

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2024

**The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 10th October 2024, 6.00pm,
Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.**

PRESENT:

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

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.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

110.APOLOGIES

None

110. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

110.1 To discuss co-option application from Mr I Rackham

Resolution: Ivor Rackham was co-opted as Councillor subject to completion of relevant paperwork.

111. 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.

Resolved: Members to raise as and when they arise on the agenda.

TC

112. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

112.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024, items 89 109.1

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

113. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

113.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved: The Clerks report was accepted and she was thanked for her work.

114. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

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114.1: Chairman

Cllr Weir attended a Civic Events with NCC and also an event with the Puffin Lounge.

114.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Parks attended the Sight Loss Walkabout and the partnership meeting with NCC.

115: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

115.1 To receive report update from Steering Group

No update was provided.

116. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

116.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark

Councillor Clark submitted his apologies.

116.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson

Councillor Watson submitted his apologies.

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

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

Councillor Weir attended meetings with Amble Development Trust, attended the Community Hub Public Consultation, meeting with Glen Sanderson, Amenities Committee and meeting with Amble Homes.

Councillors Bewley and Palmer attended the NALC conference at NCC who assured Councillors that issues raised were underway. The fire service offered use of their drone to check out the roof of Amble First School. It was queried whether this could also be used by Northumbria Police. Clerk to add to police agenda. Presentations from officers were good. It was queried how much regeneration money has been spent in Amble in comparison to other areas and this is to be asked during the meeting with Glen Sanderson. Is it possible we could request a breakdown of S106 figures.

Councillor Morrison will be attending the meeting of NTC in the next couple of weeks.

118. FINANCIAL REPORT:

118.1 To consider voucher numbers 147 – 167 for payment and 33 - 44 for receipt.

Councillor Weir declared an interest in V159.

Resolved: The payments and receipts were approved.

118.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: The bank reconciliation was accepted.

118.3 Year to date figures

Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

118.4 Grant Requests

- **Amble Links First School**

The grant request was discussed.

Proposal: Councillor Lewis proposed that as Amble is to have 4 new schools, that each school be given a gift of £1000 to spend as they require subject to one of the items used to mark the beginning of the new school.

Seconder: Cllr Parks seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Each of the 4 schools in Amble to be given £1000. Clerk to contact each school and to also request a site visit to the new buildings and arrange a presentation

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of the gifts / cheque.

This would use a donation plus the residue of the Government's Covid Grant which, after conforming to the regulations in place at that time, Council had resolved be used for community benefit.

TC

- **Amble Cancer Support Group**

Amble Cancer Support Group have already requested funding support however due to the lack of a bank account, Council previously agreed to pay for room hire for the support sessions. The support sessions have not been charged for from April to September but will be charged from September onwards.

Proposal: Councillor Lewis proposed that Council pay for the hall direct due to lack of bank account for the period of September, October, November by which time it is hoped a bank account will have been set up. If there is no bank account set up, then payment for December, Jan, Feb and March will have to come to Full Council for payment. This will complete the Council's commitment to funding the room hire for this financial year as per the original funding agreement.

Seconder: Councillor Morrison seconded the proposal.

TC

Resolved: Proposal agreed. Clerk to contact Amble Cancer Support Group.

118.5 To receive an update on Barclays Payment Solutions Framework

Council has not signed up to the framework as the benefits did not appear to be suited to the needs of the Council.

119. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

119.1 To receive minutes of the Amenities Committee 26 September 2024

Resolved: The minutes of the Amenities Committee were accepted.

119.2 To note funding application submitted for Bus Shelter Improvement Programme

Council were informed that there is funding left over. Staff have requested quotations to demolish the stone shelter on Acklington Road and costs are known for a replacement shelter.

Proposal: Councillor Lewis proposed that the additional costs were added into the grant request and be submitted to NCC.

Seconder: Councillor Weir seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Staff to amend the application form and resubmit.

TC

Urgent Health and Safety Considerations:

Signage at Amble West has become loose. The Clerk has authority to spend up to £1000 for health and safety issues. A quotation has been received and accepted for £300 to make safe the signage.

The section and memorial safety signage at Amble West is loose. A quotation to concrete the signage was received at a cost of £500.

Resolved: In principle this was agreed however as not an urgent health and safety matter would require retrospective approval at the next Full Council.

TC

For information

Members were informed that the new seats for the Cemetery were to be provided by another contractor and that these would now have aluminium ends rather than cast iron.

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During staff due diligence it has been highlighted that a number of headstone previously identified in the last safety check of 2020 now require to be laid down. A contractor has been asked carry out work where necessary. During the next 4 year check it is anticipated that many more memorials will have to be laid down. Currently Council budgets £1000 a year for memorial safety so that by the end of the 4 year period, sufficient funds are in the earmarked budget. It could be expected that more monies are needed to be allocated for this reason when setting the budget.

Commemorative Plaque

Resolved: Commemorative plaque was agreed to be installed on the seat at Cliff House.

Paddlers Park Water Feature

The contractor asked whether Council felt it would be wiser to keep the renovated water feature until the start of the next season given that the water feature would be turned off for the winter anyway. Contractor to be asked to fit during April 2025.

Members agreed. The contractor is scheduled to attend to the Fountain at the end of this month.

TC

120: PLANNING COMMITTEE

120.1 To note October 2024 Planning Outcomes

Resolved: The planning outcomes were noted.

24/01841/FUL 15 Robsons Way

The applicant states the land has been purchased and now is to be fenced in and change the use to garden. However- Council are aware that recently there was some discussion within the County Council with regards to this area and the possibility of adding TPOs. NCC were contacted and confirmed that this land was cleared prior to the TPO. NCC have been asked to clarify the width of the TPO area.

Planning Application 23/01680/CCD - Approved 10 Nov 2023

NCC have been contacted and the discrepancies within this reports / planning application have been pointed out with regards to the trees / shrubs and the low wall. Although the trees were to be retained, council have asked for assurances that the shrubs will also be retained, and no fence will be erected along South Avenue. If no answer is forthcoming, it was agreed to raise this during the meeting with Glen Sanderson.

121. AGENDA ITEMS:

121.1 Update on Grave Digging Tender and to discuss and agree way forward for cemetery interments

One tender has been received and prices have been updated accordingly. These are a 20% increase on current prices.

Proposal: Cllr Lewis proposed the Council accept the tender and contract from 1 November 2024 – 31 March 2025.

Seconded: Cllr Bewley seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Council to enter into contract. New cemetery fees are required to be sent to Funeral Directors explaining the fee rise is due to increased contractor charges.

TC

121.2 To note budget preparations to date

Clerk to ascertain when Band D information will be released.

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121.3 To discuss outcome of public consultation re Community Hub and correspondence received

Thanks were given to those who attended and gave input. Additional sessions are to be set up with further consideration given on what can be displayed to make it more interesting. Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Watson regarding NCCs plans for the site before conducting any further work on the project.

121.4 To receive details of energy survey and internal restructuring plans of Amble First School if available

Council continues to request information from NCC and the education authority. NCC are keen to know the timescale that Council has to develop a business case which at the moment Council is unable to provide. If ATC is unable to take this on due to the increasing costs the site will become a vacant liability for NCC.

It was agreed to hold the next public consultation on 19 November 2024, 1pm – 6pm.

121.5 To receive an update on SLA with NCC regarding Council IT needs

As agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk has begun arrangements to enable the transfer of the email hosting to NCC. The current provider has been made aware of our intention and NCC have been provided with initial information for setting up the email accounts.

121.6 To discuss request to support resident maintenance of unused land

Discussion was held on the purpose of the maintenance however Council has no authority over the land.

Resolved: Council is not able to endorse or support the maintenance of any land that it has no jurisdiction over.

Clerk to contact.

121.7 To receive an update on Teams meeting with FA

This item was deferred to private.

121.8 To receive an update on action taken regarding parking concerns since last meeting

No update received. Council are meeting Robin McCartney on 22 October 2024.

121.9 To note the update regarding social media access

All staff now have access.

121.10 To note the request for premises for Banking Hub

Clerk to contact Lesley Wilson with suggestions of S&M electrics building for contact or use of the TSB building once that closes.

121.11 To receive feedback on the Walkabout for Partly Sighted

The site visit was well attended and well received. Members found it very useful and suggested an update to Cllr Parks report and this be sent to Robin McCartney.

After information from Cllr Parks, Clerk to contact Home Group re Longstone Manor bus stop.

121.12 To note letter regarding borrowing of Council equipment and subsequent response

Resolved: Clerk to amend the policy points as agreed.

121.13 To discuss contribution to staff parking places at Dovecote Centre

One member of staff uses the car park however this will cease in December.

Proposal: As gesture of goodwill Councillor Lewis proposed a donation of £50 for the use of the car park.

TC

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Seconded. Councillor Bewley seconded the proposal.

Resolved: Clerk to contact NTC

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

122.1 Local Nature Recovery Survey

122.2 Northumbria Connected

122.3 To note resurfacing works to South Avenue 28-29 October 2024

122.4 To note letter to Tesco re CCTV and their response

122.5 Highlights AGM Invitation

122.6 CAN Newsletter

122.7 CAB AGM 5th December 2024

122.8 NALC Newsletter

122.9 To note letter re Winter Fuel Allowance cuts

122.10 Best of Northumberland Awards

Communication items noted enbloc.

Update items at discretion of the Chair

Remembrance Day update

Dave Shoemaker has agreed to recite the exhortation.

Bev Palin, Ron Creasy, Amble Cadets and Ben Newall have confirmed attendance.

Clerk to confirm road closures have been requested.

Wreaths have been ordered.

FOI regarding Wheelie Bin Collection

Council does not hold this information. The requester was advised to contact Northumberland County Council.

Persistent Complainant Review

Clerk to add to November meeting.

Election Information

Information from NCC does not give an indication of how much Councils will be charged and whether Council will be expected to pay for everything despite this being a joint election.

123. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

123.1 To receive notes of meeting with Lord Lieutenant Caroline Pryer

123.2 To receive notes of meeting with Glen Sanderson

123.3 To note staff training at Scribifest

123.4 To receive notes of the meeting with Coquet Medical Group

This was a very positive meeting – notes to be circulated. Regular meetings are to be arranged. There is potential for CMG to attend the community engagement day.

123.5 Local Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2024

123.6 To receive the notes of the SLA meeting 9 October 2024 if available

123.7 To note date of proposed works to Culvert

123.8 To note Chairs attendance At Halloween Ball Morpeth Town Council 26 October 2026

Information items noted enbloc

TC

TC

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124. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

124.1 14 November 2024, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

125. DATES FOR DIARIES

10 October 2024, 4pm – Amble Homes

11 October 2024, 10am – JCSC

18 October 2024, 10.30am – David Smith MP

22 October 2024, 1pm – Northumbria Police

22 October 2024, 2pm – Robin McCartney

24 October 2024, 10.30am – Shortlisting

28 October 2024, 10.00am – Glen Sanderson, County Hall.

31 October 2024 Interviews tbc

12 November 2024, 2pm – Staff Training

14 November 2024, 6pm – Full Council

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

126. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Resolved: The exempt report was noted.

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

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

Cllr Weir reported on the information from ADT.

Cllr Joyce offered to attend the meeting with the FA re the 3G pitch.

128. AGENDA ITEMS

128.1 To receive an update from Amble Homes, discuss and agree proposed plans.

Council met with Amble Homes and clarity was given on the current position. Council had sought legal advice and agreed to follow the advice stated. It is expected that any additional legal expenses incurred would be met by the other party.

Clerk to contact GF White.

128.2 To note recruitment process for Admin Assistant role

Shortlisting will take place on 24th October with interviews expected on 31st October.

128.3 To note staff appraisal

Noted.

The meeting finished at 8.42pm

TC