

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 11th September 2025, 6.00pm,
Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

C Connolly, M Joyce, J Richards, L McTaggart (Chair)
V Smith (Minutes)

OPEN SESSION

In the absence of an elected Chair, Cllr Richards proposed Cllr McTaggart act as interim Chair.
Second by Cllr Connolly. Resolution: Cllr McTaggart to act as Interim Chair.

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 3 members of the public present.

Mr Matthew Connolly requested to discuss Percy Drive and the condition of the highway and estates being developed by Persimmon Homes. MC is aware that the Town Council meets with an officer of the County Council regularly and highlights the areas of concerns however little seems to be done in terms of holding the developer to account. MC has been in contact with officers at NCC personally and understands that this contract has been awarded on a developer led basis and given the condition of unfinished works on Coquet Grange from some ten years ago, is concerned that Persimmon may choose not to complete the necessary highways works until after all developments, inc Hauxley View, are complete. MC expressed deep concern with this and urged the Town Council to be a voice for the people in this matter and work hard to encourage NCC to use its enforcement powers. Members of Amble Town Council shared the concerns and frustrations expressed by Mr Connolly and will ensure to continue to raise this matter. Members were made aware that there are now a number of resident groups in place and that they will be looking to take these matters further.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

91. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND CHAIRPERSON

To elect a Chair / Mayor

Nomination: Luke McTaggart

Proposer: Jenny Richards

Second: Claire Connolly

A vote was held and at the request of Cllr Joyce, individual votes be noted.

Vote in favour (CC, JR) Vote against (MJ)

Resolved: Cllr Luke McTaggart was elected as Chair of Amble Town Council

To receive the Chair / Mayor acceptance of Declaration of Office

Declaration of Office received

92. ELECTION OF A DEPUTY MAYOR AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

To elect a Deputy Mayor / Vice Chair

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Nomination: Jenny Richards

Proposer: Luke McTaggart

Seconder: Claire Connolly

A vote was held and at the request of Cllr Joyce, individual votes be noted.

Vote in favour (CC, LMc) Vote against (MJ)

Resolved: Cllr Jenny Richards was elected as Vice Chair of Amble Town Council

To receive the Deputy Chair / Deputy Mayor acceptance of Declaration of Office

Declaration of Office received

93. Election of Chair of Amenities Committee

Chair: Nominations: Ivor Rackham

Proposer: Jenny Richards

Seconder: Luke McTaggart

Election of Vice Chair of Amenities Committee

Vice: Nomination: Jenny Richards

Proposer: Luke McTaggart

Seconder: Claire Connolly

94. Election of Chair of Planning Committee

Chair Nomination: Luke McTaggart

Proposer: Jenny Richards

Seconder: Claire Connolly

Election of Vice Chair of Planning Committee

Vice Nomination: Jenny Richards

Proposer: Luke McTaggart

Seconder: Claire Connolly

95. APOLOGIES

Ciara Dawson – Illness

Ivor Rackham – Holiday

Cllr McTaggart proposed acceptance of apologies.

Second: Jenny Richards

Resolution: Apologies accepted

96. 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 raised no declarations of interest.

97. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

97.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2025, items 71 – 90.1

Cllr McTaggart proposed an amendment to item 89.1. Cllr Connolly highlighted spelling error.

Resolved: Amendments accepted. Clerk to action.

98. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

98.1 Clerks Report attached

Clerks report was noted.

99. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

99.1: Chairman

No update available

99.2: Vice Chairman

No update available

100: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

A draft plan has been developed and will be presented at x2 Community Engagement events on 9th and 11th October. The draft plan will focus on 7 key policies:

- Local Green Space
- Protected Open Space
- Sustainable Transport
- Community Facilities
- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Affordable Housing
- Primary Residency

The Town Council is to have sight of the final draft plan prior to consultation with the community. Final sign off of the plan is required from the Town Council.

Cllr Joyce queried whether there was any conflict of interest with Members of the Town Council sitting on the Steering Group however it was explained that this did not apply as there was no monetary gain and Cllrs were a conduit of the Town Council carrying out a liaison role. The bridging coordinators report was circulated with the agenda papers. Cllr Joyce requested copies of the minutes of the steering group meetings.

101. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

101.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Apologies from Cllr Hume. A report is awaited.

101.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Cllr Davidson raised concerns regarding sewerage capacity of the Tantallon build of approximately 480 houses given that the plans have shown a change to the agreed drainage. This developer contract has also been agreed as developer led without bond, raising further concerns regarding obligations to highways.

At a recent Cllr surgery, a resident reported they were having trouble making doctors appointments. Cllr Davidson liaised with the GP surgery who assured that there were no capacity issues however registered patient numbers was over 12000 equating to around 1490 patients per GP. Cllr Davidson has contacted the Health and Wellbeing Team, ICB. It was suggest that David Smith MP be contacted also. This again raises ongoing concerns with regards to future developments and a lack of infrastructure to support communities.

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

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

Cllr Richards attended resident groups to help support with resident concerns regarding the Persimmon Homes sites. Cllr Richards requested assistance from other members.

Cllr Richards attended a meeting with Amble Development Trust regarding retention of the JCSC sports hall.

Cllr Richards has assisted in numerous resident complaints.

Cllr Richards also attended a policy working party meeting alongside Cllrs McTaggart and Dawson.

Cllr Dawson attended the Events Committee, notes provided.

103. FINANCIAL REPORT:

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103.1 To consider voucher numbers 122 – 141 for payment and 26 - 27 for receipt.

Cllr Richards proposed acceptance, Second Cllr McTaggart, Resolved: Payments approved.

103.2 Bank Reconciliation

Noted

103.3 Year to date figures

Noted

103.4 Grant Requests

None

104.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

104.1 Clarification re approval of Draft Amenities Minutes

At a previous Amenities Committee, it was suggested that minutes should be approved at the next Amenities Committee however as they are bi-monthly it is necessary for these to come to the next Full Council meeting after the relevant committee for formal ratification.

104.2 To receive and agree quotation for Perspex replacement of Links Avenue Noticeboard

No quote available

104.3 To agree purchase of Acklington Road Bus Shelter end panel.

Cllr McTaggart proposed installing a full end panel at a cost of £528 plus TM and permit costs.

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolved: Council to proceed with purchase.

104.4 To agree quote for replacement play area rope as per ROSPA inspection £417.48 exc VAT

Cllr McTaggart proposed acceptance.

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolved: Council to proceed with purchase

105: PLANNING COMMITTEE

105.1 To note the Planning outcomes for September 2025

The planning outcomes were noted.

106. AGENDA ITEMS:

106.1 To note resignation of Ian Parks

The resignation of Cllr Parks was noted. Clerk to write a letter of appreciation.

106.2 To note resignation of David Bewley

The resignation of Cllr Bewley was noted. Clerk to write a letter of appreciation.

106.3 To agree Council comments to National Landscape Management Plan

Council accepted comments and feedback provided by Cllr Rackham. Clerk to formulate a corporate response.

106.4 To seek retrospective approval of Newspaper

Resolved: Retrospective approval agreed.

106.5 To receive an update on JCSC Sports Hall if available

Cllrs LMc and JR have been asked to sit on the JCSC Steering Group as representatives of the Town Council.

Resolved: Representation was agreed. Cllrs McTaggart and Richards to feedback to Town Council any updates.

MC spoke to the meeting with permission from the Chair due to his involvement in the retention of the sports hall as part of Amble Development Trust. MC explained that currently it remains NCCs plan to demolish the existing sports hall, however, ADT have been asked to develop a business case to support its retention. ADT have set up the Steering Group to help develop and seek support for the business case.

ADT are struggling to receive energy details and building condition reports from NCC. There is concern that Amble is growing exponentially and has little to no sporting facilities on offer. It is hoped this site with help create a sporting village in conjunction with the MUGA, the welfare sites and the football fields. A survey is now live garnering public support which to date has been very

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positive. It is understood that there may be long delays to the 3G pitch development. The intention of the retention of the building is to provide an inclusive space not solely used for sports. This could link in with future active travel corridors enabling this side of the town to be opened up and accessible to all.

The Town Council reconfirmed its support.

106.6 To agree attendance and representation at meeting with Glen Sanderson, dates circulated

Resolved: Cllrs Connolly and Joyce agreed to attend the session on 2nd October 2025, Cramlington.

106.7 To consider for approval in October 2025, Councils Local Transport Plan priorities and agree representation at information event on 29 September 6pm – 7.30pm

As priorities are not requested until 17 October, these can be agreed at the next meeting. Members to liaise with NCC Cllrs as to what their priorities are.

Resolved: Cllrs Rackham and Dawson to attend the session on 29 September 2025, 6pm at St James Church Centre, Alnwick

106.8 To note the update on the Amble toilet refurbishment

The update was noted. It is expected that the toilet refurbishment will commence at the end of the month / early October.

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

None

109. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

109.1 To note feedback from Alnwick Business Forum 27 August 2025

Cllr McT / Cllr Richards attended the above which was also attended by Kim McGuinness and David Smith. Various discussions were held including about the JCSC sports hall.

109.2 To note feedback from National Landscapes Parish Chairs Meeting 2 September 2025

Feedback from Cllr Rackham was noted.

109.3 To note feedback from Northumberland Tapestry meeting 1 September 2025

Cllrs Dawson and Connolly attended. Groups are being set up to look at admin, content, stitching and design.

109.4 To note date for meeting with Neighbouring Parish Councils

Members to note 16 October 2025, 6.00pm, Council Offices.

109.5 To note publication of Notice of Vacancy for East and Central Ward

Members to note.

110. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

110.1 9 October 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

111. DATES FOR DIARIES

NALC Cllr Training 15 September 2025.6.00pm

Thriving Together event – 18 September 2025, 10am

Amenities Committee – 25 September 2025, 6.00pm

Full Council – 9 October 2025, 6.00pm

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

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112. EXEMPT REPORT

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

None

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

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

None

114. AGENDA ITEMS

114.1 None

The meeting closed at 19:00hrs

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