

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – June 2025

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 12th June 2025, 6.00pm, Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

**I Parks, D Bewley, C Connelly, M Joyce, C Dawson, J Richards, L MCTaggart
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.

There were 5 members of the public present.

Louis and Karen from NTC attended to give an update on available space within NTC.

NTC has inherited some of the parish halls customer base. A number of well-established community groups already use the NTC community space for their sessions.

NTC noted that an agenda item today was to discuss the possibility of looking at the Parish Hall as a community hub space. There was concern that this could exacerbate the parking issues on Dovecote Street and would be in competition with what is already being provided as well as concerns regarding the finance required to bring the parish hall up to a suitable standard for a community building.

Matthew Connolly suggested joining the Amble Town Council Awards with the Good Young Citizen Award. The GYCA does not include the high school and perhaps it should. He also stated that the junior civic award had not gone to a young person for several years. MC suggested the Town Council take a look at the Alnwick Awards and requested that ATC consider taking a wider approach in future. LMc agreed that Council should be looking at the whole community events working party.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

31.APOLOGIES

I Rackham

32. 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 they come up on the agenda.

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33. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

33.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2025, items 1 to 30.2

Resolved. The minutes were accepted.

Members are asked to show their agreement

34. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

34.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved: The Clerk report was accepted.

35. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

35.1: Chairman

Cllrs Parks attended the partnership meeting with NCC, the meeting with County Councillors and the meeting with Highways Infrastructure Manager.

35.2: Vice Chairman

Cllrs Bewley attended the partnership meeting with NCC, the meeting with County Councillors and the meeting with Highways Infrastructure Manager.

36: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

Members of the steering group signed the disclosure agreement.

Information released today that funding for Neighbourhood Plans has been axed as part of the spending review. MC to discuss with Sarah Branigan to determine what support will continue.

Data from the Housing Needs Assessment has been received and this has highlighted a vast need for affordable properties in Amble.

The conservation area meets the second homes / holiday let thresholds but the wider town does not. Work to be done on whether specific policy can target certain areas although any policy can only be applied to new builds. MC to circulate the report.

JR, IR and LM are now the Councils reps on the steering group.

37. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

37.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Apologies from Cllr Hume.

37.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Coble Quay

PD is seeking a resolution to the issue with Coble Quay although the matter remains with NCC legal.

Harbour Toilets

The organisers of the Saturday and Sunday market have requested to be allowed to open the toilets earlier. This would need to be discussed with NCC Neighbourhood Services directly.

King Edwin Primary School

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Remedial works to the school field can be done in Summer, however this would only cover half of the school field. The field is to then be grass seeded in October and would be out of commission for 9 months whilst this grows.

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

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

Cllr Connolly attended a meeting of NALC and provided an update. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated. Main updates included devolution of White Paper unratified, Northumberland and NE in line for government funding, Rob Murfin available for planning training via NALC, new audit requirements re GDPR and .gov.uk domains, dualling of the A1 debate continues.

Cllr Dawson provided an update from Amble Events Committee, notes provided.

Cllr Dawson provided an update from Amble Youth Project.

Cllr Bewley attended the police community engagement event.

Cllr Richards attended meeting with ADT/NCC re JCSC Sports Hall – notes provided. The new application is being considered by NCC Planning.

39. FINANCIAL REPORT:

39.1 To consider voucher numbers 25 - 62 for payment and 12 -14 for receipt.

Resolved: payments and receipts were approved.

39.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: Bank reconciliation accepted.

39.3 Year to date figures

Noted

Item 39.5 was moved to be discussed at this point in the agenda:

39.5 To consider amendments to the Grant Policy

Proposal to accept amendments to the policy: Michael Joyce

Seconder: Claire Connolly

One abstention.

Resolution: Amendments to the policy were accepted.

39.4 Grant Requests

- **Amble Links First School**
Application deferred and request for further information and specific figure.
- **The Colony Music Festival**
Proposer: Michael Joyce £500 towards PA and sound equipment
Seconder: Jenny Richards
Resolved: £500 grant awarded.
- **Escape Family Support**
Proposer: Ciara Dawson £250
Seconder: Michael Joyce
Vote: 5 in favour, 2 abstentions
Resolved: £250 grant awarded
- **Hospice Care North Northumberland**

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Proposer: LMC defer until after policy working group
Seconder: Jenny Richards
Counter Proposal: David Bewley £1000
Second: Michael Joyce
Vote: 2 for, 4 against, 1 abstention
Resolved: Grant denied. Application deferred.

40. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

40.1 To receive the Amenities Committee Minutes 29 May 2025

Resolved: The minutes were accepted

40.2 To discuss installing QR codes upon all memorials and town signage

Staff to seek quotations if possible and Cllrs to bring to October budget planning.

40.3 To discuss water meter issues at Paddlers Park and determine a way forward

Resolved: agreed to monitor over the next few months baring in mind higher costs during school holidays.

40.4 To agree alternative location for Chatty Bench on land behind horseshoe hill

Proposal: Cllr Parks proposed to install the Chatty Bench on the dunes next to Paddlers Park.

Seconded: Cllr Richards

Resolved. New location agreed.

40.5 To note outcome of shutter service and agree retrospective approval for remedial repairs required at a cost of £600 plus VAT

Noted.

40.6 To agree retrospective approval for replacement of mesh panels to High Street Bus Shelter at a cost of £1098.66 plus vat

Resolved: Repairs and costs agreed.

40.7 To receive and discuss quotations for laying down of x3 large memorials in East Cemetery. Quotation 1 £480, Quotation 2 £739.69.

Proposer: Cllr Dawson proposed quotation 2

Seconder: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Staff to proceed with quotation 2.

40.8 Amble Toilet Refurbishment and temporary toilet update

The update was noted. Staff to ask WHC whether they would be prepared to open their accessible toilet.

40.9 Dilston Terrace King Cypher flower bed

Members to consider requirements for a colourful bed and send these to Cllr Bewley.

41: PLANNING COMMITTEE

41.1 To note the planning update for May 2025

Noted

41.2 To note letter and comments sent to Planning re development Land South And South East Of James Calvert Spence College Acklington Road, and agreed entrance / exit on B6345

Noted

42. AGENDA ITEMS:

42.1 To agree completion of Councillor skills audit

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Proposer: Cllr McTaggart

Seconder: Cllr Richards

Resolved: Skills audit to be carried out. Templates are available.

42.2 To discuss preparation of 4 year council plan

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Seconded: Cllr McTaggart

Resolved: A 4 year action plan to be worked up. Cllrs leading and bringing back to full council include JR, LM, CC, CD.

42.3 To agree working party to focus on policies, grants and parking / traffic, to agree membership of working parties and remit.

Working parties agreed as follows:

Policy Working Party

Cllrs Dawson, Connolly, Richards

Grants

Cllrs Dawson, Parks, McTaggart

Parking & Traffic

Cllrs Joyce, Parks, Bewley

All updated to be presented to Full Council for agreement or otherwise.

42.4 To review Social Media Policy

Resolved: Social Media and Communications Working Party to be established.

Cllrs McTaggart, Richards, Parks.

42.5 To discuss and agree supporting in principle, Amble Development Trust in exploring the retaining of the JCSC Sports Hall

Cllr Parks declared an interest.

Proposer: Cllr LM

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolved: 4 in favour, 2 against. Town Council to support in principle, investigations for the sports hall being retained by an external organisation.

Noted Cllr Connolly requested minutes to reflect that decisions made on her behalf of independent of any relationship with outside bodies.

42.6 To consider and agree submission of FOI / SAR to NCC for data relating to the JCSC planning application.

Data received to date does not include information on the structure of the building but only the maintenance schedules for the school etc.

The application has been called in for committee scrutiny.

Cllr Rackham FOI has been submitted although not clear what the outcome of that is.

All future FOIs must come from Clerk with council approval in order that there is one point of contact for information sharing.

42.7 To discuss plans for Meet Your Councillors event

Resolved: To be added to the social media and communications working party.

42.8 To discuss ongoing issues with Hauxley Grange POS and agree writing to developer

Resolved: Agreed letter to be sent to NCC with a deadline for response of 14 days.

42.9 To discuss possibility of St Cuthbert Parish Hall becoming a community building

Deferred

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42.10 To discuss proposals for the 2025 Chairmans Reception including format, entertainment and budget

Cllr Parks suggested that this event become a ticketed event and offered to a wider audience as well as those who have worked for the community.

Proposer: LMc

Secunder: JR

Resolved: To be added to the social media and communications working group with a request that a meeting is held before Julys full council as if there are major changes to take place, staff need to progress ASAP.

42.11 To discuss whether Council would like have a VJ Day event

Cllr Bewley to contact Coquet Churches Together regarding a short service. Update to be provided at next Councill meeting.

42.12 To discuss concerns raised re access to outdoor spaces at King Edwin Primary School

Letter to be sent to Audrey Kingham ASAP.

42.13 To discuss creation of an area of reflection at Amble West Cemetery

Resolved: A working party to be set up to take a look at the possibility of reinvigorating the area in front of the disused mortuary building into an area of reflection. It may be possible to involve local groups such as Greener Amble. There may be funds available from The Wildlife Trust. Cllrs Dawson and Richards to take the lead of this and report back suggestions to Full Council for approval or otherwise.

42.14 To discuss and agree necessary repair to Acklington Road, Paddlers Park and Leazes Street Coal Trucks

NCC suggest replacing all timber with metal.

Staff to seek quotations.

42.15 To discuss additional funding request from Amble Events Committee

Proposer: Cllr Parks proposed to provide £600 as a one off contribution for first aid.

Secunder: Cllr Dawson

Resolved: Grant agreed.

42.16 To consider collation of historical District Council land not transferred to NCC land ownership

Clerk to write to County Councillors, cc David Smith MP for info.

42.17 To agree adult and junior civic award winners

Moved to private.

42.18 To agree July 2025 Newpage for The Ambler

Members were asked for items for the Newpage.

42.19 To note concern re gas leak and consider letter to British Gas

This is outside the remit of the Town Council. Suggest signpost residents to the Ombudsman.

42.20 To receive an update Amble West Cemetery and to discuss proposal to retain wildflower area at Amble West Cemetery

Cllr Richards meeting with resident to discuss arrangements.

Bluebells are to be left to die back towards end of May before being strimmed as per original agreement. This year, unfortunately due to works to the entrance, NCC were not able to access the area as normal to carry out the maintenance.

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Staff to create a “Year in the life of the cemetery” for the noticeboard too highlight to visitors what they can expect to happen over the year to help manage expectations.

42.21 To review Restricted Contact arrangements

Move to private

42.22 To note Amble Library new opening and closing times; to consider a letter to NCC regarding a lack of consultation on these; to consider Library campaign

New times noted. Confirmation that Amble Library is not under threat and has been operating at these times since 2020.

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

43.1 Chairs invite to Amble Links Primary School Art Exhibition

Invitation extended to all members.

44. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

44.1 To note letter sent to County Cllrs re Pelican Crossing on The Wynd

44.2 To note letter sent to David Smith MP re Persimmons and Percy Drive

44.3 To note letter to NCC re concerns regarding education refurbishments and new builds.

44.4 To note letter to NCC re further information on JCSC Sports Hall

44.5 To note concerns re phone network outage and letter to NCC

44.6 To note CAN Newsletter 16/05,

All comms noted enbloc.

45. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

45.1 10 July 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

46. DATES FOR DIARIES

9 June 2025, Highways Infrastructure Manager, Robin McCartney, 10am

13 June 2025, JCSC, 10.30am

25 June 2025, Estate Walkabout, 10am

11 July 2025, Young Citizen of the Year Award

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

47. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Exempt report noted.

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

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

- Amble Development Trust
Meeting not been held yet.

49. AGENDA ITEMS

49.1 To discuss advice received regarding sale of land

Clerks advice noted. Open Space and Covenant remain unresolved and unclear. Outcome of Housing Needs Assessment to be taken into consideration. Clerk to seek additional advice from NALC.

49.2 To receive an update from meeting with NCC / ADT re JCSC

Issues were presented to Rob Murfin to investigate further. Differing information received from NCC needs further clarification.

42.21 To review Restricted Contact arrangements

Proposer: Cllr Parks proposed to increase for further 6 months to monitor situation
Seconder: Cllr Bewley
Resolved: Clerk to write to resident

Resolved: After 21:00hrs standing orders suspended.

42.17 To agree adult and junior civic award winners

Winners agreed. Staff to contact.

50. INFORMATION ITEMS

50.1 To receive notes of meeting with County Cllrs 4 June 2025

Noted

The meeting closed at 21:05hrs