Morrison, Paul Dancer, Jackie Turpin, Ian Parks, Craig Weir

CO-OP: Kristine Boyd ,

Amble Development Trust: Mandy Bond

Amble and Warkworth Rotary: Bill Downing / Alan Davies

Amble Youth Project: Matthew Connelly **Amble Women's Institute:**

Members of the public: Reg Bond, Maureen Gibson

Craig Weir welcomed all to the meeting.

Those present were informed that the Parish meeting is not a Council meeting but is a meeting required by law and as no other organisation runs it, the Town Council must facilitate this on behalf of the community. All community groups are welcome to these meetings to give an annual update and to share their ambitions for the next 12 months. For the purpose of these notes, verbal updates are in italics.

Craig Weir: 'Let me make it clear about why we have a Parish meeting. It is so that Community groups can inform the Community about what they have to offer for the future and give a précis of what they have achieved in the past year. In law ATC take the lead as no other organisation holds it- so this is not to be treated as a Council meeting. As far as this meeting is concerned ATC are just a Community group and will produce a statement alongside and equal to all other organisations.'

The minutes of the meeting of 3 May 2022 were accepted.

Report from Amble Town Council.

My fellow Councillors and I would like to thank all those members of the Community who have helped or supported us whether through their normal work or as volunteers. It is amazing to see the vast variety of ways in which people have gone out of their way and shown so much concern for others - it is much appreciated.

Two points to make

One is to give my appreciation to all Councillors. It is very rare that we get a thank you, so as the present Chairman of the council it is up to me to say thank you to our Councillors for their work and being a great team over the past year. Not many members of the community are aware of the amount of work carried out by the elected Council. You will find that most Community organisations and projects in Amble will have a Council presence- either as a Team member or with an input from the Council.

Councillors should be commended for their unstinting and unselfish efforts and the time spent working for the good of the Community.

This dedication sometimes escapes the notice of the general community. Councillors are unpaid volunteers who commit their time and energy to try and make Amble a better place to live in.

Unfortunately for many members of the public, their perception about what the Town Council actually does is unclear.

A large percentage only approach the Council when an issue occurs near their home or affects them directly. When analysed, these issues could be dealt with by themselves using the relevant communication sources, but nevertheless ATC do deal with them.

*Similarly some people join the Council with an idea to change some small part of Amble and find that they need to consider the Town as a whole. Some do not last very long when they find the workload too demanding. As a point of note! There are two vacancies, **anyone??***

Two and no particular order here are some of the projects ATC have been involved in and the list does get longer each year.

Advance and their developments on Coquet Enterprise Park

Traffic management and parking meetings and the final opening of the Turner St car park

Memorial events including Remembrance Sunday

The Partnership with NCC bringing a great improvement to the services to the Town, Memorial gardens and the work of our contractor

Both cemeteries work and upgrades

Improvements to the Paddlers

Seats, bins, Information boards etc

Events committee

Police meetings and neighbourhood walkabouts

School liaisons have started again

Hopefully assist with the new development at JCSC

Then there are the outside bodies which we have attended

Sorry about the acronyms NALC, NCC, CAN, AYP, NTC, CCT, ADT

My apologies if I have missed anything.

Finally you may have noticed I have left until now the most essential part of our Council. So, my thanks to our dedicated staff, Vicki, Suzanne and Anna who have coped brilliantly with all the unexpected difficulties and changes, but especially for putting up with our whimsical ways. **THANK YOU**

The Town Council has also visited all schools in Amble this week and on behalf of the town has presented each school child, from reception to 6th form, with a commemorative mug ahead of the Coronation this weekend.

Report from Amble Development Trust

Regeneration & Physical Development:

While the Bird Sculpture Trail has been our main focus for some time, we are nearing the final hurdle and look forward to sharing the trail and app and printed leaflets with everyone at the Puffin Festival in May prior to the official opening in June where we hope to have a Royal guest officiating. However, at the time of writing plans are still being finalised.

We are currently going through a stage of writing an updated Investment Plan, to which members of the community were invited to participate in a workshop in January. The

ideas that came out of the workshop will inform the direction of the next stage of regeneration. The funding for this plan is coming from Northumberland County Council (NCC) who have encouraged its production. This document will be used to attract funding for projects that have been identified by the community. The report will be published at the end of April and be available to view on the Trust website.

The Welfare park:

We are currently working with Northumberland County Council to secure funding for a new surface for the children's play park and refurbishment of the Mugas (or Playzones as they have been renamed). The funding for the play park has been confirmed and will come from what is known as Section 106 contributions from local development projects.

This fund will also be used by NCC to match the funding they are hoping to secure through the Football Foundation /Sport England. A consultation drop-in session was held on Monday 13th March for people to complete forms to say what games/activities they would like to see marked on the footprint of the Playzone. This consultation has now closed and the findings will be included in the full application to be submitted by NCC. If successful work will commence late summer this year.

We have two teams using the amenities at the welfare. One doing very well in their league and the other doing extremely well in recruiting young people and helping to get them fit and healthy.

We have begun the installation of a Community Orchard having planted 20 fruit trees. However, we have secured funding for many more but it won't be released until later this year, so plans are on hold for the time being. We would like to thank our volunteers for their patience.

We also await more information from NCC on the new High School development. As the current plans include passage across the welfare from the old site which will still be used as a car park and drop off point to the new site, we welcome contact to discuss how this will work and to see if we can negotiate use of the car park for our football teams at weekends and evenings for matches and training. This will be beneficial to the teams and residents of nearby streets where parking is proving an issue.

The Ambler:

This continues to play a major role in keeping the community informed of local news and happenings. Once again, we are grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who have assisted the editor throughout the pandemic to ensure the bimonthly newspaper has continued to be delivered to your door. Not only are we proud of the production, but The Ambler has also been nominated for the Independent Community Newspaper of the Year Award. And hot off the press we have just been told 'The Ambler' has been Highly Commended. Well done to the whole Ambler team and a big thank you to everyone for their continued hard work.

The Year Ahead:

As you will have read, we are in the throes of either writing or being involved in several reports and studies. While not the most interesting of activities to report back to members they are essential for ensuring we have an evidence base of community consultation that has identified projects to support funding applications. Once the reports are completed and submitted, we will roll our sleeves up and begin the delivery process.

We will continue to support our high street in whatever way we can. While the nature of high streets continues to change, with more businesses providing services that cannot be bought online, Amble has been fortunate in that we have very few vacant premises. This interest appears to be continuing and we hope Queen Street remains as vibrant as it currently is. We will take advantage of any opportunities we can identify to aid the town's sustainability, which we believe will be assisted by the new town centre car park.

We will also explore any opportunities to create more affordable housing. While there are housing developments in the pipeline there would appear not to be sufficient to meet current needs.

The objectives of the Trust have always been to assist the town to achieve its potential and given the profile we have had in the last year it would appear we are having some success. However, we believe there is still work to do that can be achieved by working in partnership with local groups and organisations e.g., Amble Business Club, Amble Town Council and Northumberland County Council as well as external organisations. This we will do wherever possible with the relevant group or organisations to ensure we get the best for our town. We will also continue to exploit marketing and publicity opportunities which present themselves to ensure we can carry on enhancing our town for the benefit of all.

Report from Amble Youth Project

Matthew Connelly thanked those members of the community for their continued support for the Youth Project. There are two Cllrs as trustees on the board and their support and help is very much valued. The Town Council has generously donated to recent projects.

Over the last year the Youth Project has been working hard to enhance its profile to reach as many young people as possible and to help build better links within the community. The Youth project has been commended by Northumbria Police on how they are helping to tackle ASB in the town.

The Friday night group is now run by 2/3 adults and is attended by as many as 35/40 young people. The project is 'young person led' to ensure that what is on offer appeals to the young people using the facilities.

The Youth Project have developed a young leaders programme for 15,16- and 17-year-olds which has allowed these young people to expand their skills and even apply to university.

AYP are hosting a volunteer drive on 8 May and are hopeful that they may get some more volunteers to help out.

AYP relies solely on charitable finance as it does not receive any statutory funding, but they really want to continue supporting the children as much as they can. The next community event that they are involved in is the Puffin festival.

It is hoped that by continuing to work with these young people that they are having a positive impact and changing their perspective.

AYP have visited schools as part of their sunflower award and there is a competition to see who can grow the largest sunflower. This project is aimed to link in the growth and nurture of a sunflower and that of a person.

Kristine Boyd – Member Pioneer – Co-op

AYP is one of the CO-OP causes this year, whenever you buy own brand items from Co-op, AYP will benefit.

Kristine is the community link between the store and the community. Currently Amble does not have a community link and so Kristine is filling that gap.

It was surprising to see how many local and community groups are run by volunteers only and how much free time is given to the Town.

Cllr Lewis informed Kristine that there was a community leaflet developed some time ago which listed all the community groups and activities on offer. It is hoped that this 'advertising' of what is available can be re-established and is something that JCSC can take on.

NTC *Cllr Morrison reported on the recent performance of Frankenstein.*

Women's Institute *The Women's Institute is active and ongoing with 80 members.*

Report from Pride in Amble

Although Pride in Amble as an organisation has reduced in numbers since it started 13 years ago, the work carried on regardless. But this means that we can only look after a limited number of floral beds, and this is a shame. The beds we can manage consist of those in the Memorial Gardens.

The raised bed with the large fir tree at its centre has been planted with many spring bulbs for this year courtesy of NCC, they have been extremely helpful as usual, and we give them a big thank you. For those who have not had the time to go there, take time out and look at the tulips.

The rose beds by the Radcliffe Memorial and near the fence have been pruned for the summer season, with some additional planting courtesy of ATC. The white rose bed has been handed back to its owners at ADT so let's hope it looks good for this year.

There have been several people expressing an interest in helping with this project so we will continue as long as we are able or until someone takes over. If so, we can then increase our activities to other areas.

A member of Pride in Amble has been invited to Alnwick Castle and nominated as an unsung community hero.

Report from Amble Veterans Breakfast Club

It became obvious when the Amble/ Warkworth R.B.L. shut down that there was a need for Armed Forces Veterans to get together and discuss the merits of their own services and in their own unique language with plenty of banter!

So, after a few enquiries, about 13 tri- service personnel said they would like to meet up for a Saturday breakfast. As the word got out there were 25 people turn up including ex-service women. So, the need was established.

A larger venue was then needed so since then once a month the Veterans meet in the Masons Arms on the third Saturday of the month at 1000hrs. It was decided by all that there would be no plus ones on these occasions, so they meet at Circa for their breakfast.

Numbers have been steadily increasing and regularly there is 25-30 meeting up with more expressing an interest.

Thanks to NCC Communities Together a sum of money has been donated to ensure the future of this venture with some possible summer meetings, maybe even with the plus ones??

So as can be seen a need has been established and we welcome all tri-service veterans and serving personnel for a good reasonable priced breakfast and a few hours of service banter.

I have no idea where this is going or what the result will be? But if you know someone who fits the criteria mention this to them.

Historic Blue Plaque

Matthew Connolly gave an update on the progress of the installation of the above plaque in honour of James Calvert Spence who was a renowned paediatrician. He was a founding member of the British Paediatric Association and was born in Amble.

Dovecote Street Art Show

The Town Council has paid for some of the material to create the gallery for the art show. The gallery was built was Jim Donnelly and Matthew Connolly.

Report from Northumbria Police

The below is a summery for the past 12 months in the F6P1 Foot beat which encompasses Amble along with other areas. Amble does make up the main residential area however given the system limitations the below only provides an estimate of the yearly figures. Given this and as below the total numbers of Incidents reported area and the main areas of reports

Total incidents	1521
DA incidents	134

Mental health	93
Alcohol related	40
Youth related	111

This is showing an increase of approximately 11% for reported incidents in comparison to last year. ASB has been part of this increase however in looking at the reported increase the main area has been the upturn in recent reporting of off-road bikes and the issues that this causes. Some of this incident increases will also be due to potential duplicate reporting which the performance software is unable to distinguish between.

Reported crime has also shown an increase of 30% in the last 12 months in comparison to the lows of 2022 however crime is still in line with 2021 and lower than that of 2020 levels. The main increases have been that public disorder reports and criminal damage reports.

The above will be further discussed in the rest of the report

Crime reports

In relation to crime and the breakdown for the past 12 months is shown below. There have been 513 crimes with a break down in the main categories or reports

Total crimes	513
Domestic crime	72
Alcohol related	57
Youth related	63

Domestic relates and Alcohol relates crimes are showing reductions at present after increasing late last year. Youth tagged crimes are showing current increases however this is coming from the perspective of very low levels at the end of last year and the start of this. An increase is also expected and in line with past crime trends as the lighter nights, better weather and increased footfall comes.

It should also be noted that in relation to the crime reported the top premises for the reported crimes have been local school, the holiday park and retail premises.

With reference to retail premises the increase is expected given the current cost of living crisis and this trend is being shown around the force area and expected to be shown nationally also. This is very much the same with acquisitive crimes such as thefts from vehicles, thefts from gardens and shed etc.

In general crime figures have been showing to be dropping steadily from a high in July 2022 to a low of January and then starting to rise which is in line with expected trends of past years.

ASB reports: There have been 233 reports of ASB in the past 12 months for the area with the main 4 areas of the reports broken down below.

Total reports	233
Rowdy inconsiderate behaviour	56
Motorcycle disorder	42
Youth related	40
Neighbour disputes	30

Of those 233 reports the following can be seen:

Domestic related	8
Mental Health	14
Alcohol	5

General ASB reports have been shown to be increasing at present with as mentioned a high increase in motorbike and vehicular ASB shown as the main cause. However, it should be shown that these reported increases are coming from record lows for the past 3 years in Dec 2022 and is still close to the levels of 2020 and below the levels of 2021 which were shown to be higher substantially.

It should also be noted that recorded youth related ASB is shown to be as low as other past years and in some cases lower. There were highs during the September and October months however there has been a steady reduction since on the provided performance figures for the area.

NPT actions

As you be aware from the monthly reports, we are continuing to work within the community to reduce these reports and there has been a number of actions taken which have included the following.

- Obtaining money in order to assist with the improvement of the Amble Youth Project
- Close working with the town council to improve the local CCTV systems and its usage
- Appropriate action being taken with youths involved in ASB related incidents through the use of Northumbria police processes within the last 12 months 30 plus ASB visits, and letters have delivered
- Walkarounds with local councillors and partners in order to identify issues and put in place actions to prevent any further issues
- Closer contact and involvement with local businesses such as the Co-op, Tesco's in order to reduce ASB and Crime
- Continues patrols and enforcement actions taken in identified hotspots such as Queen Street
- Use of drones to reduce the issues with motorbikes leading to 5 bike seizures
- Working with the council officers in order to reduce ASB and reported incidents in the area
- Recently received long lens camera that was purchased by the council

On behalf of Amble Town Council:

Community Hub Plea

Relevantly speaking Amble is a young Town in comparison with the rest of Northumberland. This is one of the reasons that Amble, unlike many villages which we once were, does not have a Community Hall or Central hub; yet we have had over the few years of its existence Church Halls and the Legion Club- many of whom no longer exist.

Amble has been a place fragmented by the social distancing of the work force, originally Fisherman, Builders and Coal workers. This identity was diluted further community wise by the new estates especially around Gloster Park and by the introduction of the village of Radcliffe into Amble. Now there are more estates emerging. Integration has been difficult over the years but now people are connecting together more.

No central hub has been apparent here even though some Churches have used their facilities to try and alleviate this problem, but it has been very limited. Just over 5 years ago an attempt was made to use the old URC church and turn it into a Warm Hub with an aspiration to make it into a Community Centre. Lack of enthusiasm and the rising costs made this very difficult and consequently the idea was scrapped, and the Church put up for sale. The building itself would require an enormous amount of money to stabilise and remodel it and so is not a viable option.

In the past Amble did not had the wholistic will to have a centre for whole community usage. Many groups and organisations do exist now, but they are in all parts of the Town- they do a great job but without any central co-ordination this leads sometimes to doubling up of events and effort. Amble is growing rapidly, and these social groups are "scrambling" for space and facilities and a fixed identity. Some cannot even start as there is nowhere for them to meet.

Now it is being recognised by many that we desperately need a Community Centre, Hall, Hub or whatever it will be called?

Opportunities may be coming up in the next few years and Amble must be ready to take on the challenge. ATC have carried out some research into such centres elsewhere in the county.

It could be viable, more so if ATC used it as their office to help with the running costs. This can only be achieved if we have a dedicated group made up of all members of the community and such organisations as yours to plan a way ahead.

Specific details can be discussed at an inaugural meeting to assess this and the willingness to take part. So if you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk tonight or as soon as possible.

We need this to get started and we need you to take part NOW.

A small group needs to be established to work out what we want, where and how. Is there funding and who can apply, who would use the space. It is worth noting that

NCC recently refurbished part of the old Lindisfarne Middle School in Alnwick at a cost of £2m for this purpose – could the same be done with Edwin Street First School?

If you think you would like to help and get involved please get in touch.

Rotary Amble and Warkworth

FUND-RAISING 22/23	MAJOR BENEFICIARIES of Xmas Collections	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
<p>Like so many organisations over the past two years our meetings and activities have been, and still are, severely curtailed. A significant % of members are still in effective isolation due to family and medical issues.</p> <p>The Christmas Street Collection and at Morrison's resulted in a collection of £2000+ 1/3 of our pre-covid amount. There was no knocking on doors, but the sleigh stopped at pre-determined locations and the public were invited to join with us. The weather conditions severely hampered collections. All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elpha Lodge • Evergreen Teens • The Dovecote Centre NTG • Alnwick and District MENCAP • Boys Club Kick Boxing Group • The Pelican • The Ambler • Funding a young person to attend the week-long Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp in Upper Teesdale in August. • Others are yet to be finally agreed 	<p>Limited activities since lockdown and restricted numbers of members to take part:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued wildflower maintenance along Rotary Way. This sees the culmination of what has developed into a 14 yr. project for our members. • Crocus planting (now 40,000) corms planted. • Successful participation in the Rotary Young Writer Competition • Maintaining the Town Square planter in Amble • Taking the sleigh to residential homes over Xmas. 	<p>Many curtailed activities over the last 2 years, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stained Glass event in Warkworth church. • Visit to Cresswell Pele Tower • Xmas Dinner • Wine Tasting Eve • Whisky Tasting • Sherry tasting • 2 Green Day Events • Possible visit to the Sage <p>Recent speakers/Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC • Carbon Neutral Planning • Botswana • Blyth Ganzie Project • Bedlington Iron Works

<p>the Xmas funds go to local needy causes. Club Internally Generated Funds are used for international good causes like Shelterbox, Wateraid, etc. and for contributions to The Rotary Foundation 2021 Biennial Golf Day @ Foxton yielded a further £6000+ The proceeds all went in equal shares to the GNAAS, The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and The North Northumberland Hospice. The next Charity Golf Day is due to take place 25th September 2023</p>	<p>NB.Our support has been limited this year due to reduced fund raising.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long-term development of Rotary Way has resulted in our winning a joint second place in a national Rotary Environmental Competition. • Rotary way has won a District Environmental Award. • RAW has taken part in two events run by the Warkworth Green group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aln Valley Railway • The Blacksmith • Craig Weir • Mocha Mondri <p>We have been able to recruit 4 new members (possibly 5) this current Rotary year.</p>
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