

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – June 2024

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 13th June 2024, 6.00pm, Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

H Lewis, M Joyce, I Parks (Vice Chair), C Palmer, D Bewley, K Morrison
V Smith – minutes

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

The Clerk was congratulated on the completion of her CiLCA qualification.

29.APOLOGIES

Craig Weir (accepted)

30. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

30.1 To receive an update on the Cllr Vacancy

There has been no interest in the West Ward vacancy.

NCC have confirmed there was no call for an election and Council can co-opt to the Central Ward vacancy.

31. 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.

32. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

32.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2024, items 1-28.1

RESOLVED: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

33. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

33.1 Clerks Report attached

The Clerks report was accepted and the Clerk was thanked for their work.

34. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

34.1: Chairman

Cllr Weir attended the D Day event in the town.

34.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Parks attended the D Day event in the town. Cllr Parks also attended meetings with

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contractors at Amble West Cemetery and NCC. He also attended the RAF Boulmer event which was a great evening despite the weather preventing the fly past. An offer to tour the op site was given. Any interested Members to contact the Clerk.

35. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

35.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Terry attended a site visit of the new Barndale site and was impressed with the progress. It is expected that this will be ready in around 2 months. The car park is still under construction.

HUSK sites all approved at the latest LAC – ATC have some reservations around pedestrian access and are surprised these have not been picked up by highways. TC stated that there will be access by Sandy Way however it was still not felt that this was adequate. There is also concern regarding residents and the ease of waste collection for the St. Lawrence Avenue site despite NCC being able upon request to assist with this. A boundary fence could be looked at as a planning condition if necessary.

The hedgerows and trees at the Lord Mayors Field are the responsibility of Park Leisure and the appropriate maintenance needs to be arranged by them.

Play equipment for the Hauxley Grange site can be installed however there has been no date set by which this must be done, the condition states that details of the play equipment must be approved first.

The steps towards Henderson Street have been repaired by NCC.

Illegal parking continues on the braid despite adequate signage.

Missing signage on the links is being addressed.

Delays to the grass cutting work has resulted in overgrowth across the areas. The teams are working to catch up.

Persimmon have been contacted regarding the state of Percy Drive by Hauxley Grange. Planning conditions state the road should be swept daily.

Grit bins have been delivered for Alwick Way and Harbour Village.

Cllr Clark gave an update on Fix My Street.

The Right of Way to Hauxley alongside Hauxley Grange is in need of a cut and should be reported to Adam Musk.

Cllrs were reminded that the bins are dual use and there is no longer a need to separate dog waste from general waste.

35.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson also attended the Barndale South Avenue site visit and confirmed that there will be around 50 children joining in September and all staff have been recruited. Cllr Watson has concerns regarding the state of South Avenue road surface and plans to ask for it to be resurfaced.

Issues regarding Robson's Way grass cutting should be redirected to Taylor Wimpey. Complaints regarding the cemetery have been passed to Amble TC. The new hall Right of Way issues with vegetation overgrowth should be directed to Adam Musk. The main areas of the Braid have now been cut.

The harbour is to be dredged in late July due to an issue with the machinery the earlier appointment had to be rescheduled. This is at a cost of around £100,000.

Cllr Watson queried the FOI requests received by the Town Council and information on the letter sent to Rob Murfin.

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Cllr Watson awaits a visit to Castle View with Cllr Weir.

Both County Cllrs were asked for clarity on Coble Quay Walkway after it was confirmed via FOI that there had been no change in land ownership but that the right of way was land locked and this was being negotiated with NCC and the land owner. It was queried why this was never explained in the first instance. Both Cllrs were asked to enquire whether the walkway is in fact a Right of Way and if so, when this was designated.

Cllr Watson was asked what the balance of the S106 monies were. This information is publicly available on the NCC website.

36: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

36.1 Update on Steering Group Terms of Reference and social media pages and content

The Steering Group met last week and a further draft of the Terms of Reference was created. On review the Town Council requested the removal of the word formal however as both groups felt it also included community consultation paperwork, it was agreed it would be sufficient to minute that here. It was agreed the terms would be amended to state 'previously identified areas' The Chair of the Steering Group was asked whether a representative of ADT should be on the group, this was declined. It was also confirmed that as Chair, Matthew, and Julia are on the steering group as a member of the public and not as members of ADT. There was some discussion around administrative support. It was confirmed that the request was that if necessary ATC would fund the secretarial support not that they would provide the secretarial support from existing staff. Clarification is needed on whether or not the grant covers basic administrative costs.

Resolved: Subject to these amendments the Terms of Reference were approved.

In terms of the finance application, it was confirmed that this would be completed by the Steering Group overseen by the Clerk for approval for submission. It was noted there was an additional £8k technical support for areas of deprivation. The outline budget needs to allow for all eventualities in the first 12 months of making the plan. An appointment was made to complete the relevant finance forms.

Social Media and Communications Strategy – Luke McTaggart attended to discuss his role as social media and communications person on the NDP Steering Group. It was accepted that social media plays a large role in society and has the ability to reach a lot of people although not all. It was agreed that the social media pages would aim to be a tool for getting information out there and would not be used to engage in comments or discussions with users. If comment was made it would be generalised such as, thank you for your comment which will be brought to the Steering Group's attention. Community responses would need a postcode so comments etc. could be recorded by areas which would aid analysis.

Resolved: Members were happy with the strategy put forward.

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

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

Nothing to report

38. FINANCIAL REPORT:

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38.1 To consider voucher numbers 26 - 52 for payment and 9 - 14 for receipt.

Resolved: The payments and receipts were accepted. Cllr Lewis declared an interest.

38.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was accepted.

38.3 Year to date figures

The year to date figures were accepted. A meeting to allocate earmarked funds is required as soon as the External Audit is received.

38.4 Grant Requests

- **Warkworth Cricket Club**

Cllr Parks proposed £500. Seconded Cllr Lewis. All in favour.

- **The Colony Festival**

Cllr Lewis proposed funding the 8x2 portaloos at a cost of £849. Seconded by Cllr Parks. Invoice to come to ATC for payment.

39. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

39.1 To receive Amenities Committee Minutes 30 May 2024

Resolved: The minutes were accepted.

39.2 To note coal truck painting

Noted

39.3 Paddlers Park water meter update

A meeting with a contractor to discuss isolation valve is to be arranged.

39.4 To note damage to Dilston Terrace tree

Noted. This was not the result of NCC ops.

39.5 To agree payment of invoice for memorial work

Resolved: The payment of the invoice was agreed.

39.6 To note collapsed fence near East Allotments

Noted

39.7 To note renewal of energy contract for Amble West

The energy contract was extended for one year.

39.8 To receive an update on National Allotment Society guidelines re setting up a trust

Further clarification is needed to establish how setting up a trust impacts on any right of ownership and how is the current arrangement different from any other type of lease.

40: PLANNING COMMITTEE

40.1 To note June 2024 Planning Outcomes

Noted

41. AGENDA ITEMS:

41.1 Ratify decision to Discontinue Independent Funerals and Independent Scattering of Ashes on Health and Safety Regulations and Environmental Guidelines.

Resolved: independent funerals and independent scattering of ashes at Amble West are to be discontinued. Funeral directors are to be made aware of the changes.

41.2 To approve Charter for the Bereaved policy and West Cemetery Pamphlet for print

Resolved: approved. Staff to make the amendments and publish.

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41.3 To approve Risk Management Strategy

Resolved: Document passed at May AGM. Data Protection Risk Assessment to be added to July 2024

41.4 Review of persistent complainant restrictions

Members considered the impact of the persistent communications on Council staff and resources. Despite being issued with stage 2 proceedings, the restrictions have not been adhered to. Therefore, members resolved to impose a further six months of contact restrictions regarding this matter.

41.5 Consultation on safe crossing point at The Wynd

Whilst good to see the matter addressed, it was felt that this was too far up the hill than it needed to be. It was queried whether the piece of land at the entrance to Riverside Park could be utilised. Alternatively, would it be worth waiting on the outcome of the planning application nearby as surely a planning condition of this development if successful would need to allow for a safer crossing point. Clerk to contact NCC.

41.6 Community Asset Transfer update, Energy Survey and Building Condition Survey

A surveyor has been contacted and will be in touch shortly to arrange a visit to the site. The school have confirmed that we can access the building. Clerk to contact to ascertain what time is best for them. Paul Brooks recommends applying for Community Ownership Fund however phase 3 is closed and phase 4 is on hold whilst the elections take place.

41.7 D Day feedback

The event was well received and positive feedback was received from the community.

41.8 To note progress re Unveiling of the Clock Tower Anniversary 2025

The Regimental band have confirmed their attendance. Catering arrangements are to be booked. They would parade up Church Street and Down Queen Street, finishing at the War Memorial for the service to begin at 11am. A working party to be established of Helen Lewis, David Bewley and Ian Parks. Invites to be sent to NCC, Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, Deputy Lieutenants Office and if available a member of the royal family. Road closures needed for Church Street and Queen Street. Coquet Churches together to be asked to conduct a short service.

41.9 To receive an update to the culvert repair by ESH

A new proposed route for the culvert has been agreed and will be in the walkway as initial requested by ATC. ATC have requested that pedestrian access is maintained for allotment holders.

41.10 Update re Young Citizen Award- To agree a judge from Amble TC for the Young Citizen Award

It was proposed that the Chair should attend if available. It was confirmed that ADT are no longer purchasing trophies but that goody bags will be provided. These will be purchased by Kate Morrison. ATC will pay for engraving the winners plaque and towards the items in the bags.

41.11 To discuss police staffing for Amble

Cllr Bewley liaised with local officers to ascertain plans for Amble. Inspector Darren Stapleton has been invited to the Estate Walkabout on 1 July 2024. If unavailable he will be asked to attend a meeting. Cllrs strongly feel there needs to be more certainty about the permanent manpower for Amble

41.12 To approve the draft Newspaper

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Resolved: The newpage was accepted.

41.13 To receive an update on the Community Website progress

Cllrs Parks and Bewley met with JCSC on 3rd June 2024. The students have been provided with all known information to date and have been provided with their hoodies. A photo of the students and Cllrs involved has been taken. The Clerk to ask that this is put on hold until the website is launched.

41.14 To note date for CCTV upgrade

Clerk to request an update on the latest visit.

41.15 Request to support Safety of Lithium ion Batteries and e-bikes and scooters campaign

Clerk to contact to ascertain what type of support is requested and provide a letter of support if necessary.

41.16 Amble Town Council Awards

For this year it was agreed to stick to the ward system. If available, the judge will be asked to attend first week of July for judging finalists. Members to get final lists in by 28 June. Staff to order awards and arrange for return of shields. Award date to be confirmed with the Chair.

Additional item at discretion of Chair.

Council attendance at NALC Larger Council meeting 10 July 2024, 1-m – 3pm

The Chair was nominated to attend if available.

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

42.1 Complaints regarding Amble West Cemetery re bluebell growth and weedkilling.

Noted. Complaints received regarding cemetery maintenance and weed killing. All complaints have been responded to.

42.2 Complaint regarding state of town during Amble Puffin Festival

Noted

42.3 To note issue with Robson's Way grass cutting

Noted. Redirected to Taylor Wimpey.

42.4 To note complaint regarding The Braid and response from Cllr Watson

Noted

42.5 To note complaint regarding dog fouling on Amble Pier

Noted. Passed to WHC

42.6 Complaint regarding condition of the Little Shore

Noted. Passed to WHC

42.7 Freedom of Information Requests 3rd May 2024

- **Copy of letter sent to Glen Sanderson re Coble Quay Walkway**
- **Copies of all correspondence between Amble TC and NCC since 2022**
- **Copies of minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 2023**
- **Complaint regarding FOI refusal notice issued 24 May 2024 re Copies of all correspondence between Amble TC and NCC since 2022**

All copies of FOI and responses were provided to members for information.

42.8 Freedom of Information Request 29 May 2024

- **Copy of revised letter to Glen Sanderson**

All copies of FOI and responses were provided to members for information.

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42.9 Subject Access Request 29 May 2024 re outcome of review of Persistent Communications restrictions

See item 41.4. Clerk to contact resident.

42.10 To note volunteer offer of help

Noted. Clerk to contact with details of those organisations looking for volunteers who attended the parish meeting.

42.11 AONB National Landscapes Newsletter

Noted. Their views on tackling Coastal Erosion would be welcome.

42.13 NALC news

Noted

42.14 Northumbria Connected CCTV Survey, Northumbria Police Newsletter 17/5,

Noted

42.15 Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Perceptions Interview

Noted

42.16 Northumberland Coast National Landscape Partnership

Duplicated 42.11

43. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

43.1 Closure of Amble TSB and creation of Banking Hub

43.2 JCSC Headteacher resignation

43.3 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 23rd May 2024

43.4 Notes of meeting with Highways Infrastructure Manager

43.5 To note date of Chairs Christmas Reception

43.6 To receive notes of Partnership Meeting with NCC 6TH June 2024 if available

43.7 To note Chairs attendance at Ashington and District Male Voice Choir concert at County Hall, 43.8 43.8 Morpeth on evening of 15 November 2024

43.9 To note ASB at Paddlers Park Water Feature and action taken

43.10 Digital Switchover Drop In Dates

43.11 NALC Code of Conduct and Pledge

43.12 Letter to Rob Murfin, Glen Sanderson, Terry Clark, Jeff Watson re Planning Conditions

43.13 Notes of meeting with Jimmy Reith re Paddlers Park flooding

43.14 TR010059 – A1 in Northumberland – Morpeth to Ellingham update

All information items were noted en bloc.

44. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

44.1 11 July 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

45. DATES FOR DIARIES

1 July 2024, 10am, Estate Walkabout, Amble Welfare

3rd July 2024, Neighbourhood Planning, Fourways2, 6.00pm

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

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agenda due to their sensitive nature.

PRIVATE

46. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Noted

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

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

Update from Amble Development Trust provided by Cllr Weir – noted.

48. AGENDA ITEMS

48.1 Civic Award Nominations

Nominations were agreed