

## **AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – August 2025**

**The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 6.00pm,  
Town Council Offices, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.**

**PRESENT:**

**I Parks (Chair), D Bewley, C Connolly, M Joyce, C Dawson, J Richards, L  
MCTaggart, I Rackham  
S Fletcher– minutes**

### **OPEN SESSION**

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)**

There were three members of the public present.

Mr. Matthew Connolly asked that Council be aware that the damaged seat at the bottom of Queen Street has become a focal point for anti-social behaviour. He asked that when the replacement of the seat comes under discussion, that this be taken into account.

IP responded that seats come under the jurisdiction of the Amenities Committee and noted Mr. Connolly's concerns.

Mrs. A Jones asked the Council if Edwin Street School Buildings had been sold and asked for clarification as to why it was not considered for use as a Community Hub. IP responded Edwin Street School building had been investigated and had been found to be not viable due to cost. The Council are looking at other possible locations.

Mrs. A Jones stated that she felt that the back lanes and areas of Amble were not being cleaned and kept tidy. It was noted that the SLA with NCC should cover this. Clerk to enquire what the position is with this.

Mrs. A Jones also raised the matter of 2 holiday homes in Broomhill St which have 2 large advertising posters pinned to them. Both IP and IR suggested that Mrs. Jones should approach Northumberland County Council about this. MJ also suggested 'Fix My Street'. The regular blocked drains in Newburgh Street and the standing water when there is any significant rain were also raised by Mrs. Jones. It was agreed that this should be added to the agenda for the next Locality meeting with Robin McCartney from Northumberland County Council. Another matter for the Locality meeting was the extension of double yellow lines on the corner of Ladbroke Street and Harbour Road. Mrs Jones was thanked for all her comments.

County Councilor Pauline Davidson reported that she has been trying to get the grass cutting arranged for the area beyond the Yacht Club. The area in question falls into the Warkworth Parish.

Mrs J Sunter-Jones reported that the ongoing work at the Harbour Toilets is causing consternation amongst locals and businesses alike. IP assured Mrs Sunter-Jones that Amble Town Council is also frustrated by the lack of progress and continues to raise the matter with Northumberland County Council.

Mrs Sunter Jones also asked that the road congestion at the Harbour and adjoining streets be looked into. She is concerned that should an Emergency Vehicle need access,

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it would prove impossible. IP confirmed that a working group has been set up to look into the matter of congestion. The first will take place in September. He advised Mrs Sunter-Jones to email a list of streets and if possible supporting photographs. It was also agreed to invite the Watch Manager from Amble Fire Station to attend the walkabout.

### **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

#### **71.APOLOGIES**

None

#### **72. 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

#### **73. MINUTES TOWN COUNCIL**

**73.1** To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2025, items 50-70.1

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record

#### **74.CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk was thanked for the Clerks Report in her absence.

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

74.1 Clerks Report Attached

Resolved: Members accepted the report

#### **75. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

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

##### **75.1: Chairman**

Cllr Parks attended the Amble Garden awards, thanks to fellow councilors who attended.

##### **56.2: Vice Chairman**

Cllr Bewley attended the Garden Awards and also met with Wayne Elliot from the Allotment Association. The issue of parking over the junction beside the East Allotments and unkempt allotments was discussed. Those allotments requiring attention have been issued with warning notices. The use of waste bins being used inappropriately has also been resolved and will be monitored.

Members were asked to note the reports.

#### **76: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group**

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

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Cllr McTaggart provided a comprehensive report. Mr Matthew Connolly supported this report and further added that any hold-ups are due to Northumberland County Council. Progress is good and documents will be ready for informal consultation in the near future.

### **77. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**77.1:** Apologies from Cllr Hume as he is unable to attend this meeting. He proposes to be at the VJ ceremony on Friday 15 August 2025.

### **77.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson**

Cllr Davidson reported no further progress on the King Edwin School issues highlighted in the last meeting and no works have been carried out. Cllr Davidson will continue to pursue the matter.

Cllr Davidson has received complaints about the signage indicating Road Closures. It is felt that signage has been inadequate and misleading. Cllr Davidson has submitted a request to the NCC Chamber meeting to discuss this matter.

Both she and Cllr Hume reported that their first surgery held in Dovecote Centre had gone well. Cllr McTaggart and Cllr Richards also attended. IP felt that in future all ATC councillors should be aware of the surgery and have the opportunity to take part.

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

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

Cllr Connolly reported that the NALC minutes were not available yet. NALC is facilitating a number of training courses should members wish to take them up.

CD has met with Amble Youth Project and will provide a report for the next meeting.

JR has, with Amble Development Trust, met with County to discuss further arrangements for JSC Sports Hall. The condition of the Hall is still under discussion, and it was decided to pursue this at the end of the school summer holidays.

JR is also seeking an onsite meeting with the Technical Director of Persimmon to discuss the ongoing issues at Hauxley Grange.

### **79. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

#### **79.1 To consider voucher numbers 96 – 121 for payment and 18 - 25 for receipt.**

Resolved: Receipts and Payments were approved.

#### **79.2 Bank Reconciliation**

Bank reconciliation approved.

#### **79.3 Year to date figures**

Year to Date figures approved.

#### **79.4 Grant Requests**

- **Hadston House**

Letter request from Hadston House. Proposed donation of £100

Vote: 7 in favour 1 against

Resolved: Grant of £100 to be awarded.

#### **79.5 Update from CCLA**

Noted

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### **79.6 National Pay Award applicable staff**

Noted

### **80.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

#### **80.1 To approve the Amenities Management Committee Minutes from 31 July 2025**

Resolved: The minutes were accepted.

#### **80.2 To note and action remedial works as highlighted in the ROSPA reports for Paddlers Park and Philip Drive Play Area**

Noted, works completed

#### **80.3 To agree quotation for repair of multigym unit in Paddlers Park**

No further information is available. CD attending a meeting 15 August 2025

#### **80.4 To agree a Risk Assessment for current noticeboards**

Cllr Parks proposed a risk assessment be created in terms of the town noticeboards given how difficult they are to access and update especially in windy conditions. It is not possible for one person to access them at times.

IP also agreed to look at the number of noticeboards and whether they are needed or do they need to be rationalised.

Resolved: IP/DB to carry out risk assessment and report back to council.

#### **80.5 To note removal of Queen Street seat and discuss replacement options**

Cllr Connolly declared a conflict of interest.

This is the seat which was earlier brought to the attention of the council by Mr Connolly.

It was noted that the seats on Queen Street are due to be updated in 2 years. As the seat at the top of Queen Street is less used it was suggested that the seat at the top of Queen Street be moved to the bottom. In this way all the seats would remain with the same design.

Proposer: Cllr Parks

Second: Cllr Bewley

Vote: All in favour.

Resolved: Seat to be relocated to bottom of Queen Street

Cllr Rackham also suggested that the anti-social behaviour, as outlined previously, should be raised at the next Police meeting.

#### **80.6 To consider requests to lock toilets later**

In principle it was agreed that this would be a good thing. The availability of a member of NCC staff would be a determining factor. It was agreed that enquiries should be made to determine viability.

Resolved: Clerk to enquire with NCC.

#### **80.7 To consider interim memorial checks**

Cllr Bewley suggested that Memorials which are in the Amber category should have a yearly review. NCC have been asked for costs for interim checks.

#### **80.8 To consider creating a planter on Philip Drive in place of the removal of seat base.**

In principle this was accepted as a good idea, however the base has now been removed.

It was agreed that, should the situation arise again, it could be looked at.

#### **80.9 To receive an update on Persimmon installation of seats and trees on Percy Drive**

No progress to report. Issue to be raised by Cllr Richards at meeting with Persimmon Technical Director once arranged.

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## **81: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **81.1 To note the planning update for July 2025**

Planning update noted.

Cllr McTaggart asked for it to be noted that the Revised JCSC School plans were approved and that the decision had not been called in for scrutiny by NCC despite the many objections.

## **82. AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **82.1 To agree quotation for Church Street Bus Shelter Roof.**

A quotation of £4560 was agreed for the Church Street Bus Shelter roof repair with the proviso that the guttering and fascia were plastic. This comes with a 30 year guarantee.

Proposer: Cllr Parks

Second: Cllr Bewley

Vote: All in favour

Resolved: Clerk to instruct contractor

### **82.2: To receive feedback on Councillor surgeries**

Cllr McTaggart reported that the surgery had gone well. Six members of the Public attended. The main issues were speeding on Percy Drive, the toilets and issues with the new estates. Julia Chambers also attended to talk about bathing water.

Prior to the meeting Cllr McTaggart and Cllr Richards had received assurances that it would not be a Party-political event. It was reinforced to Cllr Hume that ATC operates as a non-political council and as such operates purely for the good of the town. It was agreed that in future there should be a notice to the full council that a surgery will be taking place, and that all Councillors are given the opportunity to attend. Also that there should be a formal report back to the Council.

At this point in the proceeding Cllr Richards Excused herself for a short time 19.04

### **82.3 To receive an update on working parties**

- **Grants**

Cllr McTaggart has redrafted the Grant form. Meeting to be arranged to discuss further

- **Chairs Reception**

Given the pressing timescale, this years Chairs Reception will follow the same format as in previous years.

- **Traffic and Parking**

This to be discussed with the Police and County during the Estate Walkabout in September. Cllr Parks suggested that Traffic Flow should be looked at during the walkabout. Cllr Dawson suggested that access by Emergency vehicles should be included in this. It was agreed that an invitation should be sent to the Shift Officer at the Fire Station to join the walkabout.

- **Policy**

No further updates.

- **Area of Reflection Working Party**

Not met yet

- **Anti Racism and Xenophobia Working Party**

Report provided from meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

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Action points from the meeting include to update the Mission Statement that would be on our website with an invite extended to neighbouring parishes to be involved in discussions. Cllr Dawson will raise at the next AYP meeting.

Give Racism the Red Card have been contacted but have not replied yet. A pop up event was suggested, possibly a food festival. This to be suggested to the Events Committee.

### **82.4 Agree creation of additional working party to include other stakeholders to look at hanging baskets on Queen Street.**

Cllr McTaggart has been approached by several members of the public asking if hanging baskets were a possibility. He asked that a meeting be set up to explore all the regulations associated with providing them.

### **82.5 To discuss additional one-off funding request for Amble Christmas Lights £1000**

Cllr McTaggart declared an interest.

The money has been requested to purchase new main cable and the replacement of bulbs with LED bulbs. IR was concerned that a partial cable renewal would affect the compliance of other parts of the cabling.

It was agreed that more information was required before any further action and assurance from a qualified electrician that if only a section is replaced will the rest of the lights be compliant with current legislation. Budget to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **82.6 To discuss the need for electric charging points and permits and action to take.**

Cllr Rackham to be involved in the Parking and Traffic Working Party.

### **82.7 To receive an update on IT provision and to consider license option for android tablets.**

Initial costs were £22.18 per tablet. It is now £68.77 for the user based licenses as recommend by NCC. It will be 9 licenses and will cover 12 months.

Proposer: Cllr Joyce

Second: Cllr Rackham

Vote: All in favour.

Resolved: User based licenses to be purchased.

### **82.8 To consider Councillor and staff training by Give Racism the Red Card**

No information available yet. Deferred to the next meeting.

### **82.9 To discuss the lack of ATMs in Amble, in impact on local businesses and possible solutions**

Cllr Dawson reported that businesses at the top of Queen Street are losing trade as there is no provision at the top of the street.

Cllr Bewley also asked that the old TSB building be considered by the Banking Hub as a suitable premises.

Cllr Rackham asked that business be consulted as to where a possible ATM is located.

Members agreed that Link should be asked to reconsider the ATM provision in Amble.

Resolved: Clerk to contact Cash Access to discuss ATM provision and possibility of TSB site as banking hub.

### **82.10 To agree date for Town and Parish council joint meeting**

A doodle poll to be set up to find the most suitable date for October.

### **82.11 To discuss how the Town Council can support the creation of a family hub in Amble.**

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All members agreed that Amble Town Council supported the need for a Family Hub in Amble. A meeting with Kim McGuinness and NCC be arranged as access to the new funding is complicated. Involvement of other stakeholders would be advantageous.

Resolved: Clerk to write to Kim McGuinness to discuss the Child Poverty Action Plan and seek advise on how to proceed.

**83 Communications:** RECOMMENDATION – That the Council note or discuss where necessary the items.

**83.1 To note complaint regarding Amble Harbour toilets**

Noted

**83.2 To note complaints regarding Acklington Road bus shelter replacement**

83.2 LMcT & JR met the residents concerned. The bus shelter is aligned with the prevailing wind and has no end panels. Discussion to additional end panel to be discussed at September Full Council.

**83.3 To note response to license request from Cock & Bull**

It was suggested that a cleaning premium could be added to the request to cover the extra costs incurred through possible after hours use of the disabled toilet.

**83.4 To note content of resident letters re Auditor and Annual Parish Meeting and Councils response**

Noted. A meeting with the Internal Auditor has been held.

**83.5 To note the response from DPP planning and subsequent letter to NCC re JCSC New build**

Noted

**83.6 To note letter to Guy Renner Thompson re JCSC new build**

Noted

**83.7 To note letter to NCC re Persimmon signage without permission Hauxley View**

Noted

**83.8 To note correspondence re JCSC Sports Hall and Council response**

Noted

**83.9 To review and collate response to Northumberland Coast National Landscape Management Plan – deadline 25 September 2025**

Members to provide comments to Clerk and Council response to be approved at Septembers meeting.

**83.10 To discuss submissions, if any, to Northumberland Call for Sites**

This to be prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan. Members to provide comments and suggestions to Clerk.

**83.11 To note letter to NCC seeking clarity on future of Amble First School site and possible uses**

Noted.

Letter to be sent to NCC to establish what the land will be used for and to ensure that the correct processes are being followed.

There are also concerns regarding the small garden adjacent to the site and assurance is required that this will be retained. NCC to be asked why they chose not to masterplan this site.

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Communications received after agenda published admitted at Chairs discretion.

83.12 Councillors Dawson and Connolly to attend the Rotary Tapestry meeting at Warkworth Harbour Commissioners.

83.13 LMcT and JR to attend the Alnwick Business Forum on 27 August 2025 and report back to Full Council.

### **84. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

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

#### **84.1 To note letter to Secretary of State**

Noted

#### **84.2 To note letter to Richard Wearmouth re LCWIP**

Noted. Meeting to be arranged upon Clerks return

#### **84.3 To note July Roundup and creation of mailing list**

Noted

#### **84.4 To note Northumberland Coast National Landscape Minutes 1 July 2025**

Noted

#### **84.5 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 16 July 2025**

Noted

#### **84.6 To note the update on HUSK development**

Noted

### **85. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

**85.1 11 September 2025, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.**

### **67. DATES FOR DIARIES**

Partnership Meeting with NCC – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 10.30am

VJ Day 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 2.00pm, Memorial Gardens

Estate Walkabout – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 9am – meeting point tbc

Police Community Engagement Event – 8 September 2025, 3.00pm

Meeting with Northumbria Police – 10 September 2025, 5.30pm

Full Council – 11 September 2025, 6.00pm

Thriving Together event – 18 September 2025, 10am

Cllr Richards re entered the meeting at 19.58

**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**

### **87. EXEMPT REPORT**

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

Noted

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### **88. 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

### **89. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **89.1 To note correspondence re the land sale if available and decide Council position (IR)**

Cllr McTaggart proposed Council withdraw from negotiations

Counter Proposal:

Cllr Parks proposed seeking additional legal advice prior to making a decision

Seconded: Cllr Bewley

Resolved: Amendment / Counter Proposal denied. Original motion to be discussed:

Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed to withdraw from negotiations

Second: Cllr Rackham

Vote: At the request of Cllr Bewley, it be noted who voted for and against:

CC, CD, JR, LMc, IR in favour of withdrawal, IP, DB, MJ against withdrawal.

Resolved: Town Council to action.

Cllr Richards left the meeting at 20.19

#### **89.2 To note Subject Access Request completed 1 August 2025 and subsequent Subject Access Request 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025**

Draft response agreed to be sent.

Council offered their support to those affected by this.

### **90.COMMUNICATIONS**

90.1 To note resident letter re Clerk

**Resolved:** No staff or Councillors to have 1:1 meetings with members of the public

A meeting with the resident concerned is to be offered with JR, LMc and CD.

The meeting closed at 20:29hrs

#### **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**