

## **AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – December 2024**

**The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 6.00pm,  
Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.**

**PRESENT:**

**C Weir (Chair), I Parks (Vice Chair), H Lewis, D Bewley, K Morrison, I Rackham  
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.***

**Lesley Wilson, Cash Access, Amble Banking Hub**

Lesley Wilson will attend on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Matthew Connolly, CCTV**

MC had reviewed the Council's spend on CCTV and noted the funds within the Earmarked Funds and queried whether there were any plans to review the current locations or expand the current network, specifically for the bottom of Queen Street. MC was provided with some background information regarding the initial CCTV provision and the current provision we have now. Council confirmed that the current locations were agreed with Northumbria Police and a recent review found that there may be opportunity to relocate one of the cameras on the Co-Op Funeralcare building to the Corner of Queen Street / Bridge Street however as this building is currently having extension building work it has not been possible to pursue this further at this time. Camera relocation costs around £1500 plus VAT but electricity charges must also be taken into account as well as the annual maintenance programme and upgrades. In terms of the deployable cameras, at least two of them were promised to Amble should the need arise, all 48 of these are currently offline.

It was queried whether there was any data to evidence whether the CCTV footage has been successful in prosecutions. Ordinarily the Council would not be made aware of this however it does meet with Northumbria Police on a monthly basis where generic statistics are provided.

### **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

**150.APOLOGIES**

None

**151. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

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### **151.1 To note the resignation of Chris Palmer**

The resignation of Chris Palmer was accepted- he would be thanked for his service. The elections office has confirmed that Council may co-opt at its earliest convenience.

### **151.2 To discuss co-option application from Mr Michael Joyce**

Mr Joyce left the room.

The Chair had casting vote.

Resolution: Michael Joyce was co-opted to Amble Town Council. Mr Joyce returned and was asked to contact Clerk for signing of paperwork.

### **152. 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 raise as and when on agenda.

### **153. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

#### **153.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2024, items 129 149.1**

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2024 were agreed as a true record.

### **154. CLERK'S REPORT:**

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

#### **154.1 Clerks Report attached**

The Clerks report was accepted with thanks.

### **155. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

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

#### **155.1: Chairman**

The Chair attended various events including a civic event with Ashington Mens Choir, NCC Christmas Fair, a civic event at Whitley Bay and Carol Service at Alnwick and will attend St Cuthberts Church on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

#### **155.2: Vice Chairman**

Vice Chair attended meetings with Robin McCartney, Christmas Lights switch on and AAHS meeting.

### **156: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group**

#### **156.1 To receive report update from Steering Group and Sub Committees**

MC thanked Council for providing additional information to inform the various aspects of the developing plan. Notes of both sub committees have been circulated with one more to be set up in the New Year (Housing and Employment). There is no Steering Group meeting before the next Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January, therefore there will be no representation from the Steering Group however a report will be provided in advance. A shortlist of 94

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potential sites for Green Space, Community and Heritage assets will be filtered against set criteria and more detailed work will be carried out against those left. It is necessary to demonstrate that all sites have been considered and assessed appropriately. Paul Morrison has been co-opted to the Green Space and Environment group and work is ongoing with regards to the definition of Wildlife Corridors.

In terms of feeding into or aligning with the potential LCWIP – NCC have been working on a map however this is not currently in the public domain. The Town Council are expected a meeting with the LCWIP team in the New Year. It was suggested that perhaps when the weather improves that new rights of way could be identified as this would give greater protection to those areas which are frequently used as a Right of Way but have no legal standing, for example behind Marks Bridge, along the side of Hauxley Grange, and the Lord Mayors Field.

Community conservation and heritage policies are to be developed. All nonlisted buildings etc would look to be protected via the planning process. The current list of sites are to be reviewed. It should not be necessary to include those assets which are already listed; whether those within a conservation area need to be assessed would be clarified.

It would be clarified who would be responsible if a heritage asset falls into disrepair or land owners do not upkeep the asset. There were some recreation areas that perhaps should be included such as those within estates- Phillip Drive, Robsons Way, Tynedale, Hauxley Grange, Longstone Manor.

It was reported that the finance for the plan was on track. Much of the “leg work” is being done by the Steering Group to ensure that they have as much information as possible before the planner starts to work, which will see the main bulk of the funding being spent. The news around changes to planning announced today were noted, including an NCC Countywide Housing Strategy, a review of the Local Plan, tackling inequalities through housing – Amble does have enough housing planned but not the correct type to meet the need.

Some minor tweaks to the data were suggested:

No75 Memorial(s)

58 Clarification of area

The Steering Group were thanked for the mass of work that has been done to date.

### **157. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

#### **157.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark**

TC has assisted residents in a garden tidy up and others with homelessness assessments. Broken street lighting columns have also been reported and chased up. Work on the HUSK project has started and all residents have been provided with support telephone numbers if required. There is no funding from NCC for tree planting. It was queried what their policy now was as it used to be plant two trees for every tree removed.

King Edwin School will be officially handed over from the developer on 13 December with the kitchen to be connected on 16 December. The Neighbourhood Services winter routes have started, and all identified hot spots have been cleared. Garden Waste collection has been suspended for the winter and revised dates for Christmas Waste Collection were provided.

TC was made aware of the works to the hedges and bushes along the A1068 near Brambles which have been severely cut. Clerk to ask for a meeting with Lee Farrier.

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TC was made aware of the planning application for the Schooner and urged NCC to look at their obligation for steps and shrubbery here to ensure that this walkway is retained and not taken over as part of the establishment.

### **157.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson**

Apologies accepted.

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

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

Cllr Weir attended meetings around the Community Hub consultation, NCC IT, Robin McCartney, NCC Partnership meeting, Amble toilets, staff leaving presentation.

A new rep for NALC is needed.

Kate Morrison attended meetings with NTC, AYP, Community Action Northumberland and Events Committee.

Cllr Bewley attended a meeting with Contractors for works required to Amble West Cemetery. It was noted some of the previous works were deteriorating and would be included within the quotation.

Cllr Bewley and Cllr Parks attended a meeting with AAHS. It was noted the request from the Pigeon Club was to house the pigeons here overnight before flying- this would be discussed further at the next Amenities Committee meeting. Tenants were to be reminded about the policy for burning- no plastics- and were also reminded to park with courtesy to other road users especially those emerging from Brinkburn Place. Any new plots were to be tidied prior to further occupation. The tenant whose poly tunnel was damaged has been advised to claim on own insurance.

## **159. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

### **159.1 To consider voucher numbers 197 – 229 for payment and 50 - 57 for receipt.**

Cllr Lewis declared an interest in voucher 210.

Cllr Weir declared an interest in vouchers 199 and 206.

Cllr Lewis queried £500 of unknown income. Clerk to investigate further.

Resolved: The payments and receipts were accepted.

### **159.2 Bank Reconciliation**

Resolved: The bank reconciliation was accepted.

### **159.3 Year to date figures**

Resolved: The year to date figures were accepted.

### **159.4 To review draft 2025/2026 budget and precept request**

Members reviewed the budget for the third time. Members were asked to consider whether the precept needed to be increased to cover a contribution to the toilets. It is hoped the new figures from NCC would be available in January so that this can be decided.

Clerk was asked to contact Glen Sanderson with a view that it was felt that this issue was not being dealt with the urgency it needs.

### **159.5 Grant Requests**

- **Great North Air Ambulance**

Resolved: Support with a grant of £100

- **Warkworth Cricket Club**

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Resolved: Grant request declined.

- **Alnwick and District Sports Awards Senior Male category**

Resolved: Support with a grant of £130. Cllr Morrison to attend to present the award.

### **159.6 To request additional signatories for the authorisation of payments**

Resolved: Cllr Rackham agreed to be the third signatory for Council accounts. Clerk to begin the process.

### **160. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

#### **160.1 To receive Minutes of the Amenities Committee 28 November 2024**

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

#### **160.2 To discuss quotation for Clock Tower door and rail painting**

The quotation was noted and was to be kept on file.

Items discussed at discretion of Chair.

Insurance has confirmed it was to settle the claim minus the excess for damage to the allotment fence. Contractor to be asked to look at the smaller section further up too. Amenities roundup for website was noted.

### **161: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

#### **161.1 To note December 2024 Planning Outcomes**

Resolved: The planning report was accepted.

Planning Application re Schooner has been circulated to all for comments. Queries received sent to NCC.

### **162. AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **162.1 To receive an update on Amble toilet refurbishment and to discuss possible Council contribution to refurbishment scheme.**

NCC were asked for follow up meeting and definitive costs by 12 December for agreement at this meeting however no information has been received. An urgent letter to be sent to NCC officers as any contribution from this Council would need to be discussed on 9 January 2024.

#### **162.2 To review collated community consultation feedback and known costs analysis in order to determine progression of a Community Asset Transfer of Amble First School from NCC**

Cllr Rackham was thanked for his support at retrieving some of the required data.

It would appear that given the information known that this Council could not sustain the renovation and running costs long term without 2/3 anchor tenants to offset the cost however this would then limit the community space available. Feedback from the community consultation was positive however many people felt that Amble deserved better investment and should not once again “make do”. An assessment of available community space shows that there is quite a lot of availability within the town that could be utilised. It would be difficult to meet the demands of the business case given the information known. It was felt a strong letter should be sent to NCC to express our disappointment at their lack of investment of forward thinking for Amble.

Proposal: Cllr Lewis proposed that Amble Council does not enter into a Community Asset

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Transfer of Amble First School with Northumberland County Council.

Seconded: Cllr Rackham.

Resolution: Amble Town Council shall not proceed with the Community Asset Transfer. An explanation of the reasoning would be put onto the website along with the survey of venue availability.

### **162.3 To discuss progress with new email provision**

The new email provision has been a success with all members now using the new system. All passwords to be sent to the Clerk. When Members are finished with old email account please let Clerk know for deletion.

### **162.4 To agree staff training for ILCA**

Resolved: New staff to undertake ILCA training at a cost of £120.

### **162.5 To receive an update on trade fair**

It is now known that a similar event is taking place in February.

Proposal: Cllr Rackham proposed to delay the Council trade fair until late Spring.

Seconder: Cllr Weir.

Resolved: Trade fair to be delayed. Cllrs Rackham, Bewley and Parks to work on something in April for May launch.

### **Items discussed at Chairs discretion:**

#### **Office Security**

Clerk to seek permission from ADT to reinstate the combination lock to the office door as they have not done so. This would give better security but enable Cllr access if needed.

Northumbria Police to be asked whether they carry out security risk assessments.

Blue panel from office door to be removed.

Discussion re intercom style device.

Agreed to install better security measures for up to £500 as advised by N.Police.

Discussions needed with ADT.

#### **Newspage**

Cllr Rackham agreed to write the Cllrs Corner for this edition.

#### **ADT Lease**

Clerk to clarify the termination date.

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

#### **163.1 Pharmacy Assessment**

#### **163.2 Northumbria Connected 24/11,**

#### **163.3 To note offer of Neighbourhood Development Plan Training**

**163.4 Subject Access Request: Communications Amble TC and Taylor Wimpey;** this request will not be fulfilled due to it being the opinion of the Council that the unfounded nature of the request is intended to cause disruption and harassment of the organisation. It is also related to a subject which Council have already determined as been responded to its fullest extent as it has no legal responsibility for the issue. The resident has been contacted.

#### **163.5 Community Resilience Workshops:**

**North Northumberland:**

**Alnwick Community Hub – Tuesday 14th January 2025 - @ 12:30 – 3:30pm**

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**Berwick Community Trust – Thursday 6th February 2025 @ 12:30-3:30pm**  
**163.6 Nextdoor Nature Northumberland – Northumberland Wildlife Trust**

Robsons Way – A query had been raised about a small grassed area which was once fenced in but has since had the fence removed resulting in a danger for children running after loose footballs onto the road.

This area belongs to Taylor Wimpey and all communications should be directed to them.

### **164. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

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

**164.1 To note concerns of Brinkburn resident re Percy Drive**

**164.2 To note minutes of Northumberland Coast National Landscape Partnership 13 November 2024**

**164.3 To receive the notes of the Partnership Meeting with NCC held on 27 November 2024**

**164.4 To receive the notes of the meeting with the Highways Infrastructure Manager 26 November 2024**

**164.5 To note Mayors attendance at Civic Events 7 February 2025**

**164.6 To note Mayors attendance at Alnwick Christmas Carol Service 10 December 2024**

**164.7 To note follow up to David Smith MP**

**164.8 To note letter to Regional Director, Persimmons regarding state of highway and footpaths adjacent to the Percy Drive development**

**164.9 To note retirement of Anna Kruk and appointment of Sue Fletcher as Admin. Assistant**

Noted enbloc

### **165. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

**165.1 9 January 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.**

### **166. DATES FOR DIARIES**

**13 December 2024, 6.30pm, Chairmans Reception, Radcliffe Club**

**9 January 2025, 10.00am NCC arranged Estate Walkabout with Ryan Dixon**

**9 January 2025, 6.00pm, Full Council**

**11 February 2025, Alnwick and District Sports Awards**

**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**

### **167. EXEMPT REPORT**

**167.1 RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and**

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**consider actions where necessary.**

The Exempt report was noted.

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

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

#### **Amble Development Trust**

Further discussions around access requirements to the Welfare are needed.

Playzone – the programme has been delayed. An update will be asked for.

It was noted that an increase of 15% was agreed for one of the units within Fourways 2.

ATC was asked whether it wanted to take up an offer for a promotional drone video. The offer was declined.

### **169. AGENDA ITEMS**

**169.1 To receive an update from Hay and Kilner**

The termination has been sent to Amble Homes via the solicitors.

Clerk to contact solicitor for contract advice.

**169.2 To note ASB / Verbal abuse of an individual and action taken**

Update noted and reported by victim.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm