

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2026

**The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 8 January 2026, 6.00pm,
Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.**

PRESENT:

**C Connolly (CC), M Joyce (MJ), L McTaggart (Chair) (LMc), I Rackham (IR), J Richards (Vice Chair)(JR), C Dawson (CD), T Regan (TR).
V Smith (Minutes)**

OPEN SESSION

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 was one member of the public present.

Matthew Connolly (MC) was pleased to see a public engagement event being arranged with Wynyard Homes regarding the development on Braid Hill / North View. Concerns were expressed regarding historical developments with developers not meeting ecology, horticultural and landscaping obligations as can be seen in other local developments. Planning conditions are often not met and not enforced by the planning authority. MC requested Amble Town Council to approach Warkworth Parish Council to work on a joint landscaping project, planting additional trees and creating new habitats. MC also mentioned that Greener Amble are meeting at Amble Youth Project on 14th January 2026, at 7.00pm, all welcome.

Cllr McTaggart requested a letter of thanks to operatives who have been working hard to ensure our roads and main pedestrian areas have been gritted during the recent severe weather.

It was acknowledged that many estate roads and footpaths have not been gritted however with many high priority areas requiring additional capacity and resource it is unfortunately not possible to cover every area. This has been raised with Northumberland County Council via Cllr Hume.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

174.APOLOGIES

Cllr Maccoll – holiday

Propose acceptance – Cllr McTaggart, Second – Cllr Dawson

Apologies accepted

Cllr Osborne – personal commitment

Propose acceptance – Cllr McTaggart, Second – Cllr Joyce

Apologies accepted

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175. 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.

None. Members were reminded to ensure their declarations are up to date.

176. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

176.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025, items 154-173.1

Proposer: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting 11 December 2025 were agreed as a true record.

177. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

177.1 Clerks Report attached

Resolved: Members accepted the content of the Clerks Report

178. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

178.1: Chairman

Cllr McTaggart attended the Amble Development Trust Kings Award Ceremony. Congratulations to Amble Development Trust.

Cllr McTaggart attended a meeting alongside the Clerk, Amble Development Trust and the Football Foundation to ascertain further information with regards to the provision of the 3G pitch.

178.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Richards attended resident association meetings with residents of Hauxley Grange focusing on issues around landscaping and noise from the sewerage pipes which has resulted in some remedial works being undertaken. Cllr Richards would welcome assistance from other members.

179: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

No update available as the Steering Group did not meet over the festive period.

180. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

180.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Cllr Hume is continuing his investigation into the toilet refurbishment and is comparing the refurbishment against costs of other facilities. This is ongoing.

Cllr Hume is committed to supporting where possible the provision of an additional camera supplied by Asset Watch. This is an ongoing piece of work that requires additional information from the suppliers. Amble Town Council are working up an options paper and once this is finalized will be presented to members for a decision.

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Cllr Hume was made aware that the traffic light on Albert Street at the Masons corner was broken and had been reported to Fix My Street. Cllr Joyce to contact Cllr Hume direct.

180.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Apologies received from Cllr Davidson due to a prior commitment.

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

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

None

182. FINANCIAL REPORT:

182.1 To consider voucher numbers 210 – 248 for payment and 51 - 59 for receipt.

Proposer acceptance – Cllr Rackham

Second – Cllr Dawson

Resolved: Payments and Receipts approved.

182.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was noted.

182.3 Year to date figures

The year to date figures were noted.

182.4 Grant Requests

None

182.5 Treasury and Banking Management Strategy and Proposal

In order to be eligible for protection under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, eligible balances must be under £120,000. The proposal of the report is to open additional bank account(s) as prudent financial planning and protect Councils funds.

Proposer: Cllr McTaggart

Second: Cllr Richards

183.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

183.1 To agree proposed amendment to receive Amenities Committee Minutes from 27 November 2025, item 50.

Proposal to clarify the wording of item 50 in the minutes of 27 November 2025.

Proposer: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr Richards

184: PLANNING COMMITTEE

184.1 To note the Planning outcomes for January 2026

Planning report noted.

185. AGENDA ITEMS:

185.1 To agree final Budget and Precept request for 2026/2027

No amendments were suggested to the draft budget presented in December 2025.

Proposer: Cllr McTaggart

Second: Cllr Joyce

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Resolved: That the Council approves the budget for the financial year 2026-2027 as presented, and that the precept requirement for 2026-2027 is set at £265,206 with balances to come from reserves where identified. The Clerk / RFO is authorised to submit the precept request to the billing authority.

185.2 To agree works to Coal Yard £2530.00 exc VAT

Proposal to reduce the wall height to ground level, create fall at 45degrees, leaving hardcore on site.

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Quotation of £2530 accepted. Clerk to contact contractor.

185.3 To agree amendments and clarification of Financial Regulations and Committee Terms of Reference

Proposal for clarity on wording on expenditure limits for Clerk and staff to ensure smooth running of Council business.

Cllr Joyce proposed an increase in expenditure for office items to £750

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: All in favour, Clerk to make amendments to the policy. The amended Financial Regulations and Committee Terms of Reference were approved.

185.4 To receive update CCTV provision

After meetings with Northumbria Police and residents concerned with anti-social behavior, discussions have taken place with Asset Watch to place a deployable but monitored camera within the Town. Cllr Hume is in support of this, however, cannot contribute to revenue expenditure. The Clerk is liaising with Asset Watch to explore other options available and is drafting an options paper for consideration in due course.

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

None

187. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

187.1 Notes of meeting with Active Travel team 16 December 2025

187.2 Notes of meeting with Highways Infrastructure Manager 3 December 2025

187.3 Notes of staff welfare working party 9 December 2025

187.4 Notes of Regeneration Roundtable 10 December 2025

Information items noted enbloc.

188. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

Members were asked to hold **22nd January 2026** in diaries for an **Extraordinary Meeting** should it be required. This meeting will take place in the conference room of Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble, at 6.00pm. The agenda summons will be sent if necessary, within the required legal time frame.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Amble Town Council will take place on Thursday 12 February 2026, 6.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

189. DATES FOR DIARIES

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2026

14 January 2026 – Partnership Meeting with NCC – 10am – Council Offices
19 January 2026 – Northumberland Tapestry Meeting*
22 January 2026 – Joint meeting with Neighbouring Parishes – 6pm – Conference Room
22 January 2026 – NALC meeting*
26 January 2026 – Police Community Engagement Event – 3pm -6pm – Amble Library
27 January 2026 – Headteacher Roundtable – 4.pm – Council Offices
28 January 2026 – Northumbria Police – 5.30pm – Conference Room
29 January 2026 – Amenities Committee – 6.pm – Council Offices
12 February 2026 – Full Council – 6pm – Conference Room
*new meetings

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

190. EXEMPT REPORT

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

The Exempt Report was noted.

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

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

None

192. AGENDA ITEMS

192.1 To review restricted contact arrangements

An update was given. It was proposed to extend the restrictions for 6 months

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr Dawson

Resolved: All in favour. Clerk to action.

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

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RAW – Rotary of Amble and Warkworth
NDP – Neighbourhood Development Plan