

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2024

The Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council meeting of Thursday 11 January 2024, 6.00pm Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

C Weir (Chair) H Lewis, K Morrison, D Bewley, M Joyce, I Parks, P Dancer and C Palmer

V Smith – Minute Taker

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In line with Standing Order 3d-1 members of the public may at the invitation of the Chairman ask questions, make representations, and provide information to the Council in respect of the business on the agenda or any other Town Council services.

There were no members of the public present.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

173. APOLOGIES

None

174. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

174.1 Resignation of Donald Carmichael

Resolved: Members noted and accepted the resignation.

The co-option process has begun with a deadline of 24 January 2024.

175. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in

items on the agenda, as required by the Amble Town Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011, now or as they come up in the agenda process. Members are asked to review their completed Register of Interest forms to ensure that they are accurate and up to date.

Members to raise as and when necessary.

176. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

176.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023, items 154-172.3

Clarification on item 161.1 was given in that the organiser of the Young Citizen Award would be Amble Development Trust and not Amble Events Committee.

Resolved: Subject to the amendments above, the minutes were agreed as a true record.

177. CLERK'S REPORT:

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and

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consider actions where necessary.

177.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved: The Clerks report was received with thanks.

178. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

178.1: Chairman

Nothing to report since the last meeting.

178.2: Vice Chairman

Nothing to report since the last meeting.

179. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

179.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

- Work on the Coquet Partnership is progressing. It is expected that a site meeting will be arranged and that the Town Council will be invited.
- Grit bins have been provided to Coquet Grange x2, harbour village x1, lifeboat x1, Fourways x 1. These are being provided via the members small schemes however this is a one off purchase and will become the responsibility of the residents to look after going forward. Cllr Clark was advised to have this in writing.
- Cllr Clark confirmed that funding for CCTV updates from his Members Small Schemes had been approved.
- Cllr Clark reported on some anomalies with Fix MyStreet and the repairs being closed off without having been done. Cllr Joyce has a number of issues with Fix My Street and is to provide these to Cllr Clark. Clerk to ask Cllr Gordon Castle to include an update on Fix My Street in the North Area Committee Meetings.
- Cllr Clark was made aware that some bollards on Queen Street had been knocked over.
- Cllr Clark provided an update on Philip Drive however further anti social behaviour in the area and further driving on the grass has caused more damage.
- Cllr Clark assisted in an issue with rain water flowing towards properties on Links Avenue. The issue was resolved.
- NCC has begun its window and door installation programme with a number of streets in the East Ward to benefit from this. Cllr Clark was asked to remind those leading on the programme that the sheltered accommodation properties use a master key.
- Cllr Clark was not aware whether the funds had run out for the toilet refurbishment as rumoured. Clerk to add to SLA agenda. It was noted that NCC do not have a legal obligation to provide toilets.

179.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

- The Coquet partnership progresses with new work having started on the South Street site, residents have been informed
- Plans progressing for JCSC rebuild with announcements of the selected contractor imminent

TC

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- The extension of double yellow lines on the corner of Bisley Road and Acklington Road have met the criteria and I have approved them
- Christmas shut downs have had an effect on pothole repairs but efforts are being made to catch up
- Trees on the Wynd have work scheduled for the 22 -26 Jan to include Crowning, traffic lights will be in use
- Planning permission for 6 new houses (holiday homes) at bottom of Beal Bank refused under delegated powers

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

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

Cllr Weir is expected to attend the meeting of Amble Development Trust next week and will provide an update.

Cllr Bewley attended a meeting with the Fire Service regarding the parking issues on Acklington Road. The meeting was not well attended and further discussions are necessary.

Cllr Bewley attended the Winning Strategies for the Funding Game online session.

Cllr Lewis provided an update on D Day. Clerk to seek insurance costs. Entertainment has been booked. Vendors to be contacted nearer the time. It was suggested that it may be acceptable to request donations, however further consideration would be needed at a future meeting.

181. FINANCIAL REPORT:

181.1 To consider voucher numbers 218- 244 for payment and 65-71 for receipt.

Cllr Weir declared an interest in payment voucher 236.

Resolved: The payments and receipts were approved.

181.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: The bank reconciliation was accepted.

181.3 Year to date figures

Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

181.4 Grant Requests

- **James Calvert Spence College**

As the Town Council have already supported this financial year, JCSC are to be asked to reapply after April.

181.5 To agree precept requirement for 2024-25

Members considered both budget proposals for the 2024-25 precept.

It was proposed and seconded to accept the 1% increase, taking the precept to £234, 463. All in favour.

Resolved: Members agreed a 1% precept increase. Clerk to contact NCC.

181.6 To discuss and agree statement and explanation of Earmarked Funds

Members were provided with an explanation alongside the figures for those projects listed within the earmarked funds. Another document providing greater detail will be drafted.

Resolved: Members accepted the explanations provided.

Alongside this work, a full review of contractual obligations has been carried out. Members

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were presented with the figures and agreed additional monies required to cover the contractual obligations are to be found from the general fund.

Resolved: Clerk to make the necessary amends to the earmarked funds.

181.7 To note the increase to the admin charge for the payroll SLA with NCC.

Resolved: The 2024-25 increase was accepted and noted.

182.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

182.1 To note the damage to grass at Philip Drive and intended remedial works to be carried out by NCC

Resolved: Noted however members are also aware of further driving on the grass which has damaged this further. It was clarified that this was not done by operatives working in the area.

183: PLANNING COMMITTEE

183.1 To note January 2024 Planning Outcomes

Resolved: The outcomes were noted.

Cllr Morrison also reported that owners of The Wave property on Island View were unhappy with the tone of the comments on the planning portal.

184. AGENDA ITEMS:

184.1 To receive clarification of County Councillor support for new CCTV infrastructure.

Cllr Clark confirmed funding had been secured. Many thanks.

184.2 To receive an update on works to be carried out by Natural England Eco System Assessment Programme

It was confirmed that no soil sampling was to be carried out however an assessment of landscape and vegetation would be looked at. The Town Council have asked for a copy of the outcome.

184.3 To receive an update on the Community Website

Another meeting is to be arranged. Cllrs requested an update on what the students have researched and input. Another post for input has been shared on social media. Hoodies have been ordered.

184.4 To consider the street naming request for North Sea Manor Phase B.

Resolved: Members had no objections to Albatross Place. Clerk to contact the NCC officer.

184.5 To agree retrospective approval for training textbook for staff

Resolved: Retrospective approval was given for a cost of £52.

184.6 To agree a date for public meeting to gauge interest for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved: Members agreed a date of 6 February 2024 for the public meeting. Clerk to book conference room and publicise the date.

184.7 To discuss changes to social media working party and membership of Councillors

Resolved: Cllr Bewley agreed to join the Social Media Working Party. A date for a meeting is to be agreed.

184.8 To receive an update on the Expression of Interest submission for Amble First School and to note next steps including meeting with estates officers if available.

A meeting has been arranged for 17 January 2024. All Members welcome. It is hoped that NCC will be able to provide sufficient information on their intention for the site so that the Town Council can consider the next steps.

TC

TC

TC

TC

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184.9 To consider the content of the Warkworth Neighbourhood Plan, currently under consultation and independent examiner review. Deadline 14 February 2024.

Clerk to request a hard copy be sent to the office. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan designated area only covers Warkworth village and not the parish or settlement boundary.

184.10 To consider and agree content of the Newspaper for The Ambler and other publicity outlets.

Resolved: Members approved the content of the newspaper however the Clerk was requested to fact check the joy riding item with Northumbria Police prior to publication.

TC

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

185.1 Northumbria Police 14/12

Noted.

185.2 CAN 8/12

Noted.

185.3 To note the letter from Mr Bird re advertising during the Christmas Parade

Noted.

185.4 To consider content of resident correspondence regarding safer pedestrian access to JCSC school sites

Noted. The resident has been contacted and been made aware that the Town Councils comments are on the planning portal.

185.5 To consider content of resident correspondence regarding planning application 23/03698/discon

Noted. The residents has been contacted and been made aware that the Town Councils comments are on the planning portal.

Also to note:

AONB National Landscapes Programme

Resident volunteer offer – contacted by Cllr Morrison

Sports Awards Nominees request by 20th January 2024 – Tracey Sample has been contacted for suggestions. Any other suggestions to the Clerk by 20 January 2024.

Rivers Group meeting 15 January 2024, Hermitage Inn.

186. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

186.1 To receive the notes of the meeting with Robin McCartney, Highways Infrastructure Manager, 13 December 2023.

Noted

186.2 To note the update regarding Fix My Street

Noted

186.3 To note Town Council December Update

Noted

186.4 To receive notes of the meeting with Northumbria Police 29 November 2023

Noted

187. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

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187.1 8 February 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

188. DATES FOR DIARIES

- 16 January 2024 – Cllr Weir and Amble Juniors Photograph, 6.30pm, JCSC Sports Hall – all members welcome.
- 17 January 2024, Michael Gilroy and Paul Brooks re Amble First School, 2.00pm – all members welcome
- 23 January 2024 – Northumbria Police, 5.30pm, all members welcome
- 25 January 2024 – Amenities Committee, 6.00pm
- 30 January 2024 – Partnership Meeting with NCC, 10am – all members welcome.
- 30 January 2024, TBC Highways Infrastructure Manager, 2.00pm, all members welcome
- 31 January 2024, AAHS AGM, 7.00pm, Radcliffe Club
- 5th February 2024, Estate Walkabout, 10am, Ivy Street
- 6th February 2024, Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Meeting, 6.00pm
- 8 February 2024 – Full Council
- 14 March 2024 – Town and Parish Council Conference

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: To consider passing the following resolution: That under Section 1(2) the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the agenda due to their sensitive nature.

PRIVATE

189: Exempt Report – attached

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

Resolved: Accepted with thanks

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

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

Cllr Joyce reported that the refuelling tanker at Eshott Airfield was no longer there.

191. AGENDA ITEMS

191.1 To receive a legal update on progression with Amble Homes

Deed of Variation completion date to be determined by Amble Homes.

The Amble Homes outline planning application is live on the planning portal and the agreed statement has been published. Some queries have been received and are being addressed. A response to planning to be submitted to state that the Town Council will not be commenting on this application due to its interest in the land.