

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – July 2025

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 10th 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, I Rackham

V Smith– minutes

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

There were four members of the public present.

Michelle Redfern attended from Safer and Resilient Communities and gave an overview of services and support available:

Support Planners: This is arranged on a 121 basis via Councils or professionals. Referrals can be made and the planners can support, triage and signpost. Contact 01670620015 or nct@northumberland.gov.uk

Locality Coordinators: available to support community groups with assistance to acquire funding, venue hire or governance to help ensure sustainability of local and community groups and build resilience into communities.

Public Protection and Community Supports officers are available to assist with housing, environmental and enforcement matters, helping to promote and support events with 33 events attended last week, available 7 days a week.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

51.APOLOGIES

None

52. 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 the agenda

53. Point of Order Clarification

53.1 Process of Co-Option Appointment

Members were reminded of the correct procedure in the Co-Option Policy.

54. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

54.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025, items 31 – 50.1

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

55. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

55.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved: Members accepted the report.

56. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

56.1: Chairman

Cllr Parks attended Service of Licensing of Reverend Rachael Dines at St Cuthberts Parish Church on 7th July 2025.

Cllr Parks escorted the judge from Alnwick Garden to shortlisted entries.

56.2: Vice Chairman

Nothing to report

57: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

The report from the Bridging Coordinator was noted. A productive meeting was held with Andrea King and Sarah Brannigan. At NCC Cabinet meeting NCC agreed commitment to funding the gap in government funding for Neighbourhood Plans which will enable the Steering Group to continue working. A draft plan for public consultation is currently being worked on.

Proposal – Cllr McTaggart requested commitment from Amble TC for finance of £1650 in principle be agreed for x 3 days of planning time whilst NCC work on finalising their funding commitment.

Seconded: Cllr Richards

Vote: 8 in favour, 1 abstained: Motion carried.

Action: Clerk to add to August agenda for full approval.

58. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

58.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Cllr Hume is investigating the possibility of "speed cushions" on the Wynd x4 and x2 on the A1068 opposite Morrisons. A meeting with Robin McCartney has been arranged.

The tender for the toilets has been sent out, NCC is waiting for responses from contractors.

It is now expected that work will start in September 2025.

58.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Photos of both King Edwin and Barndale school roofs have been sent to Sue Aviston as there are tiles missing from both sites. This is to be included as a future capital maintenance project.

King Edwin Primary – it was reported that the section of the school field that floods has not been taken into consideration as part of the summer remedial works programme.

Concerns were raised with Highways regarding the road closure from Warkworth to Hipsburn and inadequate signage for diversions.

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

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

Cllr Richards submitted apologies for the meeting with Amble Development Trust.

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60. FINANCIAL REPORT:

60.1 To consider voucher numbers 63 – 95 for payment and 15 - 17 for receipt.

Cllr Parks declared an interest in voucher number 81.

Resolved: Receipts and Payments were approved.

60.2 Bank Reconciliation

Bank reconciliation approved.

60.3 Year to date figures

Year to Date figures approved.

60.4 Grant Requests

- **Amble Links First School**

Proposer: Cllr Rackham proposed donation of £500.

Second: Ciara Dawson

Vote: All in favour

Resolved: Grant of £500 to be awarded.

- **Hospice Care North Northumberland**

Cllr Parks declared an interest

Proposer: Cllr Bewley proposed donation of £1000

Second: Cllr Richards

Vote: 5 in favour, 3 abstain

Resolved: Grant of £1000 to be awarded

61. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

61.1 To consider and agree memorial photograph

Sizes to be provided and considered at Amenities Committee

61.2 To consider quotation for works to Church Street Bus Shelter roof

Both options considered. Staff to contact NCC to ascertain when we can expect a response to the grant application for the bus shelter improvement works. Add to Amenities agenda.

62: PLANNING COMMITTEE

62.1 To note the planning update for June 2025

Update noted

62.2 To discuss & agree arrangements re. ATC representation at Local Area committee re. JCSC plans

Proposer: Cllr McTaggart proposed Cllr Richards at ATC representative

Second: Cllr Dawson

Vote: All in favour

Resolved: Cllr Richards to attend the planning committee, date to be confirmed.

63. AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Deferred until further notice.

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

In principle, Cllr Parks would like the following arrangements considered for the Mayors Christmas Reception:

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- Charity and ticketed event, possibly £10 per ticket
- Combination of invited and paying guests
- Nominated charity @ discretion of Chair
- Increased budget for entertainment

Additional budget to be considered in October 2025 budget review.

Staff to add to next agenda for approval

63.3 To discuss arrangements for VJ Day event

Cllr Bewley provided an update.

It is expected that there will be around 200 veterans in attendance at 2pm on 15 August 2025.

The veterans group require permission to borrow the PA system – relevant paperwork to be provided. Cllr attendance would be appreciated by the veterans group.

Proposer: Cllr Bewley proposed a £100 donation towards refreshments

Second: Cllr Richards

Cllr Joyce declared an interest

Vote: 7 in favour, 1 abstention

Resolved: £100 to be awarded.

63.4 To agree Council response to David Smith MP consultation SEND North Northumberland Action Network survey.

Clerk to add to monthly roundup and add survey to social media and website. For direct support Clerk to signpost to County Councillors.

63.5 To discuss how the Town Council can work to build an anti-racist and xenophobia free community

A working party consisting of Cllrs Dawson, Rackham, Connolly and Parks to be set up to write statement for website and social media and to determine what training is available.

63.6 To discuss and agree response to Street Naming Consultation for HUSK developments.

No objection to the proposed names.

63.7 To agree NALC Councillor Training for all Members of ATC at a cost of £100

Resolved: Training agreed, Clerk to arrange.

63.8 To discuss and agree offer of honorary membership of RAW for the 2025/6 Rotary year to Cllr Ian Parks.

Proposer: Cllr Rackham proposed acceptance of honorary membership of Cllr Parks

Second: Cllr Richards

Vote: All in favour

Resolved: Cllr Parks to accept honorary membership of Amble and Warkworth Rotary.

63.9 To discuss provision of Asset Watch deployable camera and potential site visit to their HQ.

Clerk to investigate what is happening with the stock at NCC and add to police agenda for update.

63.10 To vote on arrangements re. JCSC partnership meetings

Meetings are arranged termly and to be offered to all once arranged for an additional representative to attend with Chair and Vice Chair.

63.11 To vote on adoption of Skills Audit & 4-year Plan

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The Draft Plan was circulated. Three key objectives were identified. Further discussion and approval required at August Full Council. The draft skills audit was also circulated and can be completed anonymously. Skills Audit to be added to Full Council in August for approval.

63.12 To discuss & agree letter to NCC re. LCWIP Plans & Funding

Amble is in the second tranche of the LCWIP, funding is in place but the plan has not been set yet. Clarification to be sought on what consultation has taken place to date as last record was 2020.

Resolved: Letter to portfolio holder Richard Wearmouth to be drafted.

63.13 To discuss and agree costs for laying down x37 memorials plus top soil at a cost of £1540

Proposer: Cllr Parks proposed acceptance of quotation

Second: Cllr Dawson

Vote: All in favour

Resolved: Quotation accepted

63.14 To consider suggestion from Events Committee for Town Council to purchase personalised gazebo

The TC already has a gazebo. Clerk to investigate sticker to personalise our own.

63.15 To receive an update on working parties:

Grants

Recommendations for August Full Council:

- Formation of a Grants and Finance committee to oversee and recommend whether council should approve grants.
- Quarterly cycle of grant applications
- £4/2K split for capital/revenue grants
- Replace £150 section with small grants of £500 with a 'light touch' form
- Simplified form for applications
- Easy read form for access

Additional meeting to be held before next Full Council.

Social Media and Communications (inc Chairs reception)

Recommendations:

- Relax policy to allow some response whilst not engaging in debate
- Investigate other social media platforms
- Better management of internal and external communications

Traffic and Parking

Meeting yet to be held. Discussion with Northumbria Police to be held.

Policy

Meeting yet to be held.

Area of Reflection Working Party

Meeting yet to be held

63.16 To receive an update on viability of JCSC sports hall if available

No further update available. Clerk to write again.

Concern bungalow also due for demolition which is considered valuable asset. Clerk to write to NCC.

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63.17 To receive an update and confirmation regarding Tynedale Play Area within NCC ownership

Confirmed play area is within NCC ownership and should be managed by NCC.

63.18 To receive an update on King Edwin Primary School and Barndale by the Sea School outdoor spaces, to note the remedial works arranged and the impact of this on the use of the playing fields

Remedial works noted however many issues remain overlooked. Clerk asking for ATC attendance at a meeting with the landscape architect when it is arranged.

63.19 To note the latest update on the toilet refurbishment and subsequent delays to the timeline for completion.

Complaints continue to be received regarding both sets of toilets. Tenders currently out now, expected start to work in September 2025.

63.20 To receive an update on CCTV installation and remedial works

Works are progressing well with an anticipated completion date of Friday 4th July.

The following Wireless link have been replaced as of 2 July:

- Queen St Top
- Queen St Middle
- Tesco

63.21 To receive an update on the Amble Awards for 15 July 2025

The date has been changed to 22nd July 2025. Results have been shared with the Chair.

Invites have gone out, crystals ordered.

63.22 Memorial Tree on school site.

The tree remains on the Druridge Bay site. Cllr Parks to seek additional information.

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

64.1 To note communications from Amble Development Trust regarding Persimmon signage erected without planning permission

Correction – Correspondence received from resident, not Amble Development Trust

64.2 To note communication from Amble Development Trust regarding King Edwin Primary playing fields, failure of planting strategy and impact on school children.

Correction – Correspondence received from resident, not Amble Development Trust

64.3 Resident communication regarding content and location of noticeboards and circulation of information

Noted. Meeting with resident arranged.

65. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

65.1 To receive notes of the meeting with JCSC 13 June 2025

65.2 Notes of June Estate Walkabout

65.3 To note letter sent to NCC re Persimmon signage

65.4 To note letter to NCC re King Edwin Primary failed planting strategy and concerns re contract management and accountability.

Noted.

66. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

66.1 14 August 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

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67. DATES FOR DIARIES

11th July 2025, Young Citizen of the Year Award

16th July 2025, Northumbria Police 5.30pm

22nd July 2025, Amble Awards

14th August 2025, 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

68. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Noted

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

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

Nothing to report

70. AGENDA ITEMS

70.1 To discuss advice received regarding sale of land and to discuss & agree letter to Secretary of State

Proposer: Cllr McTaggart proposed a letter to secretary of state

Second: Cllr Richards

Vote: 6 in favour, 2 abstain

Resolved: Letter to be drafted

The meeting closed at 20:00hrs

ACCRONYMS

ATC – Amble Town Council

NCC – Northumberland County Council

JCSC – James Calvert Spence College

ADT – Amble Development Trust

NALC – Northumberland Association of Local Councils

AYP – Amble Youth Project

WHC – Warkworth Harbour Commissioners

LCWIP – Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans

RAW – Rotary of Amble and Warkworth

NDP – Neighbourhood Development Plan