AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2025

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 9 October 2025, 6.00pm, Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:
C Connolly, M Joyce, L McTaggart, C Dawson, I Rackham
V Smith (Minutes)

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)
In line with Standing Order 3d-l 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.
See blow

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

115. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE
115.1 To consider co-option applications received
Cllr Claire Connolly declared an interest and abstained from voting.
Apologies were given to Mr M Hill for lack of acknowledgement of application.
In total there was three vacancies.
Vacancy 1
Votes: 4 votes Tony Regan
Resolved: Tony Regan was co-opted
Vacancy 2
Votes: 2 votes Kath MacColl, 2 votes Lee Osborne
Chair exercised casting vote
Resolved: Kath McColl was co-opted
Vacancy 3
Votes: 3 votes Lee Osborne, 1 vote Andy Hudson
Resolved: Lee Osborne was co-opted
All successful candidates to make an appointment to sign declaration of office and relevant paperwork.

116.APOLOGIES
Cllr Richards
Proposal of acceptance – Luke McTaggart
Second – Michael Joyce

117. 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 items arise on the agenda.

118. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL
118.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2025, items 91 114
Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.
119. CLERK'S REPORT:
RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions where necessary.
119.1 Clerks Report attached
Resolved: The Clerks report was noted.
120. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:
To receive the communications and report of the Chairman pertaining to Council Business:
120.1: Chairman
LMc/JR has met with the Clerk to discuss workload and forward planning.
Chair attended Operation Impact briefing with partners. Planning Training with Rob Murfin has been arranged. Plans are being made for the Chairmans Reception.
Cllr McTaggart also went to the JCSC Sports Hall Steering Group meeting and attended the Neighbourhood Planning public engagement meeting. Cllr McTaggart also met with Robin McCartney and Mark Mather.
120.2: Vice Chairman
Apologies received.
121: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group
121.1 To receive report update from Steering Group and Sub Committees if available
Cllr McTaggart circulated the bridging co-ordinators report and public consultation slides for information. There is a public consultation event taking place this evening and also again on Saturday. Further meetings have been held with NCC to drill down into the detail of the plan.
Cllr Joyce requested clarification of the roles between Amble Development Trust and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group representatives.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)
In line with Standing Order 3d-l 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.
Matthew Connolly – MC had met colleagues from Thrive regarding the lack of a family hub in Amble. A meeting is to be arranged with Thrive colleagues in due course and a representative from the Town Council would be welcome.
Proposal – Councillor Connolly proposed Councillor Dawson
Second – Luke McTaggart
Resolved: Councillor Dawson agreed to attend on behalf of the Town Council

Mr Michael Hill reported concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the town and confirmed he had contacted Northumbria Police to request details on additional officers for Amble. Mr Hill felt a police presence was needed within the Town and officers should be more visible within the community. Councillor Rackham advised that Northumbria Police had allocated an additional officer to Amble and that according to the data the ASB figures for the Town shows a decrease. The community day of action was also very successful. Anyone who witnesses any ASB is encouraged to report this to Northumbria Police.

122. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

122.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Cllr Hume advise that the toilets in Haltwhistle had a very different specification to those in Amble and is collecting evidence to be presented at the next NCC Council meeting. It is understood that both Haltwhistle and Amble were given additional capital at the same NCC Council meeting.

122.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Cllr Davidson raised concerns regarding the SUDS application for Longstone Manor

At the discretion of the Chair and to allow input from County Councillors, item 127.3 was discussed here:

127.3 To agree priorities to Local Transport Plan – deadline 17 October 2025

Members agreed the following for 2026/2029:

No entry from the alleyway opposite Tesco to George Street to prevent a rat run being created and damage to properties.

Pedestrians struggle to cross the road at the top of High Street, can a crossing point be created here

A controlled crossing is required opposite Morrisons on the A1068.

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

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

Councillor Claire Connolly attended the Town and Parish Council meeting on 18 September and provided an update. A food waste trial is to take place within SE Northumberland. There are issues with bin emptying and disposal due to staffing. There is hope of extending the railway line into Newbiggin and Blyth from Ashington, which will create jobs and increased access to opportunities.

Fix my street is a work in progress. NCC intend to implement more AI to help with efficiency.

Cllr Connolly attended the Tapestry meeting on 9 September. There is no funding available however there is a lot of local interest.

Cllr Connolly attended the NCC led walkabout with Ryan Dixon. The park at Tynedale does not belong to the Town Council and is the responsibility of NCC.

Cllr Connolly attended the NCC Corporate Plan meeting on 8 October which focused on

inequalities, regeneration and value for money. There seemed to be positive feelings towards to the JCSC Sports Hall Community Asset Transfer. It was queried why the size of the school had changed and this was said to be a planning equation.
The government are insisting that NCC build more homes regardless of green belt land. The Neighbourhood Plan will give some direction of suitable sites if necessary. It would be useful to liaise with neighbouring parishes for collective support.

Cllr Rackham attended the meeting with Northumbria Police. The Council are to be asked to fund the police drone at £2000 and also to pay for CCTV at Morrisons at a cost of £62pw. Clerk to add to the next Full Council.

124. <u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>:
124.1 To consider voucher numbers 142 – 160 for payment and 28 - 33 for receipt.
Resolved: The payments and receipts were accepted
124.2 Bank Reconciliation
The bank reconciliation was noted
124.3 Year to date figures
The year to date figures were noted
124.4 Grant Requests
None
124.5 To receive the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25, Accounting Statement 2024-25 and External Auditor Report and Certificate 2024-25
The Annual Governance 2024-25, Accounting Statement 2024-2025, External Auditor report and certificate 2024-2025 were accepted. There was one other matter raised regarding wording relating to the "unaudited" accounts and exercise of electors rights. In 2025-2026 the Town Council must tick no in the relevant box and provide an explanation. On this occasion the AGAR had been scanned single sided and although was rectified, had not been within the timeframe for rights period.

125.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:
125.1 Noticeboard Risk Assessment
Cllr Rackham to lead and report back.
125.2 To discuss location of water meter and water meter readings for Paddlers Park
Cllr Rackham to liaise with Town Clerk with regards to latest water bill.
125.3 To note agreed repair to East Cemetery wall using lime mortar at a cost of £280
The amended quote to ensure lime mortar is £300.
Resolved: Staff to proceed with amended quotation.
Item added at discretion of Chair given Health and safety implications:
Church Street Bus Shelter Rood Repair
Since the original quotation was given, the roof has deteriorated further and additional works are required in addition to those that were previously agreed. Additional works as follows:
Rear soffits are completely replaced, along with new black fascias and black half round gutters. Additional cost *£1900.00.*
Proposal to accept the quote – Cllr McTaggart
Second – Cllr Rackham

Resolved: Amended quotation accepted for additional works required. Staff to contact the contractor. Funds to come out of earmarked funds.

126: PLANNING COMMITTEE

126.1 To note the Planning outcomes for October 2025

Planning report noted.

127. AGENDA ITEMS:

127.1 To receive an update on the Amble Development Trust Community Asset Transfer for the JCSC Sports Hall and discuss advice from Clerk regarding Town Council support

An internal financial risk assessment to be produced based upon the content of the Business Case developed by Amble Development Trust.

Matthew Connolly provided an update from the latest steering group meeting. A productive meeting was held with architects and energy consultants who are keen to support the project. A meeting today was held with JCSC, ADT, NCC and ATC representatives. JCSC are confident that the school can provide everything the Sports Hall can, however the periods of when the school is inaccessible due to teaching or holiday closure may not align with this. Chair underlined that Ambles position as a service centre would lead to increase need due to new housing developments. With Amble being the service centre for the surrounding parishes, the existing Sports Hall could be utilised for additional community space, anchor tenants and small businesses. There is currently a community survey out for completion by residents with 97.8% positive feedback.

A community engagement event Amble Looking Forward is being arranged for 4 November 2025 which will also look at the Sports Hall.

Clerk to add the Sports Hall for discussion again at the next meeting.

127.2 To consider Community Governance Review – deadline 30 November

Proposal Cllr Rackham: To request NCC to abolish the ward system, increase Council membership by x3 members and request a boundary review for Mariners View and The Braid.

Second – Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Clerk to respond to the Community Governance Review.

127.3 To agree priorities to Local Transport Plan – deadline 17 October 2025

See above

127.4 To receive Skills Audit for Member completion

Members to complete and return to Clerk

127.5 To receive an update on working parties:

- **Grants – Members to approve amended Grant Request form**
  Resolved: Members agreed amended grant request form. Policy is currently work in progress.
- **Social Media and Communications (inc Chairs reception, Skills Audit and 4 year plan and follow procedure for correspondence)**
  The Chairs Reception will take place on 2 December 2025 at JCSC. Invite list to be determined. Catering to be actioned. No further update.
- **Traffic and Parking**
  No further update

- **Policy**
  No further update
- **Area of Reflection Working Party**
  No further update
- **Anti Racism and Xenophobia Working Party**
  No further update

127.6 To discuss Amble Christmas Lights Committee funding request of £1000
Cllr McTaggart declared an interest
Proposal to fund a contribution to the renewal of cabling – Cllr Dawson
Second – Cllr Rackham
Resolved: Council to contribute an additional one of payment of £1000.

127.7 To receive an update on Remembrance Day 2025 LMc
The Remembrance Day Service will follow in the same order as in previous years. Parade Marshall will be Cllr McTaggart. Invitations have gone out. Music has been arranged. Wreaths have been purchased. Coquet Churches Together are preparing a short service. The Cadets will lead the parade to the Trinity Methodist Church via Leazes Street. Road Closures have been arranged. All information has been sent to NCC.

127.8 To note Clerk request for assessment of retaining wall
Staff to arrange a contractor to inspector the wall within the Coal Yard.

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

128.1 To note letter received re JCSC Football Fields
Both the Clerk and Cllr Rackham has been contacted in relation to this. The resident has been advised to contact the school however Council agreed to seek clarity from NCC regarding the 3G pitch and urge that its development is brought forward from 2027.

128.2 To note action taken re complaints Amble Toilets
To note.

129. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:
RECOMMENDATION - ***That the Council note the information items.***

129.1 To note letter sent to NCC re Persimmon Homes
Noted

129.2 To note letter to North East Combined Authority
Noted

129.3 Notes of meeting with Robin McCartney 9 September 2025
Noted

130. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:
130.1 13 November 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

131. DATES FOR DIARIES
Northumbria Police – 8 October 2025 – 5.30pm – Council Office
Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation – 11 October 2025 – 10am – 1pm
Joint Parish & Town Council meeting – 16 October 2025 – 6pm – Council Office
Planning Training – 20 October 2025 – 2pm – Council Office

Play Area and Amenities Walkabout – 30 October 2025 – 10am – on site
Northumbria Police Engagement Event – 3rd November 2025 – 3pm – 6pm – Amble Library
Northumbria Police meeting – 4th November 2025, 5.30pm – Council Office
Headteacher Roundtable – 6 November 2025 – 4pm – Council Office
Full Council – 13 November 2025 – 6pm – Council Office

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

132. EXEMPT REPORT
132.1 RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions where necessary.
Resolved: The exempt report was noted

133. PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS
133.1 To receive the private report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (Cllr Reports)
Cllr McTaggart discussed the condition of Percy Drive / Hauxley Grange Hall with Robin McCartney and Mark Mather and held discussions around potential active travel corridors with Glen Sanderson.

134. AGENDA ITEMS
134.1 To discuss future Service Level Agreement LMc/JR
Cllrs Richards and Rackham are to meet to discuss possibilities for greater value for money. Clerk to be involved in meetings

The meeting ended 19:40

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

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