

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 8th August 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 (arrived 6.30pm)

V Smith – minutes

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.

Mr Douglas Oliphant and Mr Jack Stevens attended the meeting.

Mr Oliphant had a number of issues he wished to discuss.

An additional wheelie bin was requested along the pier due to the amount of litter that is being left behind. Council explained that as this was Harbour Commissioner land this would need to be agreed by them but Council would write to them with his request. It was noted that another bin was to be installed by the Memorial there.

Secondly Mr Oliphant requested that town centre pavements be widened to allow for mobility scooters and pedestrians to travel side by side. It was explained that although this was a matter for NCC Highways, it was unlikely that this could be done as to widen the pavements would narrow the highway, which would not be possible. Also some areas were bordered by private land which NCC had no control over.

Mr Oliphant also raised concerns with the volume of traffic and the lack of parking places. He suggested using the previous applied for development area belonging to the Duke of Northumberland land on The Braid as car parking. However it was pointed out this was not on the Braid and Council are aware that there are plans for this piece of land already. Other areas of the Braid were registered as Village Green and Open Spaces but this was the responsibility of Warkworth Pariah and not Amble. In the past, Council has offered Park and Ride services but this was not successful due to lack of take up. Council has also asked that the car park at the former TIC be extended to two hours. Ownership of the field near the Gloster Hill junction was queried however it was explained that this was private land with planning permission.

Mr Stevens was present to observe only.

TC

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

69.APOLOGIES

None

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

70. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

70.1 To receive an update on the Cllr Vacancies

Some interest has been shown however no applications have been received to date.

71. 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 update as and when items arise in the agenda.

72. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

72.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2024, items 49-68.2

Resolved. The minutes were agreed as a true record.

73. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

73.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved: The report was accepted and the Clerk was thanked.

74. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

74.1: Chairman

Councillor Weir attended the Young Citizen of the Year Award and Amble Civic Awards

74.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Parks also attended the above.

75. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

It was agreed to move 76.1 forward on the agenda going forward.

76.1 To receive report update from Steering Group

A briefing note was provided by the steering group. There is an intention to hold a Community Engagement event on 10th and 12th October and it was suggested that Council could also use this as a consultation event for the possible Amble First School Asset Transfer. It was agreed that this could be used as a second consultation period however Council would still hold the original community engagement event planned for early September.

75.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

It was confirmed that the damaged wall near Horseshoe Hill should be repaired by NCC. HUSK – fencing has been erected around the proposed sites. Cllr Clark to be sent the notes from the recent site meeting held with officers who seemed to better understand the concerns raised. The site is expected to start work in September. Cllr Clark has been fielding a number of questions about the site and eligibility of tenants. The units will be primarily for over 55s with mobility issues or who need ground floor accommodation. There are 15 x 2 bedroom units and they will not be able to be purchased as a buy to let or second

TC

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

home. They will be managed by NCC.

Cllr Clark continues to help a family affected by landlord selling rented property.

Cllr Clark shared positive news regarding ASB created by those on quad bikes.

The path between King Edward Street and Straffen Court is not registered and therefore NCC will not repair it.

Mark Cusak at NCC is chasing up bus shelter timetables for Church Street.

It has been requested that Council install a seat at the Percy Drive Bus Shelter however it is intentional that all new bus shelters do not have seats to discourage ASB.

Cllr Clark is aware of the congestion in Ladbroke Street, Percy Street, Harbour Road, Leazes Street etc and has asked for a site visit with a CEO although it was noted that CEO can only enforce where there are traffic regulations in place. Further discussions were held around possible solutions – a one-off working party to be set up. Council has been contacted with a Double Yellow Lines consultation for hot spot areas and has no objections. It was queried whether Ladbroke Street could have lines so that no parking by anyone including disabled at any time is permitted.

Cllrs Clark and Watson will be attending a site visit to South Avenue on 4th September.

Local Transport Plan priorities should be sent by 27 September and copied to County Councillors for information.

Assurances from the Northumbria Police Community Engagement Officer has said that there is a robust plan in place for the area and people should go about their daily routine as normal. Any problems or concerns to get in touch.

Council asked County Cllrs to support them in their work with the Community Asset Transfer of Amble First School. There are other possible options to explore that require further investigations and Council were asked to keep County Cllrs informed. A separate meeting is to be arranged with Cllrs Clark, Watson and Paul Brooks. Clerk to send notes of meeting with Iain Hedley once available.

TC

75.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Work regarding the bus stop on Woodbine Street is pending.

Cllr Watson has requested the resurfacing of South Avenue once building works are complete.

National issues regarding in the PlayZone project has resulted in unavoidable delays however it is expected that this should now progress in October. Amble will be no2 in the County.

There may be a planning issues with regards to the screening trees at Robson's Way.

Cllr Lewis made all aware that there was nothing in the Tantallon planning application that confirmed that works will be done to create a connecting path from the A1068 to the schools. Cllr Watson was asked to chase this up and ensure there is documentation relating to this in the planning conditions.

76: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

See above76.1

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

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

Cllr Weir and Parks attended meetings regarding Amble West Cemetery, Paddlers Park,

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

Amenities Committee, Church Street Bus Stop.

Cllr Morrison provided notes from meetings with Events Committee and NTC. The Christmas Lights Parade will take place on 17 November 2024 at 5.00pm.

Cllr Lewis reported some rusting and paint coming off from the anchor of the seafarers memorial. This has been rectified by NCC. Whilst cleaning moss off the Radcliffe Memorial it was noted that mould was growing on the memorial steps. A contractor has been asked to remove this when next on site. The rose beds towards Radcliffe Memorial have deteriorated and will be removed and the soil is to be fed before replanting again in Spring. NCC reported that red paint had been thrown against the back of the clock tower. This has since been cleaned off and is being reported to Northumbria Police.

78. FINANCIAL REPORT:

78.1 To consider voucher numbers 88 – 126 for payment and 18 - 24 for receipt.

Cllr Weir expressed an interest in payment vouchers 97 and 98. Cllr Morrison expressed an interest in payment voucher 103. Resolved: The payments and receipts were approved.

78.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: The bank reconciliation was accepted.

78.3 Year to date figures

Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

78.4 Grant Requests

None

78.5 To note additional information required by Mazars

Mazars thanks the Council for their external audit and said it had been completed to a very high standard.

Mazars have requested additional information on how the internal auditor was appointed. This information has been provided. Council await the outcome of the external audit.

78.6 To agree first meeting date to discuss 25/26 budget requirements

A date to be agreed in October. In the meantime members were asked to consider any additional requirements that need to be taken on board.

78.7 To agree date to review earmarked funds

A date to be set in September on receipt of external audit accounts.

ALL

TC

79.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

79.1 To receive the notes of the Amenities Committee 25 July 2024

Resolved: The minutes of the Amenities Committee were accepted.

79.2 To receive an update on the water feature

The water feature pump has now been collected by the contractor. A prototype for replacement has been received and comments have been sent back.

A meeting with another contractor was held to discuss the possibility of having an isolator valve/ meter fitted and possibly a smaller access hatch. Council awaits quotations for the work.

79.3 To note letter of thanks to Northern Structures for assistance at Paddlers Park

Noted

79.4 To receive an update on installation of new camera at Paddlers Park

The new camera will be installed asap and will be in addition to the existing camera. The new camera will be operated from inside the police office and has x 32 zoom.

79.5 To ratify cost of relocation of a picnic table

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

Resolved: Relocation costs of £840 were approved.

79.6 To discuss suggestions for Church Street bus shelter roof & flooring if available

NCC funding allows for Town Councils to identify up to 4 bus shelters for improvements works of which Church Street can be one. Costs are needed for floor and seat to go alongside costs of new roof. Cllrs Bewley and Weir are looking at this further tomorrow with NCC. The small stone shelter on Acklington Road is also to be assessed.

79.7 To discuss suggestions for kerbs at West Cemetery if available

No quotations have yet been received.

79.8 To discuss outcome of meeting re Mortuary Roof

A quotation has been received of £5700 however there has been no assessment of inside the building. A cost of demolition is also to be sought. Currently no further action at present.

Memorial Request on Shared plot at Amble West

ICCM have confirmed that we cannot allow a memorial to be placed here as there are no deeds of ownership due to the plot being a shared public grave. The client has been advised that they may place a memorial plaque on the memorial wall with reference to the grave number should they wish.

CW
DB

TC

80: PLANNING COMMITTEE

80.1 To note August 2024 Planning Outcomes

Resolved: Planning outcomes accepted

80.2 To note outcome of meeting with HUSK 2 August 2024

Resolved: Husk notes accepted.

80.3 North Northumberland Local Area Committee meeting 25 July 2024

Noted

80.4 To note Acklington Neighbourhood Plan and deadline for comments 20 August 2024

Resolved: A very comprehensive plan although no further comments to make. Perhaps this document could be used as a reference for the Amble Neighbourhood Plan.

81. AGENDA ITEMS:

81.1 To receive feedback on launch of community website

The majority of feedback from the community website has been positive with a new additional activity coming forward to have their details included.

Members were asked to be aware of events and pass details to the office for inclusion. It was agreed that the website should include events from other neighbouring parishes and key dates should be added to the community calendar.

81.2 To receive an update on initial plans for May 2025 event and to discuss other commemorations

An initial planning meeting has taken place. It was also discussed whether this event should also incorporate an acknowledgement to VE / VJ day however it was agreed to wait to see what national plans are before deciding. The Church Hall is unavailable however it was suggested to contact the user and offer an alternative venue which Council would finance. Staff have begun sorting initial paperwork. External catering may need to be considered given the numbers of those expected.

81.3 To discuss responses to Open Letter

ALL

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

Meetings with Glen Sanderson and David Smith MP have arranged. A meeting with Kim McGuinness is yet to be arranged.

TC

81.4 Feedback from Amble Civic Awards

The awards ceremony was well attended. Members were thanked for their assistance.

81.5 To note outcome of on-site meeting at Amble First School; to discuss proposals from design consultant; to discuss further inputs required; to discuss initial public consultation plans, date and venue.

A meeting with Iain Hedley also confirmed that Council are not in a position to proceed with any business case or plan as it has not been presented with all the information required from the EA or NCC. The Clerk was asked to compile a list of all outstanding information required.

Internal design drawings are currently being looked at and costs of these need to be taken into consideration. An initial consultation date of 9th or 10th September is being arranged to ascertain whether there is community support for the project. A meeting with Jeff Watson, Terry Clark and Paul Brooks is to be arranged.

TC

81.6 To note the update on town toilet facilities

Members were given the most recent update. Clerk to ascertain whether previous comments on the specification had been taken on board during the tender process. There remains concerns over the time frame of the works.

TC

TC

81.7 To discuss termination of grave digging contract and agree termination date and to receive an update on alternative arrangements.

Resolved: The contract termination date of 31st August was agreed. The Clerk has issued the tender advert in local press and media.

81.8 To receive an update on IT resolutions

A meeting has been arranged for 28th September 10am.

81.9 To agree attendance at the Town and Parish Council meeting 3rd October 2024

Resolved: Cllrs Bewley and Palmer to attend.

81.10 To discuss and agree comments to NCC Right of Way Improvement Plan, deadline 18 October 2024

Resolved: The scope and intention of this draft policy is desirable and admirable but none of this is achievable without enhanced finances being made available.

Existing PROWs are in great need of better maintenance before any enhancement or expansion can be contemplated.

In order to heighten awareness and enable greater usage can consideration be given to improving the information available. Instead of County wide mapping, could this be divided into smaller areas. A map of each area could then show links between the PROWs there with added detail of suitability, distance, average time taken etc. Often people will enjoy walking more with a pre-planned route and goals displayed for them. This information could be digital and in hard copy leaflets available at strategic points in towns and villages.

81.11 To agree response to information requested by NALC Large Council meeting

Resolved: Feedback was agreed. Clerk to send.

81.12 To agree priorities for Local Transport Plan

Resolved:

The following priorities have been identified by Amble Town Council for the 25/26 LTP:
Resurfacing of Leazes Street

TC

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

- Resurfacing of top of High Street and entire length of West Avenue
Extension of double yellow lines at junction of Bridge Street and Queen Street as parked cars obscure visibility for drivers coming down Queen Street. **TC**
- 81.13 To consider adoption of updated NALC Code of Conduct**
Resolved: Council agreed to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct. Clerk to add Council dispensation section and replace policy.
- 81.14 To agree the Councils response to the Police and Crime Commissioners Consultation on Policing and Crime priorities** **TC**
Resolved: It was agreed that Members should complete this on an individual basis and a meeting with the PCC to be requested.
- 81.15 Town Centre and Harbour Area Parking issues** **ALL**
A working party to be arranged. Cllrs Lewis, Bewley, Parks and Morrison to attend.
- 81.16 To agree Council attendance to unveiling of James Calvert Spence Blue Plaque 7 September 2024**
All members have been invited to the event.
- 81.17 Cllr Weir attendance at Civic Event 20 September**
Resolved: Cllr Weir to attend. Clerk to make arrangements.
- 82. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note or discuss where necessary the items.*** **TC**
- 82.1 Lithium-ion batteries Bill campaign update**
82.2 Northumberland Inequalities Plan Newsletter
82.3 To note monthly roundup for July
82.4 Northumbria Connected newsletters
82.5 To note correspondence regarding cellar grate on Queen Street
82.6 CAN newsletter
82.7 To note presentation slides from NALC Larger Council Meeting
Resolved: All noted en bloc
- 83. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the information items.***
- 83.1 To receive notes of Partnership Meeting with NCC 18 July 2024**
83.2 To receive notes of the meeting with Highways Infrastructure Manager 23rd July 2024
83.3 Northumberland Coast National Landscape Partnership (ex AONB) meeting 18 June 2024
83.4 To receive notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 10 July 2024
83.5 To note presentation notes and Q&A from Locality Neighbourhood Planning session
Resolved: All information items noted.
- 84. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**
84.1 12 September 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.
- 85. DATES FOR DIARIES**
8 August 2024, 12.30pm, Fourways2 Iain Hedley

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2024

13 August 2024, 5.30pm, Fourways2 Northumbria Police
14 August 2024, 10.30am, Fourways2 Partnership Meeting with NCC
TBC Week of 26th August, Review Gravedigging Contract, Fourways2
30 August 2024, 9.00am, Fourways2 Coquet Medical Group,
4 September 2024, 6.00pm, Fourways2 Conference Room Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group,
12 September 2024, 6.00pm, Fourways2. Full Council,
19 September 2024, time tbc, County Hall NCC Budget meeting
26 September 2024, 9.00am, Fourways2 Glen Sanderson, Leader NCC
26 September 2024, 6.00pm, Fourways2 Amenities Committee,
3 October 2024, 5.00pm, County Hall, Town and Parish Council Conference
18 October 2024, 10.30am, Fourways 2 David Smith MP

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

86. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Resolved: The exempt report was accepted.

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

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

None

88. AGENDA ITEMS

88.1 To receive an update from Amble Homes if available

Amble Homes remain committed to the project and will provide an update on the application as soon as possible.