

## **AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – February 2025**

**The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 6.00pm,  
Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.**

**PRESENT:**

**C Weir (Chair), H Lewis, K Morrison, I Rackham, M Joyce, I Parks  
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.*

**Shaun Jobson, Pre-Employment Training Opportunities Northumbria Training**

Shaun Jobson attended to represent Northumbria Training. After working in education and training for many years, Shaun is keen to bring more opportunities into Amble and asked the Town Council for their input as to what would be most beneficial to Amble residents and businesses. Shaun would look for funding opportunities to match the demand here in Amble and would look to have as many in person training opportunities as possible to encourage and enable as much take up as possible. Shaun would be looking to develop a cohesive approach with links to local businesses and employment wherever possible. Shaun was made aware of the Amble Connect initiative that was started before Covid and is to be reestablished in the near future.

As there is much to discuss and many thoughts to collate on this it was suggested that a separate meeting be arranged so more details could be shared. Clerk to organise.

**TC**

**Julia Chambers, CRAG**

Not present

Pauline Davidson. PD had queries on the Acklington Neighbourhood Plan. It was confirmed that Amble did not cover any part of Acklington but did share a County Councillor. PD was informed that the Acklington Plan had been out to consultation and was provided with a draft copy of the plan for information.

### **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

**190.APOLOGIES**

**190.1 David Bewley, Illness, Apologies accepted.**

**191. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

**191.1 To receive an update on Councillor Vacancies**

**To discuss co-option applications received from Mr A Hume and Ms S Took**

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Resolved: Arthur Hume and Sapphire Took were co-opted to the Council. Clerk to arrange appointments for the signing of documents.

TC

### **192. 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 declarations as and when they arise on the agenda.

### **193. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

**193.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2025 items 170-189.1**

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as true record

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

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

#### **194.1 Clerks Report attached**

Resolved: The Clerks report was accepted.

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

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

#### **195.1: Chairman**

No meetings or events attended as Chair other than those stated later

#### **195.2: Vice Chairman**

No meetings or events attended as Vice Chair other than those stated later

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

**196.1 To receive report update from Steering Group and Sub Committees if available**

The Steering Group requested Town Council support for AECOM to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment. This large piece of work is of no cost to the Council and does not come from the NP funding.

Proposal – Cllr Lewis proposed Council accept the offer of technical support for the HNA.

Seconded – Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Council agreed for AECOM funding to carry out work on Housing Needs Assessment

The steering group met on 5<sup>th</sup> February 25. The next steps are to ascertain detailed information on each of the identified sites and open spaces.

The sites within the Conservation Area are protected under that designation and therefore are not included in the detail. A list of community facilities is needed. An additional 11 sites have been identified as potential for housing needs or development.

LMc will forward the Council a revised version of the sites.

It was noted the current Open Spaces consultation may have badly marked boundaries and incorrect designations for areas such as Amble West Cemetery, Amble West

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Allotments.

There has been no further update re LCWIP.

PlayZone – It is expected that the PlayZone will start very soon and the build should last around 10-12 weeks. Parking remains an issue.

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

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

##### **Amble Library**

Email from library staff assured that all warm hubs were open on working days during the holiday period however smaller hubs were closed due to lack of footfall. Closures were publicised however incorrectly as the NCC website stated it was open.

Members urged NCC to rethink closing any designated warm hubs as family circumstances can change at any point and a safe warm space could be needed. Amble Library also provides social, emotional and physical benefits for some users.

There was also concern expressed regarding a lack of library books on offer. This will directly affect footfall. Cllr Clark to ascertain why there has been a decrease in books on offer.

##### **HUSK**

Storm damage during the recent storms has been rectified. Investigations are ongoing.

##### **Fly tipping**

Fly tipping and bonfires on the Lord Mayors Field have been reported to enforcement. Park Leisure and NCC Neat teams are in discussions.

##### **Bin lid damage**

Cllr Clark has resolved this issue

##### **Potholes**

A1068 – should be fixed by the end of the week / early next week.

A1068 to Hauxley narrowed by overgrown bushes and shrubs / rubble.

Charles Road – reoccurring issues

##### **CRAG**

General agreement seems this is a good idea but that the existing refurbishment needs to be completed first.

##### **Homefinder**

Cllr Clark has resolved this issue.

##### **Tynedale**

Issues with fly tipping and rubbish persist in the area. Concerns of vermin and ASB continue. Damage to grassed areas being monitored.

##### **Resurfacing**

Links Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Philip Drive 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025

##### **Removal of hedgerow**

The removal of the hedgerow near Barndale was included within the planning agreement. Clerk to ascertain where it is intended to plant the additional trees given that the Town Council has plans to extend the bus shelter apron.

##### **Hauxley Grange**

Persimmons and NCC are engaged in legal negotiations and there is no further update.

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Albert Street / Masons Corner- The green light on the traffic lights is not working again.  
A1068 Trees- The trees and bushes that have been maintained here are a mess and have been damaged.

### **Local Transport Plan**

It is encouraging to see resurfacing of Leazes Street which is badly needed however disappointed no separate money for potholes as some of our streets are dreadful.

However noted £60,000 is set against High Street Phase 2.

More detail on this was requested as little was known about phase 1.

Which part of High Street will phase 2 be and what is planned for there?

### **Planning**

The highways assessment for a pedestrian crossing have reported that there is no need for a crossing. On closure inspection of the plans it appears that students, cars and bikes are all expected to enter and exit at the same point. Whilst it is understood that there must be a barrier separating the two, it still raises major safety concerns.

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

Apologies accepted.

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

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

Meetings attended by Cllr Weir:

Highways Infrastructure Manager, Amble Development Trust, Estate Walkabout, Clock Tower Tommy, Northumbria Police, Vicky Oakley, Amenities Committee, Advance Northumberland, Partnership Meeting with NCC, JCSC.

Meetings attended by Cllr Morrison:

Amble Youth Project, Northumberland Touring Company, Amble Events Committee, Alnwick and District Sports Award.

Clerk to add to agenda the decision of nominees for the awards.

## **199. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

### **199.1 To consider voucher numbers 257 – 277 for payment and 63 - 69 for receipt.**

Resolved: Payments and Receipts approved

### **199.2 Bank Reconciliation**

Resolved: Bank reconciliation noted

### **199.3 Year to date figures**

Resolved: Year to date figures noted

### **199.4 Grant Requests**

None

### **199.5 To discuss and agree 2025-2026 Payroll SLA with NCC**

Members reviewed the proposed SLA. This proposal is a slight increase on what is currently charged.

Cost per person £105 – increase of £5

Annual Charge £300 – increase of £15

12 Equal payments £26.25 – increase of £1.25

Proposal: Cllr Lewis to accept

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Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Council to sign the 25/26 SLA with NCC and agree increases.

### **199.6 To approve 2025-2026 Cemetery fees**

Proposal: Cllr Parks to accept cemetery fees

Second: Cllr Weir

Resolved: The cemetery fees were approved for 2025-2026.

### **199.7 To receive costs / options available of IT SLA with NCC; to discuss and agree detail of same.**

Members discussed the options below.

1. Just email: £4,084
2. Option 1 plus three new desktops and two new laptops: £6,436.65

These do not include works to the server.

3. Option 2 plus server support: £7,936.65
  - a. Contractor could then look to procure a new server depending on needs/age of the existing server

Proposal: Cllr Lewis proposed to defer the decision until costs are known for a new server and member tablets as this would mean better security.

Second: Cllr Weir

Resolved: Clerk to seek additional costs and also costs for screen visualiser.

TC

## **200.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

### **200.1 To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee 30 January 2025**

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

### **200.2 To note ASB at War Memorial and action taken**

Noted

### **200.3 To note insurance update regarding Allotment Fence and additional repair**

Noted

### **200.4 To note the recent update regarding Bird Flu and implications for AAHS**

Noted

### **200.5 To note storm damage to boundary fence between cemetery and allotments**

Noted. To repair under maintenance and Health and Safety- £480

### **200.6 To receive an update on seat and bus shelter installation on Percy Drive**

A dispute regarding provision and responsibility is ongoing despite NCC agreeing that as TCs are expected to take on this responsibility that they should be consulted on what is proposed. Staff to pursue.

Members to note: seating bars are being implemented on those bus shelters where it is possible to install.

### **200.7 To note expected Town and Parish Council Election Costs if all wards are contested**

Noted. If all three wards are contested the Town Council can expect to pay up to £5700 plus location etc. costs. Council will need to continue to budget over the following 4 years

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for the next election.

NCC to be contacted in May / June to abolish the ward system.

### **200.8 To note update on culvert from Esh**

Noted. All parties have been informed.

### **200.9 To note meeting with Persimmon homes re: tree planting**

Notes provided for information. Seven trees will be planted.

## **201: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **201.1 To note January 2025 planning update**

Noted

### **201.2 To note letter to Rob Murfin re discharge of Hauxley Grange Planning Conditions re: bus shelters**

Noted

### **201.3 To note concern regarding pathway nr sewage works alongside Hauxley Grange**

Noted

### **201.4 To note responses from Persimmon regarding Percy Drive**

Noted

### **201.5 To note removal of trees and shrubs Land NW of Hauxley Moor**

Noted

### **201.6 To note planning application re JCSC**

Noted. Members to view.

### **201.7 To note Street Naming Consultation agreement**

A suggestion of tree types was submitted to NCC for consideration.

## **202. AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **202.1 To receive CCTV costs for new CCTV camera and installation**

One quote for £2412 plus VAT has been received for the new installation of the CCTV camera for the bottom of Queen Street. The electricity quotation from NCC has been received at £300.

TC

Proposal: Cllr Lewis to accept quotations and arrange install

Second: Cllr Weir

Resolved: Clerk to instruct go ahead with contractors.

### **202.2 To discuss Northumberland Open Space Assessment Consultation response**

TC

This is a detailed piece of work with a new formula per person however the boundaries have been badly drawn and some designations may be incorrect.

Clerk to contact NCC with Council response- agreed in meeting- and request for redrawing / redesignation of relevant areas.

### **202.3 To discuss response to Northumberland Wheeled Action Sports Survey**

Members to respond individually.

### **202.4 To approve Draft Social Media Policy for Amble Town Council**

TC

Proposal: Cllr Lewis proposal to accept the policy

Second: Cllr Weir

Resolved: Policy accepted. Clerk to add to May AGM for formal adoption going forward.

### **202.5 To agree staff training for intermediate excel training modules 1 and 2 at a cost of £140 each.**

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Resolved: Staff training was agreed

### **202.6 To discuss “Tommy” proposal for Amble Clock Tower**

Proposal: After being assured of sensitivity and measures to alleviate any harm to the structure, Cllr Lewis proposed agreement in principle subject to disclaimer being signed to cover responsibility for any damage to memorial and if so, a specialist contractor to be employed to rectify any damage, additionally there should be no cost to the Council for the installation.

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Cllr Weir to feedback outcome to relevant persons.

IR

### **202.7 To discuss possible Council response to Open Consultation Copyright and Artificial Intelligence**

Cllr Rackham to draft a Council response for agreement.

### **202.8 To agree nominations for Kings Garden Party 2025**

TC

Proposal: Cllr Lewis nominated Cllr Weir

Second: Cllr Parks

Resolved: Clerk to submit nomination for Cllr Weir

### **202.9 To receive an update on the Amble Toilet Refurbishment**

There is no further update at this stage. A timeline has been requested.

ALL

### **202.10 To discuss a rose bed & plaque to record 100 years clock tower anniversary**

A rose bed in the memorial gardens was approved. Staff to order plaque after consulting with Cllr Weir on size. Members to consider wording.

### **202.11 To discuss CRAG Proposal for Harbour Toilets**

As there was no representation present this item was deferred.

### **202.12 To receive an update on closure of Amble Library and Warm Hub during Christmas and New Year and also address the lack of library books available**

This item was addressed during Cllr Clarks update.

### **202.13 To note response to Proposed Parking Restrictions, Leazes Street/Newbrough Street Junction, Amble**

Resolved: No objection.

### **202.14 To note Proposed Parking Restrictions, Ladbroke Street/Harbour Road Junction, Amble**

TC

Resolved: No objection.

### **202.15 To note update regarding deregulation of Albert Street road markings**

The parking restrictions here have been deregulated. A note to be added to the newsletter including how to recognise a legal highways bus stop area.

### **202.16 To note ownership of old CCTV cameras and receive an update on their removal**

Noted. NCC should be removing these as a matter of urgency.

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

#### **203.1 To note resident correspondence regarding private property and Right of Way Gloster Park to New Hall**

#### **203.2 To note complaints regarding ASB in Tynedale**

#### **203.3 To note concerns regarding litter around Leazes Street and Newburgh Street and also coastal path.**

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**203.4 To note concerns received regarding parking on Gordon Street**

**203.5 To note Dissertation on Seaside Regeneration request**

**203.6 Northumberland Cycling Campaign and responses received**

**203.7 Northumbria Connected 15/01, 28/01,**

**203.8 Invite to Asset Watch HQ**

Members to contact the Clerk if they would like a visit.

**203.9 North Northumberland Local Area Committee 30 January 2025**

Cllr Lewis reported on a telephone call regarding a lack of water at the West Cemetery. The water is turned off until Spring but there is a water butt for a supply. Upon investigation it became clear that the feed for the water butt had been pulled from the wall and the water butt was empty. NCC kindly refilled the water butt and reattached it. The caller was informed. A thank you note was received.

Comms noted enbloc.

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

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

**204.1 To note anonymous complaint regarding Councillor Social Media use**

**204.2 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 28 January 2025**

**204.3 Notes of meeting with Vicky Oakley 29 January 2025**

**204.4 Notes of meeting with Robin McCartney 14 January 2025**

**204.5 Notes of meeting with Advance Northumberland 5 February 2025**

Resolved: This item to be moved to private given the request from officers.

**204.6 Notes of 100 years Anniversary of Clock Tower event 14 January 2025**

**204.7 To note Community Website issue and resolution**

**204.8 To note outcome of Estate Walkabout**

**204.9 To note NCC volunteer roles**

**204.10 To note the Election Timetable**

**204.11 To note the update on HUSK development**

**204.12 To note letter to Amble Co-Op regarding closure of Queen Street store**

**204.13 To note staff and Cllr attendance at online webinar re online abuse and harassment**

**204.14 VE Day Funding application**

**204.15 To note issue with sliding doors in Council office**

Responsibility for the sliding doors is not yet agreed upon. It remains the position of the Council that these are part of the fabric of the building and should come under landlord's responsibility. To date it is believed no maintenance has ever been carried out on the doors, nor any specific instructions regarding its operation.

Information items noted enbloc

### **Notes provided after the agenda:**

Partnership Meeting with NCC

Notes of meeting with JCSC.

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

**205.1 13 March 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.**

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### **206. DATES FOR DIARIES**

#### **Meetings TBC**

Robin McCartney

Northumbria Police

Partnership Meeting with NCC – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

JCSC

**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**

#### **207. EXEMPT REPORT**

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

Exempt report was noted.

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

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

**Amble Development Trust**

Cllr Weir to raise issues regarding office security, fire regulations and risk assessments.

#### **209. AGENDA ITEMS**

**209.1 To receive an update from Hay and Kilner if available**

- **Land registry**

Arrangements are in place to have the entry removed.

- **Option Agreement**

Draft documentation has been provided but not circulated.

TC

**209.2 To discuss and agree Option Agreement**

Members discussed the content. It may be necessary to amend the content however at this stage no further information is known.

Resolved: Standing Order 3w was suspended and an extension of the meeting was agreed.

Resolved: Land value investigations were asked to determine whether there has been any increase / decrease in value to ensure value for money.

**209.3 To discuss nominations to the National Honours System**

Background information on the National Honours System was discussed. Nominations need to be made independently of which the Council could support if agreeable however the lengthy process was noted. Details and contacts have previously been shared.

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### **210. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**210.1 Noted of meeting with Advance Northumberland**

Noted