AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – DECEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 11 December 2025, 6.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:
C Connolly, M Joyce, L McTaggart (Chair), I Rackham, L Osborne, J Richards (Vice Chair), K MacColl,
V Smith (Minutes)

OPEN SESSION

Cllr Michael Joyce notified the meeting of his intention to record the meeting on a personal device. It was confirmed that anyone wishing not to be recorded while they spoke had the right to request that the recording be switched off. There were no objections.

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 were three members of the public present. Representatives of Northumbria Police were also in attendance.
A resident addressed the meeting regarding a letter written to the Chair. The content of the letter was read out. Chair deferred response to be taken outside of meeting (standing order 3g)
A resident referred to a public meeting held on 4th November 2025 and enquired the veracity of a statement provided by Cllr McTaggart with regards to the Councils financial support to James Calvert Spence College Sports Hall. Cllr McTaggart reconfirmed that his statement was an intention of his proposal to Full Council as recorded in the Clerks report of the meeting of 13 November 2025.

Northumbria Police attended to discuss preferred locations for deployable camera, if provision was agreed by Full Council once costs had been established.
NP confirmed that Morrisons would be the first hotspot to tackle.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

154.APOLOGIES
Ciara Dawson, illness – LMc proposed acceptance, second JR, apologies accepted
Tony Regan, holiday – LMc proposed acceptance, second JR, apologies accepted

155. 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.
Cllr McTaggart declared an interest in payment voucher 201.

156. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL
156.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2025, items 135 153.1
Proposer: Cllr Joyce
Second: Cllr Rackham
Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

157. CLERK'S REPORT:
RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions where necessary.
157.1 Clerks Report attached
The Clerks report was accepted.

158. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:
To receive the communications and report of the Chairman pertaining to Council Business:
158.1: Chairman
17/11 Jude Gordon NECA Child Poverty Action Plan
17/11 Family Hub roundtable
24/11 4 year plan strategy meeting
28/11 NCC Walkabout, highways, Northumbria Police, Housing, Safer Communities
2/12 Christmas Reception and Honorary Freeman Award, special thanks to Paige Cooper from JCSC
3/12 Highways Infrastructure Manager
10/12 Regeneration Roundtable with NCC, Advance Northumberland,
10/12 Mayoral Civic Carol Service
158.2: Vice Chairman
Cllr Richards/Osborne attended the NCC Charity Evening on 21/11 which raised £42k.
Cllr Richards
Cllr Richards has continued to work with residents association meetings and has requested additional support from members of available.
159: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group
159.1 To receive report update from Steering Group and Sub Committees if available
Matthew Connolly gave an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
There have been some minor amendments to the draft plan. Many thanks to those assisting in wildlife corridors. Comments have also been taken on board regarding affordable housing and consideration is being given to other inclusions. Given the speed of changes within central government it is vital that Amble has a plan in place. It is hoped a formal pre submission draft will be ready for robust consultation in early 2026. Representation at the recent regeneration roundtable provided some good information and knowledge to be incorporated. Follow up work will be done in the new year.
MC was thanked for the work to date.

160. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

160.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Apologies received from Cllr Hume

160.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Apologies received from Cllr Davidson

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

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

Cllr Richards attended a meeting of Amble Development Trust

Cllr Connolly attended NALC meetings on 3/12 and 4/12 – Amble Town Council were complimented on their honorary freeman event

Cllr Rackham and Cllr Connolly attended a staff welfare meeting.

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

162.1 To consider voucher numbers 189 – 209 for payment and 47 - 50 for receipt.

Cllr McTaggart declared an interest in voucher number 201

Propose acceptance: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolved: The payments and receipts were approved.

162.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was accepted

162.3 Year to date figures

The year to date figures were noted.

162.4 Grant Requests

- **Harbour Lights Choir £250 for Videographer / Hall Hire (LGA Act 1972, s145)**
  The grant of £250 was awarded.
- **Alnwick and District Sports Award Sponsorship of Senior Male category £130 (LGA Act 1972, s137)**
  The grant of £130 was awarded
- **Mens Shed £1597.43 Tools (LGA Act 1972, s137)**
  The grant of £1597.43 was awarded

162.5 Treasury and Banking Management Strategy and Proposal

Report deferred until January 2026

163.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

An update was given on recent findings with the water feature at Paddlers Park. Thanks to Cllr Richards, Osborne and Rackham for investigating.

163.1 To receive Amenities Committee Minutes from 27 November 2025

Propose acceptance: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr Rackham

The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

163.2 To receive an update on actions taken since Amenities Committee

- **Play Area Gates - £782 plus VAT (LGA 1976 s19(3)**
  The quotation for 2x play area gates was approved.

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- **Coal Truck**
  Clerk to purchase coal truck materials direct.

164: PLANNING COMMITTEE
164.1 To note the Planning outcomes for December 2025
The planning report was noted.

165. AGENDA ITEMS:
165.1 To discuss Draft Budget and Precept request for 2026/2027
Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed a nil % increase to the 2026-2027 budget and precept request with the additional costs to be met by earmarked reserves. A final review of the budget to be approved in January 2026 ahead of submission.
Second: Cllr Rackham
Resolved: Members agreed the draft budget of 0% increase and precept request pf £265206 subject to final sign off in January 2026.
165.2 To agree earmarked fund reallocation
The earmarked fund budget heads have been renamed and realigned to sit alongside existing budget heads within the current budget. Some budget heads have been amalgamated for clarity.
Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed to accept reallocation of EM reserves
Second: Cllr Rackham
Resolved: Members agreed to realignment and reallocation of EM funds. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.
165.3 To agree attendance at Alnwick and District Sports Award 2025
Cllr Kath MacColl to attend.
165.4 To agree staff training, (LGA 1972 s111)

- **Introduction to Understanding Quotes, Tenders and Contract Management £46.20**
- **IOSH Working Safely £60, IOSH Managing Safely £125**
- **ILCA £120,**
- **SLCC Powers & Duties £87.75**
- **Data Protection £30**
  Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed all training to be authorised.
  Second: Cllr MacColl
  Resolved: All staff training agreed enbloc

165.5 To agree policy updates and to consider external Policy Review and contract (LGA 1972 s111),
Deferred until January 2026

165.6 To seek retrospective approval for urgent works to Church Street Bus Shelter £3750 (LG(MP)A 1953 s4 / PCA1957 s1)
Proposer: Cllr Richards
Second: Cllr MacColl
Resolved: Retrospective works and contingency to Church Street Bus Shelter were approved.

165.7 To receive an update working party progress:

- **Grants**
  No further update available.
- **Social Media and Communications (inc Skills Audit and 4 year plan and follow procedure for correspondence)**
  An update on 4 year plan outcome will be circulated in due course
- **Traffic and Parking**
  No further update
- **Policy**
  Updates to the following policies were agreed:
  Co-Option Policy
  Health and Safety and Accident Reporting
  Earmarked Reserves policy
- **Area of Reflection Working Party**
  No further update
- **Anti Racism and Xenophobia Working Party**
  No further update

165.8 Notice of Consultation – PSPO Control of Dog – deadline 21 December 2025
No objection from Amble Town Council.

165.9 To agree Website Accessibility review costs inline with AGAR Assertion 10 - £75.00 plus VAT ((LGA 1972 s111)
Proposal: Cllr Rackham proposed to accept the quotation in line with the necessity if external audit work
Second: Cllr Richards
Resolved: Clerk to accept works and contact contractor

166. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note or discuss where necessary the items.*
None

167. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:
RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the information items.*
167.1 To note site visit arranged with Asset Watch 12 December 2025
167.2 Partnership Meeting with NCC notes 6 November 2025
167.3 Northumbria Police meeting notes 4 November 2025
167.4 Highways Infrastructure Manager meeting notes 3 December 2025
167.5 Northumbria Police meeting notes 3 December 2025
167.6 November 2025 roundup
Resolved: Information items noted enbloc

168. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:
168.1 8 January 2026, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

169. DATES FOR DIARIES
12 December 2025, Asset Watch Site Visit, Ashington, 10am
16th December 2025, LCWIP, 11am
8th January 2025, Full Council 6pm

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

170. EXEMPT REPORT

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

The exempt report was noted.

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

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

A staff welfare meeting was held. A report to be provided.

The condition of the road at Percy Drive was raised. The Town Council continues to work with external stakeholders on a resolution.

Northumberland Estates were contacted to establish if they would be willing to engage in community engagement events. This has been looked on favorably and will be arranged for the New Year.

172. AGENDA ITEMS

172.1 To consider agree Alnwick and District Sports Award Nominations

Nominations were discussed. Any further nominations to be sent to Clerk.

172.2 To discuss Service Level Agreement / Grounds Maintenance Costs

Clerk to contact NCC for information. Clerk was delegated to spend up to £2000 on necessary legal advice.

Proposal: Cllr McTaggart
Second: Cllr Richards
Resolved: Clerk to action as above.

173. INFORMATION ITEMS

173.1 Notes of meeting from Headteacher Roundtable

Noted

The meeting ended 18:58

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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