AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 13 November 2025, 6.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:
C Connolly, M Joyce, L McTaggart (Chair), C Dawson, I Rackham, L Osborne, J Richards (Vice Chair), K MacColl, T Regan
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.
There was two members of the public present and two representatives of Northumbria Police. County Councillors Hume and Davidson were also in attendance.
PCSO Darin Fawcett enquired whether any progress had been made with regards to a meeting with Asset Watch re CCTV provision in hot spot areas of ASB. A meeting with Asset Watch is due to be arranged. Cllrs Joyce and Connolly to attend. Cllr Hume to be invited if available.
It was confirmed that Northumbria Connected has now been replaced with "Next Door".

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

135.APOLOGIES
None

136. 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: Standing Order 13, a dispensation was granted to Cllr Connolly in relation to agenda item 146.1
Resolved: Standing Order 13, a dispensation was granted to Cllr Richards in relation to agenda item 146.1
137. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL
137.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2025, items 115 - 134.1
Proposer: Cllr Rackham
Second: Ciara Dawson
Resolved: Minutes from 9 October 2025 were agreed as a true record.
137.2 To consider amendment of accuracy for minutes of 10 July 2025, item 57.1
Proposer: Cllr McTaggart

Second: Cllr Dawson
Resolved: Amendment to minutes of 10 July 2025 was accepted.

138. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

138.1 Clerks Report attached

Noted

139. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

139.1: Chairman

14/10 JCSC Sports Hall Steering Group
15/10 Welcome meeting with Kath MacColl
16/10 Joint Town and Parish Council meeting
20/10 Planning Training
23/10 Greener Amble
31/10 Welcome meeting with Tony Regan
4/11 Amble Looking Forward
5/11 Forward Planning Meeting
6/11 Heritage / Discovery Trail – Warkworth Parish Council
6/11 Headteacher Roundtable
7/11 Ian Stevenson re Sports Hall
7/11 Coquet Grange Residents Association site visit
7/11 Meeting with NCC Officer re Tynedale Play Area
9/11 Remembrance Day Service
11/11 Armistice Service

139.2: Vice Chairman

7/11 Coquet Grange Residents Association site meeting – Councillor Richards requested other member involvement for additional assistance.
Cllr Richards has worked on financial prudency alongside fellow Cllrs looking at where Council could make potential savings.

140: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

The Neighbourhood Plan bridging co-ordinator report was noted. Work is progressing on the first draft for submission early 2026.

141. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

141.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Cllr Hume was contacted by various residents regarding a community hub in Amble. It was confirmed that the former Amble First School site had been sold however no other information was available due to commercial sensitivity.
Cllr Hume reported that the Amble specification has been updated in light of his comments.
Cllr Hume is working with Advance Northumberland with regard to retail investment and is to be invited to future meeting with regeneration colleagues.

141.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Additional buses are being provided with x3 additional x18 buses per day and will continue on to Berwick.

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Some work on the new King Edwin Primary School site has taken place. Some of the area has been fenced off while the grass grows. Cllr Davidson to liaise further with headteacher. The HUSK developments are complete and NCC are currently shortlisting applications.

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

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

Cllr Connolly attended the Corporate Planning meeting by NCC on 8 October as well as the NALC meeting, online finance training and tapestry meeting which is now being led by Ann Burke.

Cllr Richards reported her absence at the latest Amble Development Meeting due to holiday however has been at all other meetings.

143. <u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>:

143.1 To consider voucher numbers 161 – 188 for payment and 34 - 46 for receipt.

Resolved: Payments and Receipts were agreed.

143.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was accepted.

143.3 Year to date figures

The year to date figures were noted.

143.4 Grant Requests

- **To consider grant request from Amble Development Trust of £460 for pickle ball equipment**

  Cllr Connolly declared an interest and left the room when the vote took place.
  Proposal to accept the grant: Cllr Rackham
  Second: Cllr Dawson
  Resolved: 7 members in favour, Cllr Joyce voted against, Cllr Connolly abstain.

144.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

144.1 To consider quotation if £307.50 plus VAT for additional top soil for West Cemetery maintenance

Proposer: Cllr Joyce
Second: Cllr Dawson
Resolved: Top soil to be purchased

144.2 To agree retrospective expenditure of £704 plus VAT for Traffic Management and Temporary Bus Stop from 10 November for a period of 4 days at Church Street Bus Shelter

Traffic management was delayed due to Highways capacity. The new date is 18 November 2025.
Proposer: Cllr Richards
Second: Cllr Dawson
Resolved: Expenditure agreed.

144.3 To note outcome of meeting with Northumberland County Council regarding Tynedale Play Area

A meeting was held with NCC officers regarding whether the Town Council was prepared to take over ownership and responsibility of Tynedale Play Area.

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Proposal: Cllr Rackham proposed to leave the area within the ownership of NCC
Second: Cllr Richards
Resolved: NCC to retain ownership of play area.

145: PLANNING COMMITTEE

145.1 To note the Planning outcomes for November 2025

Planning report noted.
Cllr Joyce declared an interest in planning application number 25/03907/FUL.
The Town Council supported this application and referenced the emerging Neighborhood Plan which supports more flexible use of employment land.

146. AGENDA ITEMS:

146.1 To consider recommendations as outlined in report circulated re Amble Town Council in principle funding commitment to Amble Development Trusts Community Asset Transfer of JCSC Sports Hall subject to outcome of Northumberland County Council decision.

All members confirmed they had received the documents.
All members confirmed they had read the documents.
All members confirmed they had the opportunity to raise questions with Amble Development Trust.
All members confirmed they were in receipt of Cllr McTaggarts proposal.
Cllr Connolly was granted a dispensation for agenda item 146.1.
Cllr Richards was granted a dispensation for agenda item 146.1.
Amendment: Cllr Rackham proposed an additional amendment to include the provision of an independent Town Council Community Impact Assessment as best practise before making a final decision, to determine what impact this will have on other providers currently working in the town.
Second: Cllr Joyce
Cllr McTaggart spoke against the amendment as the offer to be provided by Amble Development Trust was not yet known and the development trust have demonstrated a willingness to work alongside existing provision rather than compete against what is existing. Cllr McTaggart felt the wording in his proposal was adequate to include further scrutiny of data provided by Amble Development Trust, including impact data.
Vote for amendment: In favour – Cllrs Rackham, Joyce. Vote against - Cllrs Osborne, McTaggart, Richards, MacColl, Connolly. Abstention Cllrs Dawson, Regan.
Amendment not carried.
Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed that, pursuant to Chapter 57 of the 1976 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, section 19, sub section 3a and chapter 70 of the 1972 Local Government Act, Section 133, subject to the outcome of a successful Community Asset Transfer decision by Northumberland County Council, and pending the receipt of the full Business Case and related data for scrutiny by Councillors, Amble Town Council resolves to grant Amble Development Trust up to £40,000 over 3 years, £15,000 in years 1 and 2 and £10,000 in year 3. To contribute to wards, but not limited to, the development and running costs of the current JCSC Sports Hall building as a Community Sports and Leisure Hub.
Second: Cllr Richards
Cllr Regan suggested conditions in the funding agreement should be disclosed to the Amble Development Trust in the first instance and should be agreed now.

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Standing Order 2a was invoked regarding disruptive behaviour from the public gallery. The member of the public was asked to moderate their behaviour. Discussion continued.
Resolution: In favour Cllrs Osborne, Dawson, Connolly, Regan, MacColl, Richards, McTaggart. Against – Cllr Joyce, Abstention – Cllr Rackham.
Cllr Richards invoked standing order 2b regarding disruptive behaviour from the public gallery. A vote of 8-1 in favour of standing order 2b, in being that the person be excluded from the meeting.

146.2 To note suggestions for Active Travel Corridors ahead of meeting with Northumberland County Council

Early engagement work to take place with NCC officers regarding developing LCWIPS. Existing data for Amble is 5 years old. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been looking at 4 main corridors across the town with one of the main routes to focus on being to the proposed Tantallon new build. This would enable greater connectivity throughout the town.

146.3 To agree retrospective approval for contribution to Warkworth Harbour Commissioners Defibrillator Cabinet replacement of £250.

Cllr MacColl declared an interest and left the room.
Proposer: Cllr Richards
Cllr Dawson: Second
Resolved: To support Warkworth Harbour Commissioners with £250 for contribution to repair of defibrillator cabinet.
Cllr MacColl returned.

146.4 To receive an update working party progress:

- **Grants**
- **Social Media and Communications (inc Skills Audit and 4 year plan and follow procedure for correspondence)**
- **Traffic and Parking**
- **Policy**
- **Area of Reflection Working Party**
- **Anti Racism and Xenophobia Working Party**

No further updates.

146.5 To agree retrospective approval for Newspage

Resolved: The newspage was agreed.

146.6 To note the outcome of the Interim Internal Audit Report

The Interim Internal Audit Report was accepted.

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

147.1 To note letter to Northumberland County Council regarding 3G pitch provision and timescale.

There is yet to be a response. Planning conditions have since been changed. Clerk to chase up.

147.2 To note invite to Citizens Advice Bureau AGM 1 December 2025, 12-2.30, Community Hub, Woodhorn Road, Newbiggin by the Sea, NE64 6HG

Invite noted.

147.3 To note Vice Chair attendance at Civic Head Charity Meal on 21 November 2025

Cllrs Richards and Osborne to attend.

148. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:
RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the information items.*
148.1 To note response from Amble Library re Warm Hub and Christmas Opening Hours
The update was noted however frustration remained regarding Xmas closure. Cllr Rackham requested that this be raised again next year.
148.2 Notes of Town and Parish Council meeting 16 October 2025
Noted
148.3 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 8 October 2025
Noted
149. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:
149.1 11 December 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

150. DATES FOR DIARIES
North-East Combined Authority – Child Poverty Reduction – 17 November 11.30, Fourways2
Family Hub exploration meeting – 17 November 1.00pm – location tbc
LCWIP – 18 November 11.00am, Fourways2
4 Year Strategy Meeting – 24 November 2025, 6.00pm, Fourways2
Amenities Committee – 27 November 2025, 6pm, Fourways2
NCC Led Estate Walkabout – 28 November 2025, 10, meeting outside Fourways2
Chairs Reception – 2 December 2025, 6.00pm – 7.30pm – James Calvert Spence College
Meeting with Northumbria Police – 3 December 2025, 5.30pm, Fourways2
Full Council – 11 December 2025, 6.00pm – Fourways2

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

151. EXEMPT REPORT
151.1 RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions where necessary.
The exempt report was noted.

152. PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS
152.1 To receive the private report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (Cllr Reports)
Nothing to report.

153. AGENDA ITEMS
153.1 Policy and general update as email
Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed to accept the policy amendments
Second: Cllr Rackham
Resolved: Policy amendments to be made and policy to be activated.

The meeting ended 19:06pm

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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