

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – July 2024

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 11th July 2024, 6.00pm, Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

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

V Smith – minutes

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 two members of the public present.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

49.APOLOGIES

None

Attendance by Escape Family Support – Fiona Wardlaw

Fiona Wardlaw attended the meeting to provide an update on the work of Escape Family Support who provide support and opportunities for the families of those affected by drug and alcohol misuse. Escape Family Support offers services from informal get togethers to accredited courses all of which are free. Fiona requested that Amble Town Council signpost any families known in need of support to these services. The Town Council will also publicise this on its website and social media pages. Facilities to link with at Amble include AYP, Borderlinks, Northumbria Police and The Ambler.

TC

50. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

50.1 To receive an update on the Cllr Vacancy

Although there was interest in one of the vacancies, no application has been received.

51. 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.

52. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

52.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2024, items 29 – 48.

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Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

53. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

53.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved. The report was noted and the Clerk was thanked.

54. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

54.1: Chairman

- Feedback from NALC Larger Council meeting 10 July 2024- Chair of NCC requested confidentiality for this
- Garden Judging 2nd July 2024- went well
- Young Citizen Award- will attend tomorrow

54.2: Vice Chairman

All items contained within the agenda

55. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

55.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Cllr Clark reported an update from Paul Jones who has assured all parties that the complex negotiations regarding Coble Quay are now at advanced stages and an update will be provided as soon as NCC are able to.

HUSK – Whilst concerns will be noted, at this stage if any amendments were to be made to the planning application it could disrupt the programme and so the highlighted issues will be monitored. It is expected that the securing of the site and demolition works are to take place at the same time.

The bin at the car park along Links Road, Wellhaugh Point, has been replaced.

Percy Drive / Hauxley Grange – road sweeping should be done daily. A temporary repair to the road has been passed to the adoption manager. It was pointed out the highway affected is an NCC road and therefore their responsibility and not that of the developers. There were queries with regards to the number of highways inspectors which will be raised at the next meeting with Robin McCartney. An intermittent fault with the traffic lights Albert Street- Masons corner and near South Avenue- were reported.

Cllr Clark has assisted an elderly resident to get help with their garden in line with the elderly garden scheme provide by NCC.

Weed spraying will again commence as soon as weather allows.

Cllr Clark continues to seek clarity over the land ownership on which the broken wall behind Leazes Street is.

55.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

County Councillors' feedback from requested enquiries regarding the stated 'Right of Way' of part of Coble Quay Walkway.

Public use of the walkway is enshrined in the documents in the land registry documents however the walkway does not appear in any right of way register.

Residents of Robsons Way have asked to be able to increase their garden size to take in some of the tree belt. Cllr Watson has advised the TPO officer at NCC who is taking a look

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at this.

Investigations are continuing on why the laurel trees along the A1068 are dying in places. Car parking from construction vehicles on South Avenue has been causing disruption for residents. All construction vehicles have been asked not to park on South Avenue going forward. The condition of the road surface is to be checked.

The dredger will be in the Harbour for 3-4 weeks from next week.

Cllr Watson and Weir to meet regarding the highways and road issues at Castle View.

Cllr Joyce raised concerns about the road surface from Leazes Street to Percy Street.

National Landscapes were asked for their view on Coastal Erosion as some 15 years have passed since the last report was done. If the news around Climate Change is correct, then we should expect to see more change than anticipated along our coast. It was queried whether there was an intention to update the plan? Cllr Lewis to circulate information to Cllr Watson.

56: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

56.1 Update from Steering Group including approval of grant application and funding request

The minutes of the meeting were received.

The funding grant was considered. It was noted there is a 5 week lead time on these. It was confirmed that all invoices for payment from the Town Council must be addressed to them. It was confirmed that the Steering Group could appoint their own choice as consultant however the steering group were keen that the Town Council had a say. The consultant would be expected to provide support on every element of the plan. NCC can offer some support also. A housing needs assessment cannot be carried out by CAN due to the population numbers however other organisations have indicated they will be able to do it free of charge.

The current figure of deprivation in the East Ward is 10%, and this is what will be used within the plan. This figure could change when the new report is released. Community consultation days have been arranged for 10th October 4pm – 7pm and 12 October 10am – 1pm. There will be controlled facebook and social media advertisements and information sharing.

Cllr Lewis proposed that, if necessary, ATC to fund a page in The Ambler if the grant funding has not been received by then. Cllr Park seconded. Resolved: Matthew Connolly to advise whether there will be a cost associated with the article in The Ambler.

Cllr Lewis proposed that the funding application was accepted.

Cllr Morrison seconded.

Resolved: Neighbourhood Plan Funding Application was agreed. Clerk and Matthew Connolly to meet to finalise and submit the application.

TC

MC also reported that the Blue Plaque for James Calvert Spence is due to be installed on 7 September and a small reception will take place. Invitations to follow in due course.

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

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

Cllr Weir attended the Estate Walkabout, NALC Larger Council meeting and escorted the

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judge from Alnwick Garden when deciding the finalists for the competition.

Cllr Morrison attended a meeting with AYP and NTC.

Cllr Bewley attended a meeting with Northumbria Police. Feedback from the meeting was that it was an honest meeting, and the Town Council was made aware of the resource issues facing the force although it is expected that these will improve over the coming months. Officers continue to find the new CCTV system very valuable.

58. FINANCIAL REPORT:

58.1 To consider voucher numbers 53 – 87 for payment and 15 - 17 for receipt.

Resolved: Payments and Receipts were approved.

58.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: Bank Reconciliation was accepted

58.3 Year to date figures

Resolved: Year to date figures were accepted.

58.4 Grant Requests

Citizens Advice Bureau

Resolved; As agreed at the AGM for this generic request, a donation of £55 was agreed.

TC

59. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

59.1 To note fish sculpture plaque and sponsorship by Amble Inn

The sponsorship has been received and the plaque has been ordered.

59.2 To receive an update on new soak away at Amble West Cemetery

The extension to the soakaway has been complete.

59.3 To discuss and agree bus shelter contribution re Longstone Manor

Resolved: Members agreed to £3000 maintenance costs to cover a period of 10 years.

59.4 To approve purchase of new seat for Fontburn a cost of £585

Resolved: A new seat to be purchased.

59.5 To discuss email from Northumberland Estates re replacement bin

NE have stated that they are unable to claim for the bin from their insurers. Given the excess on the Council's insurance it was agreed to absorb the cost rather than file a claim against NE.

TC

TC

59.6 To discuss contractor options for water feature at Paddlers Park

A meeting is to be arranged to discuss. Clerk to arrange ASAP.

59.7 To note reports of thefts from graves at Amble West Cemetery

The reports were noted and action has been taken by Northumbria Police. An article in The Ambler has reminded visitors to the cemetery that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

59.8 Enquiry regarding water play area at Paddlers Park

Staff are seeking comparison costs from neighbouring parishes. A replacement like for like site was considered when the park was revamped however due to its close proximity to the sea and the need for water testing and the need for onsite staff this was not possible. Costs from areas with this feature indicated the annual running costs (without insurance or repairs) would be in the region of £20,000. An article to be added to the Newpage to explain the issues and restraints on this site.

A high-risk rating was received for the water feature during the recent ROSPA inspection. A local contractor attended immediately and secured a metal plate over the vandalised area concerned.

TC

59.9 To note action taken regarding planting at West Cemetery Fountain

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The planting around the fountain at Amble West and indeed around the town is not up to the usual standard. This is to be added to the next SLA meeting.

60: PLANNING COMMITTEE

60.1 To note July 2024 Planning Outcomes

Resolved: Planning outcomes were noted

Members were asked to ensure that every application is responded to.

The variation regarding the former Artique site was queried and how this removal of the gully would affect flooding in the area.

A variation to the Tantallon development was also noted in that a request for change the S106 contribution phases was requested. There are concerns that allowing this would stretch the development duration and the time allowed for transfer of S106 monies. It was also noted that Coastal Mitigation monies had been trebled and others had not.

The new Labour government's plans for brownfield sites was noted with potential in Amble for social rented housing.

60.2 To note email received regarding Percy Drive and Councils response

Noted

60.3 To note meeting requested re HUSK, date tbc

A meeting is to be asked for and Cllr Clark to attend if available

60.4 To note correspondence to Enforcement Officer for clarity re: 2 areas of Coquet Enterprise Park

No feedback had been received.

61. AGENDA ITEMS:

61.1 General Power of Competence – clarity on eligibility

With the current Membership the Town Council does not meet the eligibility criteria for the GPC. This would be revisited after the May 2025 elections.

61.2 Retrospective approval for awards certificates £69.00

Resolved: Approval was given.

61.3 Final Account from D-Day event and Retrospective approval for chair cleansing £200

The final budget for the event was £2210 and included the unexpected cost for cleansing of borrowed chairs.

Resolved: Retrospective approval for the cleansing of chairs at a cost of £200 was agreed.

61.4 Retrospective approval for building survey £2500

Resolved: Retrospective approval for necessary building surveys was approved.

61.5 To receive and discuss outcome of building condition survey

Given the information provided in the report and the additional surveys required it was resolved to continue to investigate the possibility of the CAT without commitment. As there is a need in the Business Plan to prove that there has been community consultation on the CAT, it was suggested that a community meeting should be arranged alongside other works necessary. It was suggested that September would be a suitable time for the community meeting, possibility a 'drop-in' with feedback forms at NTC 4pm – 7pm using ATC display boards. Meanwhile Clerk is to seek contractors to take a look at the roof, have an asbestos survey carried out, seek refurbishment costs, arrange the energy survey

TC

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etc. In order to be able to get an idea of costs members need to decide how they want the building and the internal facilities to look. Members need to consider ideas and the Clerk will note these in preparation for a meeting on site to incorporate them into a draft.

A meeting with Iain Hedley to take an in depth look at a business plan is to be arranged for August.

61.6 To note date of energy survey

It is likely to be 30 July 2024.

61.7 To receive an update on the Community Website

The website has now been transferred to ATC ownership. A press release is being drafted. It is hoped once 'live' it will engender more organisations with details to come forward to further populate it as a useful reference for all.

TC

As there will be additional staff time required to maintain the website it was proposed that an additional 2 hours per week of staff time be provided to do this and other administrative duties.

TC

One hour per week of this time is to come from the Town Project budget given that the website is a town project. Members agreed in principle however formal approval will be required at the next meeting.

The following groups are to be added to the website: Boulmer Military Wives Choir, Remembrance Day Service, Escape Family Support, ATC roundups.

61.8 To receive an update on RAF visit if available

The Clerk is arranging and will update as soon as possible,

TC

61.9 To discuss and agree 25/26 Local Transport Plan Priorities

Initial thoughts for submission:

- Parking restrictions on Leazes Street, Newburgh Street, Ladbroke Street junctions
- Resurfacing of Leazes Street
- Resurfacing of top of High Street and entire length of West Avenue

Final approved will be requested at August Full Council.

61.10 To approve the Data Protection Risk Assessment

Resolved: subject to some minor feedback the policy was approved.

61.11 Confirmation of brass band for 2025 event

Cllrs Lewis, Parks and Weir to meet to begin arrangements for the event.

61.12 Feedback from Estate Walkabout

The Estate Walkabout was not well attended on this occasion. Issues at Westfield were noted by Ryan Dixon at NCC who suggested boulders could be placed at the area to prevent further disagreement. The next meeting will be arranged around Northumbria Police shift pattern.

TC

61.13 To receive an update on CCTV works

The CCTV infrastructure revamp has begun. A power box already in place is being utilised to re-route the cables. Amble Development Trust were asked for permission prior to the works being done and were very cooperative during the process. Clerk to seek advice on whether there is any additional electrical costs and if so, offer contribution to ADT.

TC

TC

61.14 To discuss offer of meeting with The Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland

A meeting will be arranged in due course. Clerk to ascertain whether it would be useful to have neighbouring parishes all at the same meeting. Details of the Honours Awards and Kings Awards are to be added to the monthly round up to raise awareness.

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61.15 To discuss adoption of Civility and Respect Pledge and LGA Code of Conduct
The Civility and Respect Pledge was agreed in March 2023. The LGA Code of Conduct will be added to August Full Council for formal adoption.

TC

Boulmer Military Wives will be meeting at the War Memorial steps ahead of their singing walk.

Members agreed to send an open letter to M.P.-David Smith, Combined Authority Mayor- Kim McGuinness, NCC Leader- Glen Sanderson copying in NCC Cllrs- Jeff Watson and Terry Clark querying how they will help Amble to prosper and encourage more investment in jobs, recreation and rented housing for the area. Initial wording was read out and comments were requested by Monday.

TC

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

62.1 Northumbria Connected

Noted

62.2 Neighbourhood Planning Training Sessions

Noted. Clerk has enrolled onto July session.

62.3 To note polling district review and polling places review

Noted

62.4 Resident email regarding Coble Quay Walkway

Noted

62.5 Resident email regarding retaining wall of property

Noted.

62.6 Anti social behaviour George Street, Amble

Noted. This was also mentioned to Inspector Ashley and will be raised with NCC at the next meeting.

62.7 Anti social behaviour 7 North Street, Amble

Noted. This was also mentioned to Inspector Ashley and will be raised with NCC at the next meeting. It was noted that there was a new anti-social behaviour officer now in place.

TC

62.8 Thank you from The Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland

Noted

Cllr Bewley requested permission to contact Coquet Medical Group on the back of his edition of Cllrs Corner to ascertain what issues they are facing and whether there is anything the Town Council can help with in terms of raising awareness and community engagement. Clerk to source contact details and send initial email.

63. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

63.1 NALC Code of Conduct

63.2 To note response on Coastal Erosion from Northumberland Coast National Landscape Partnership.

63.3 To note monthly roundup for June 2024

63.4 CAN Enews

63.5 Partnership Meeting notes 6 June 2024

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Noted enbloc

64. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

64.1 8 August 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

65. DATES FOR DIARIES

12 July 2024, Young Citizen Awards, 11.30am, Conference Room

16 July 2024, Amble Town Council Awards, 6.00pm, Conference Room

18 July 2024, NCC Partnership Meeting,

25th July 2024, Amenities Committee

1 August 2024, NCC led Estate Walkabout

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

66. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Resolved: The report was accepted.

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

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

Cllr Weir attended the NALC Larger Council meeting.

The presentation slides are to be received.

ATC to sign up to the Northumberland County Council newsletter.

NALC have asked for topics for the next meeting.

68. AGENDA ITEMS

68.1 To receive an update from Amble Homes if available

Amble Homes have met with architects and may be able to submit plans again early next week.

A date for an energy survey is to be arranged.

68.2 To agree qualification-based salary increase

Resolved. In line with National Guidelines on completion of CILCA, relevant staff to be awarded additional salary point backdated to date of completion, 8 June 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm