

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2024

The Minutes of the Ordinary Full Council meeting of Thursday 8 February 2024,
6.00pm Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

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

V Smith – Minute Taker

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In line with Standing Order 3d-l 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

192.APOLOGIES

Cllr Palmer Apologies accepted

Cllr Bewley Apologies accepted

193. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

193.1 To receive an update on the Co-Option

Notification has been received from the County Council that the Town Council can co-opt at its earliest convenience. Adverts have been published.

TC

194. 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.

The Chair requested Member agreement to revise the date of the Full Council meeting on 14 March 2024 to 13 March 2024 to allow member attendance at Civic Events and County Conference.

Resolved: Agreement to hold March meeting on 13 March 2024.

ALL

195. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

195.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024, items 173-191.1

Resolution: The minutes of 11 January 2024 were approved as a true record.

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196. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

196.1 Clerks Report

Members were made aware that there continues to be scam emails circulating pertaining to be from Councillor Weir. Members were reminded not to engage.

The Clerk is continuing to resolve the email issues with the hosting provider.

Subject to amendment to the Clerks report it was resolved to accept the report.

197. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

197.1: Chairman

The Chair attended an Amble Juniors football session at JCSC Sports Hall to present the football equipment purchased by the Town Council.

197.2: Vice Chairman

All activities are contained within the agenda.

198. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

County Councillors were advised that an update was needed in respect of the toilet refurbishment and the work to trees on Rivergreen.

198.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark's grit bin request through his Members Small Schemes was rejected however this can come from his revenue stream from 1 April 2024. Cllr Clark to check that the grit bins are the appropriate colour for private bins and adhere to highways standards.

Fix My Street continues to need fine-tuned and more in house training is required. Costs are only realised once a job has been completed.

A response from Greg Gavin regarding the toilet update was given. The Amble toilets are in the programme however capital from the 24/25 budget needs to be agreed before any more works can be done.

Members were made aware that concerns had been received regarding flooding issues at the gut and to raise these with Northumbria Water. Northumbria Water pumping water out from the gut after heavy rainfall. Queries were raised as to whether this would affect the planning application for the area. This information was passed to the relevant departments in County Hall.

Cllr Clark received concerns for safety from a local resident. This was passed to Public Protection.

Fly Tipping on the Lord Mayors Field continues however now that this is private land, NCC would not remove it. Neighbourhood Services are to contact Park Leisure once more to establish whether they would like to enter into a maintenance agreement, especially regarding grass work.

Cllr Clark made housing aware of the master key required for sheltered housing accommodation.

198.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson confirmed that Amble toilets are on the list. The works would be a refurbishment rather than a replacement. The budget for this will be discussed within the next two weeks.

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Similarly to Cllr Clark, Cllr Watson also received concerns regarding Northumbria Water working on the gut and has advised those residents with planning concerns to list their objections on the portal.

Cllr Watson informed Members that Warkworth Parish Council intended to object to the Amble Homes development on the ground of Highways concerns and overdevelopment. Works to trees at Rivergreen has been done as per agreement. The woods beyond the houses here should be tidied up by Northumberland Estates, who have been reminded of this.

The NCC depot on the A1068 has been screened by 65 Laurels.

Woodbine Street is due to be resurfaced and a bus pull in installed.

Cllr Watson had received an update regarding Coble Quay walkway in that following Council legal advice, a meeting is to be arranged with NCC and the land owners to resolve this. A response must be received, or further action must be taken.

It was queried whether NCC have any plans to repair the fence on the side of the river or the small wall along Rotary Way.

It was queried who was responsible for the dunes. Cllr Watson advised contacting Danny Goodall at NCC.

Cllr Watson presented an award at the Alnwick and District Sports Award.

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

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

Councillor Weir removed the xmas tree lights and attended meetings re Amble Community Hub, Amble Development Trust, Partnership Meeting with NCC, Locality meeting, Amble Homes, on site meeting with Northumbria Water at Paddlers Park, Neighborhood Planning and the Estate Walkabout.

Cllr Weir provided a verbal update regarding the Estate Walkabout attended by reps from ATC, NCC, Northumbria Police and Homes for Northumberland. Ivy Street was looking well maintained and the grass where the shrubs had been had been seeded.

Sandy Way near Kennedy Road had issues with bushes overgrowing and had asked NCC to remove them however they are not NCCs responsibility.

Concerns were raised about the area behind the VG shop.

Councillor Lewis attended the AAHS AGM. Notes have been provided.

Cllr Dancer attended a meeting of NALC where the main focus was on street planning.

Cllrs Parks and Joyce are to attend the Town and Parish Council Conference.

200. FINANCIAL REPORT:

200.1 To consider voucher numbers 245 – 260 for payment and 72 - 76 for receipt.

Resolved: Payments and Receipts were accepted.

200.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: Bank reconciliation was accepted.

200.3 Year to date figures

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Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

200.4 Grant Requests

None

200.5 To discuss a contribution to the Young Citizen of the Year Award

It was proposed to donate £100 to the Young Citizen of the Year Award. This was seconded.

Resolved: Amble Town Council to donate £100 to Young Citizen of the Year Award. Clerk to contact Amble Development Trust.

200.6 To note submission of town precept request.

Noted

201.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

201.1 To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee 28 January 2024

Resolved: Amenities Minutes items 62 – 76 were approved.

201.2 To note the repair work to Philip Drive grassed area.

Noted

201.3 To discuss query regarding horses walking through the allotments.

There are in fact signs stating that horses are not allowed through the allotments as a number of complaints have been received in the past.

201.4 To receive notes of AAHS AGM if available

Notes were received and noted.

Request from staff:

The portable lights need to be brought to the office from the cemetery storage as staff do not have a vehicle at present.

Urgent items:

Health and Safety - To note removal of unsafe fence

Members to note the removal of an old unused boundary fence on the right hand side of the driveway of Amble West Cemetery at a cost of £280.

Northumbria Water – Paddlers Park

Northumbria Water would not move the meter but the Town Council could arrange to have a sub meter put in nearer the water feature. Council would then need to see if NCC were agreeable to negotiating the water costs.

Northumbria Water do not search for leaks on private land, however may be able to provide us with details of a private company who use gas to ascertain where there may be a leak. Further discussion needed.

202: PLANNING COMMITTEE

202.1 To note February 2024 Planning Outcomes

The Planning Outcomes were for January 2024 rather than February. The report was noted and members were thanked for their comments on latest applications.

203: AGENDA ITEMS:

203.1 To note content of Warkworth Neighbourhood Plan and provide comments if any.

The Town Council does not intend to comment on the Neighbourhood Plan at this stage. It was noted that the settlement boundary does not cover the outskirts of Warkworth however it was noted that the plan itself states it would rely on the Local Plan for those

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outside of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a lot of useful information.

203.2 To receive an update on D Day plans.

The approximate running order was advised to Members. Those wishing to take part in the War Graves tour should pre book. It was agreed to allow the veterans groups to take part and bring their gazebo. A short service by CCT will be followed by short performance from NTC, followed by a brass band performance. A meeting has been arranged with Boulmer Military Wives. NTC can provide some fold away chairs, NCC are happy to bring these along. Staff are arranging the closure of the small car park and event insurance and PRS license. NCC are aware of the event and that the toilets will need additional cleaning. Members are asked to assist on the day. Staff are to create a poster and an information leaflet is to be developed by Cllr Parks. Vendors will be contacted nearer the time and whilst the Town Council may not charge, they may request a donation to the Amble Veterans group. Final plans are to be agreed in April 2024.

TC

203.3 To discuss information received regarding Community Asset Transfer and outcome of meeting with Iain Hedley, NCC.

Notes of the meeting have been circulated. Costs have been provided by NCC however the Town Council have requested a further breakdown of these and if possible, a breakdown of the utilities costs, a detailed floor plan, building survey and inspections, boiler condition survey and inspection records, information on the installation of the solar panels and what the arrangement is with those, information on statutory maintenance and what this covers, and the dates of installation. We have also asked whether it is possible for an energy surveyor to attend the school on our behalf. Clerk to chase up.

TC

203.4 To agree delegate to attend Town and Parish Council Conference on 14 March 2024

Resolved: Cllr Parks and Joyce to attend the conference on behalf of Amble Town Council.

203.5 To note the update from ESH re culvert works.

ESH will be on site on 19th February to begin cutting back bushes and shrubs before bird nesting season starts. They will then be on site from 25 March for 10 weeks working on the culvert. Notices will be posted.

TC

203.6 To discuss additional CCTV coverage at Morrisons / A1068

The request from Northumbria Police was noted however Members decided to contact Morrisons and Advance Northumberland in the first instance given that the issues are happening on their land.

Resolved: Clerk to contact.

203.7 To consider an increase in Councillor expenses.

Resolved: To be added to AGM for consideration.

203.8 To agree cemetery fees 2024-25

Resolved: Members agreed a 1% increase.

203.9 To agree a date for Amble Parish Meeting

Resolved: The date of the Annual Parish Meeting is 2nd May 2024.

TC

203.10 To note chairs attendance at induction of new Parish Priest 15 February 2024

Noted

203.11 To discuss outcome of the Neighbourhood Planning Public Meeting and discuss / agree next steps.

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The meeting was well attended. Notes to be circulated and information provided to any one interested in taking part or helping out. If there was a lack of support in this instance Members could be minded to try one more time, however this is the second time that this has been taken to the community.

203.12 To note next Ambler newspaper will be circulated as submission is due by 23rd February.

Resolved: Cllr Joyce to provide a short piece for Councillors Corner.

TC

Additional items at Chairs discretion:

Kings Garden Party 2024

It was clarified that the Council could nominate more than one person.

Resolved: Members agreed two nominations. Clerk to contact to confirm eligibility criteria.

Household Waste DIY changes

Noted

Northumbria Police Community Engagement Day

This takes place 14 February 2024 at Amble Library, 1.30pm

Civic Event, The Sill, National Landscape Discovery Centre

Resolved: Cllr Weir to attend.

TC

Correspondence re War Memorial Names

Cllrs Lewis and Weir received correspondence regarding the name of Hauxley residents not placed on the Amble War Memorial.

Resolved: Clerk to respond.

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

204.1 To note the information from Coquet Medical Group

Noted

204.2 To note request of CCTV footage and action taken.

Noted

204.3 To note the Northumberland Inclusive Economy Community Partnership Fund is now open.

Noted

204.5 Northumbria Connected 08/01, 15/01, 26/01, 28/01,

Noted

204.5 To note January 2024 round up.

Noted

Additional item:

Hauxley Neighbourhood Plan

To note the plan is now out for public consultation

205. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

205.1 To receive notes of the Neighbourhood Planning Public Meeting if available.

205.2 To note fly tipping reports at The Braid

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205.3 To receive notes of the meeting with Robin McCartney 30 January 2024 if available.

205.4 To receive notes of the meeting with Northumbria Police 23 January 2024

205.5 To receive the notes of the meeting with Iain Hedley regarding CAT 1 February 2024

205.6 To note damage to wall at Braid Hill and remedial works undertaken.

205.7 To receive the notes from the Partnership Meeting with NCC 30 January 2024

205.8 To note the minutes of the AONB meeting 15 November 2023, forum notes from December 2023 and Highways and Public Realm Guide 2024.

205.9 To receive notes of the meeting with Michael Gilroy and Paul Brooks.

Resolved: Noted and accepted en bloc

206. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

206.1 13 March 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

207. DATES FOR DIARIES

6th February 2024, Alnwick and District Sports Award

13th February 2024, 3.00pm – Football Association

14th February 2024, 1.30pm – Northumbria Police Community Engagement event, Amble Library

21st February 2024 – staff training SLCC How to engage everyone in your community.

14 March 2024, Town and Parish Council Conference

19th March 2024, Skateboarding meeting via teams.

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

208: Exempt Report - attached

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

Resolved: The exempt report was noted.

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

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

- Notes of Amble Development Trust meeting. Update provided by Cllr Weir. Notes were circulated and accepted.

210. AGENDA ITEMS

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210.1 To receive a legal update on progression with Amble Homes

TC

- **Completion of Deed of Variation**

Noted.

210.2 To note issue at West Cemetery and action taken

Members were updated. A letter to be sent to Funeral Director.

Resolved: Clerk to contact.

211. INFORMATION ITEMS

211.1 To receive the notes of the meeting with Amble Homes if available and offer of community assistance.

Resolved: Notes accepted.

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT FULL COUNCIL