

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – April 2024

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

PRESENT:

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

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In line with Standing Order 3d-I 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

230.APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Kate Morrison due to holiday. Apologies accepted.

231. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

231.1 To receive an update on the Co-Option

There has been no applications received to date.

232. 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.

233. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

233.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2024, items 212 - 229.1

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

234. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

234.1 Clerks Report

Resolved: The Clerks report was accepted.

235. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

235.1: Chairman

Cllr Weir attended HMS Blyth and a Civic Event at The Sill.

Cllr Weir informed Members for information that some of the larger Active Northumberland sites are being managed by Places Leisure. The smaller facilities have been taken within the NCC remit.

Cllr Weir made Members aware of scam emails.

235.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Parks attended the Town and Parish Council Conference with Cllrs Bewley and Joyce. Cllr Parks discussed enforcement issues with planning and highways officers.

236. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

236.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

The residents of Roseate View have been compensated regarding the developer's standard of the highway in this estate and works will soon begin to bring this to an acceptable standard.

Concern was received regarding abandoned vehicles at Bay View and damage to the kerb areas. This area was never meant as parking as it was always a turning circle.

Flooding from the pavement into Links Avenue property has been resolved this week.

Signage to be replaced along the links.

Double yellow lines to be placed on Dovecote Street and Percy Street / Smith Street junction.

A property damaged at Bay View due to neighbouring building work is a civil matter.

The pedestrian crossing for Percy Drive / Fontburn has been delayed yet again despite the desperate need for this to be done. Council to contact Richard McKenzie to discuss this further.

The new manager on the caravan park has arranged with NCC to remove the fly tipping on the Lord Mayors Field. The caravan manager is to be invited to the next Estate Walkabout. The steps at Henderson Street have not been included within NCCs remit when taken over from Alnwick District and they should have been. This will also present issues for the steps at The Schooner and Leazes Street – all of which should have been added to NCC land at that time. Clerk to add to the agenda with Highways Infrastructure Manager.

Abandoned cars at Paddlers Park – there has been no further update on this.

Cllr Clark continues to request clarity on the issue with Coble Quay.

236.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Apologies were received from Jeff Watson.

Councillor Watson has been made aware of the Freedom of Information request received. Cllr Joyce requested information on Castle Street repair via Fix My Street. It has also been noted that if a fault has been reported by one person, another person cannot enter that same fault or add additional information.

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

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

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Cllr Weir attended a meeting with Northumbria Police, Amble Development Trust, planted trees at the welfare, Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Amenities Committee.

Cllr Parks attended the Town and Parish Council Conference. Cllr Parks also attended Amble Youth Project with Cllr Morrison. Clubs are continuing on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Easter and Summer HAF programs are running again and are very well received by the community. The gate has not yet been put in place. There was no update on staffing. Cllr Parks to ascertain whether AYP are doing anything for D Day.

Cllr Bewley attended a meeting of PlayZone. There remain concerns regarding disabled access and parking. Kathy Keadie to liaise again with JCSC. There is also concerns regarding the management of the booking system.

Cllr Dancer attended a meeting of NALC. Feedback has been requested on the Town and Parish Council Conference. Initial feedback was around inadequate refreshments given the time of day and length of the meeting. The NALC minutes will be circulated when available. The next meeting is 11 May 2024.

238. FINANCIAL REPORT:

238.1 To consider voucher numbers 286 - 314 for payment and 86 - 91 for receipt.

Resolved: Payments and receipts were approved.

238.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: The bank reconciliation was approved.

238.3 Year to date figures

Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

238.4 Grant Requests

- **JCSC Year 11 Prom**

Cllr Dancer proposed donation of £1000, seconded by Cllr Joyce.

Counter proposal from Cllr Lewis £750, seconded by Cllr Bewley and accepted by Cllr Dancer. Resolved: Donation to JCSC of £750

- **Matthew Tuckey Sound Artist**

In order to support the Harbour Lights involvement within the community, Cllr Dancer proposed £200, seconded by Cllr Lewis. Resolved: Members agreed to fund with a donation of £200 if the event was confirmed.

- **Amble Events Committee**

Previously £2000 has been agreed in principle. If the leaflets and first aid has already been asked, Council to request invoices for payment. Other items, whilst agreed in principle, can be applied for when they are needed and can be paid by the Council on receipt of invoices. This method ensured greater benefit for the donations to the Events. This fund is to come from Town Projects and not Grants and Donations.

- **Amble Cancer Support Group**

The new wording on the poster was agreed. If there is no bank account Council cannot make a payment however can pay for venue hire on receipt of invoice.

238.5 Grant Audit 2023-24

Cllrs Lewis, Bewley, Joyce were thanked for their work on this. The audit was accepted and all items were confirmed as received by recipients.

239. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

239.1 To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee 28 March 2024

Resolved: The minutes were accepted as a true record.

239.2 To note the report of the Clock Tower Roof Inspection

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The report was noted. No issues to resolve.

239.3 To note complaint regarding Amble toilets and action taken

The complaint was acknowledged, and letter sent to Glen Sanderson to request clarity and urgency on the 2024-25 toilet refurbishment programme. Council has been assured that Amble is included within the first half of this financial year. Clerk to add to agenda with Robin McCartney.

239.4 To note water charges for Paddlers Park

Noted and monitored.

239.5 To note issue with spoil removal, action taken and agreed remedial works

Cllr Weir to discuss remedial action with contractor. Clerk to chase up.

239.6 To agree amended cemetery documentation regarding memorial insurance

There were no further comments from Members. Resolved: documentation amendments were accepted. Clerk to add to AGM.

239.7 To note repair of the water feature

The water feature has been removed and is awaiting collection at the end of the month.

239.8 To note pending insurance claim for water feature and fountain

To note.

Additional items at discretion of Chair:

Percy Drive bus shelter / vandalism

After liaising with contractor, replacing panels with mesh may be the best option. However Members were concerned this could lead to anti-social behavior so polycarbon panels might be best at this time.

Due to the prominent location a repair was needed as quickly as possible.

In principle, Cllr Lewis proposed up to £2000 for these works and retrospective approval is required at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Dancer. Resolved: Panels to be replaced with polycarbonate panels up to a cost of £2000. Staff to contact contractor.

Tourist Signage

Members are asked to review old tourism signage and report any that need to be removed.

Amble Inn Coal Truck

Management has changed however Cllr Weir is liaising with the establishment regarding the coal truck and fish sign.

Bay View Seat

It is believed manufacturing fault on the seat may have resulted in the leg being bent. The seat has been taken away by NCC awaiting collection by company. A new seat has been purchased in the meantime and a replacement plaque has been purchased. As this is a commemorative seat, all decisions have been taken with the permission and agreement of the purchaser. Council will continue to address this matter with the original supplier. The new seat and plaque was agreed in principle and retrospective approval is required at the next meeting.

Lightning Conductor Test

Clerk is authorized to contact contractor and agree best value arrangement.

Clock Tower Lighting

Contractors will be on site to repair on 24th April 2024.

240: PLANNING COMMITTEE

240.1 To note April 2024 Planning Outcomes

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With regards to the Welfare application, Members felt clarity was needed on the objection which only relates to the hours of work. Staff to add a sentence to the report to reflect that.
Resolved: Planning outcomes were noted.

240.2 To note continued objection and amended response to application 23/04183/FUL. Development of Independent Supported Living Apartments (58no) (Use Class C2), residential housing (40no) (Use Class C3), including enabling works, access, landscaping, infrastructure and all ancillary works. Land South Of The Gut Riverside Park Amble Northumberland

The consultation ends on Wednesday 17th April 2024 and the application will be discussed at Strategic Committee on 7 May 2024.

Additional items at discretion of Chair:

Womens Workshop- to note

The trailered structure at The Womens Workshop requires planning permission and will be seeking retrospective approval.

Amble Homes withdrawal of application:

This has been withdrawn until all necessary reports are available

241. AGENDA ITEMS:

241.1 To consider adoption of Town Council Action Plan

Resolved: Members agreed the Action Plan for 2024.

241.2 To agree retrospective approval for CCTV parts £231.90 plus VAT

Resolved: Members agreed retrospective approval for CCTV equipment.

241.3 To consider support of second homes council tax petition

As this does not ask for a Council response, members are to respond as individuals if they wish.

241.4 To consider attendance at RAF Boulmer event 22 May 2024

Resolved: As Cllr Weir is unable to attend, Cllr Parks to check availability.

241.5 To consider response to A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham consultation

Council has nothing further to add since the original comments.

241.6 To receive an update on the Community Asset Transfer if available

NCC are unable to assist the Town Council in providing any further detail on the building reports. They have advised the Council employ their own surveyors. In terms of the asset transfer there has been no further update. An update would be requested to ascertain that NCC were minded to transfer the building; after this County Cllrs would be approached to see if they are willing to fund a survey of the building.

241.7 To receive an update on Community Website progress

A meeting is needed with JCSC to progress this.

241.8 To receive a D Day update

The PRS License has been agreed.

Staff are still seeking event insurance for inclement weather.

Entertainment has been provided with running order.

Council has received a request regarding a D Day veteran – further info is to be provided and a request that he is invited to join in the commemoration. A note on social media is to also be produced so that other veterans may have the opportunity to be involved.

Food vendors for the event are still to be agreed. A post to be added to Facebook.

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Council has applied to NCC for closure of Queen Street car park.

241.9 To discuss and agree finance for Neighbourhood Plan Website

Guidance states that Neighbourhood Planning finance should not be applied for in piecemeal, but that analysis should be carried out to establish approximate costs for financial year which should be applied for in one go. Although the funding is closed at the moment it is expected that an announcement will be made on 24 April 2024. Clerk to contact Chair of steering group.

Whilst there is no objection to having a dedicated website, the content for publishing should be run past the Clerk before uploading given that the NDP is within this remit. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group are still to be provided.

241.10 To approve Newspaper

Resolved: Members agreed to the content of the Newspaper. Cllr Lewis requested this to be added to the AGM in that items from the monthly update could populate the content of the Newsletter.

241.11 To discuss and agree replacement office photocopier/printer

After reviewing costs to buy or lease, Cllr Lewis proposed a new lease, seconded by Cllr Parks. Resolved: Members agreed to a new lease with new supplier.

241.12 To discuss participation in student interview

Council was approached to be interviewed regarding Amble economic growth since 2011 due to investment in tourism. Cllr Parks volunteered to be interviewed. All in favour.

Resolved: Cllr Parks to contact student and request copies of the questions to be asked so that responses can be considered.

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

242.1 To note query regarding Coble Quay Walkway and letter sent to Glen Sanderson

Noted.

242.2 CAN News 09/03, 11/03, 02/04,

Noted.

242.3 NALC March 2024

Noted.

242.4 Northumbria Connected 11/03

Noted.

242.5 Volunteering Opportunities

Noted.

242.6 Community Orchard – Volunteers

Noted.

242.7 To note letter to NCC regarding Gloster Park to New Hall Right of Way and response

Noted. NCC confirmed area is still being checked regularly and is safe for passage. The developer is to contact residents.

242.8 Warkworth Green Movement

Noted.

242.9 Complaint re Scrap Cars at Paddlers Park Pull In

Noted.

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Additional items at discretion of Chair

Complaint re Harbour toilets

See item 239.3

Northumberland Theatre Company

NTC have offered Council use of their space if it would be useful.

Amble Food Bank – Community Hub

Amble Food Bank have submitted an expression of interest letter to be involved with the community hub if this project goes ahead.

243. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

243.1 To note the amendments to the ESH work programme

243.2 To note the update provided on PlayZone

243.3 To note letter to Advance Northumberland re Enterprise Park condition and promotion to retailers

243.4 To note letter to Persimmon re Hauxley Grange

243.5 To note letter to Rob Murfin re Hauxley Grange

243.6 To note March monthly roundup

243.7 To receive notes of meeting with JCSC 15 March 2024

243.8 National Landscape Meeting notes 26 February 2024

243.9 To note outcome of North Northumberland: Skateboarding Development Workshop

243.10 To receive notes of the initial Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting

243.11 To receive notes of the meeting with Northumbria Police 19 March 2024

243.12 To receive notes of the Partnership Meeting with NCC 7 March 2024

243.13 North Local Area Committee 28 March 2024

Noted enbloc

244. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

244.1 9 May 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

245. DATES FOR DIARIES

TBC 23rd April 2024 Robin McCartney

15th April 2024, 5.30pm Northumbria Police

25th April 2024, 10.30am, NCC Partnership Meeting

2nd May 2024, Ryan Dixon NCC Walkabout, 10am

2nd May 2024, Annual Parish Meeting, 6.00pm

2nd May 2024, PCC Vote and Devolved Mayoral Vote – ID needed

9 May 2024, 6.00pm, AGM

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

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

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

- **Cllr Weir update from meeting of Amble Development Trust 20 March 2024**
A verbal update was provided.

247. AGENDA ITEMS

247.1 To receive a legal update on progression with Amble Homes if available

Nothing further to update.

247.2 To receive and note staff appraisal outcome

Resolved: Appraisal was noted.

Other staff appraisals to be complete.

Chair to arrange Clerks appraisal.

247.3 Town and Parish Council Conference discussion

Cllrs were reminded that these events are attended on behalf of Council and representatives should conduct themselves accordingly, however Members should have the right to ask questions.