

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2026

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting of Wednesday 28 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) L Osborne (LO).
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.

Mr M Connolly spoke about the concerns raised at the public engagement event held on 26 January with Wynyard Homes regarding the new development on The Braid. Mr Connolly did not agree with their statements regarding the need for assisted living accommodation given the data presented in the recent Housing Needs Assessment. It is yet to be determined by the Local Planning Authority whether the amends to the planning application will be considered a s73 amendment or whether a new planning application will be required. There is growing concern among residents and members about this particular planning application and there is significant public interest. Subject to the outcome of item number 203.1, the Chair may be able to call a planning committee to discuss the Town Councils response as and when the application goes live on the planning portal.

Cllrs Hume and Davidson to be contacted.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

193.APOLOGIES

Kath MacColl – illness

Proposed acceptance – Cllr McTaggart

Second – Cllr Dawson

194. 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 Rackham declared an interest in item 202.1 given he rents an allotment.

195. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

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195.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2026, items 174-192.1

Proposer for acceptance: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolution: The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting held 8 January 2026.

196. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

196.1 Clerks Report attached

The content of the Clerks Report was accepted.

197. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

197.1: Chairman

Cllr McTaggart attended the following meetings:

Meeting with Artography students for an interview with The Ambler

Attended a meeting with Hauxley Parish Council to discuss joint priorities inc Neighbourhood Planning, bordering issues, sharing costs where appropriate.

A visit to Amble Mens Shed who have been able to set up in Amble thanks to a grant provided by Amble Town Council.

A joint town and parish council meeting also attended by Warkworth Parish Council and Acklington Parish Council.

Attendance at the Wynyard Homes public engagement event.

The headteacher roundtable meeting was cancelled.

197.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Richards attended two resident association meetings with residents of Coquet Grange and Hauxley Grange. Hauxley Grange continues to have issues around SUDS and Coquet Grange are looking for enforcement support. Cllr Richards will continue to engage and would welcome assistance from other members.

Cllr Richards also attended the public engagement event with Wynyard Homes on 26 January 2026.

198: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

Give the recent local planning developers it is more important than ever to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. A background paper is being produced for the policy areas that require it. This will be issued to the steering group for comment before circulated to the Town Council. The plan will be subject to further scrutiny from planners and the steering group at the end of the month.

The Steering Group was thanked for their hard work.

199. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

199.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

No update available

199.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

No update available

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

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

Cllr Connolly attended the Tapestry meeting. A pre meeting held by the Rotary had already taken place. The next meeting is taking place on 2 March 2026 at 7.00pm.

Cllr Connolly attended the latest NALC meeting which focused on Civility and Respect with a recommendation that Members complete training every 4 years.

NALC discussed the concerns that had been raised across the County in terms of Councillors having to submit their home addresses on the Declaration Forms. Cllr Connolly to raise with NALC the impact of this in terms of issues with vexatious residents.

The Town and Parish Council Conference is taking place in County Hall and is being attended by Cllrs McTaggart and Richards.

Cllr Rackham was contacted by a resident regarding access to their charging point for their EV. This issue can be discussed by Highways Infrastructure Manager at the next meeting.

201. FINANCIAL REPORT:

201.1 To consider voucher numbers 249 – 268 for payment and 60 - 67 for receipt.

Propose acceptance – Cllr Rackham

Second – Cllr Richards

Resolution: Payments and Receipts were approved

201.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was accepted.

201.3 Year to date figures

The year to date figures were agreed.

201.4 Grant Requests

- **Coquet Shorebase Trust - £700**

Propose acceptance: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolved: All in favour of grant request of £700 to Coquet Shorebase Trust

202.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

202.1 To agree 2026-2027 Allotment Rent

Cllr Rackham declared an interest.

Proposal: Cllr Richards proposed a nil increase for 2026/2027

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolution: 7 in favour, 1 abstention. A nil increase on allotment rent 2026-2027 to be applied.

203: PLANNING COMMITTEE

203.1 To agree amendment to Planning Committee Terms of Reference

Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed the following amendment to the Planning Committee Terms of Reference:

Members are consulted via email unless an application has significant public interest whereby a meeting can be called at the discretion of the Chair.

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolution: All in favour. Proposal agreed.

204. AGENDA ITEMS:

204.1 To agree decision on statutory grounds provision

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Item deferred. Further detail requested by members. At the discretion of the chair, due to the commercially sensitive nature of the detail required, further discussion to be taken under and minuted under the exempt portion of the meeting.

204.2 To agree Capital and Revenue expenditure subject to the outcome of item 204.1

Withdrawn as above.

204.3 To agree proposed new policies as required

ICO Model Publication Scheme for Amble Town Council

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr McTaggart

Resolved: Policy approved.

Draft Scheme of Delegation

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr McTaggart

Cllr Rackham requested an additional section regarding working parties.

Resolved: Subject to Clerks amendment, policy approved.

Amble Town Council Environmental Policy

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr McTaggart

Cllr Rackham requested additional details regarding the Councils commitment to Net Zero.

Policy to be amended and approved at March Full Council.

Resolved: Clerk to compile amendments for approval

NALC Model Template IT Policy

Proposer: Cllr Richards

Second: Cllr McTaggart

Resolved: Policy approved

204.4 To agree amendment to existing policy

Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed an amendment to the policy whereby to remove the provision of pin badges given the large cost and instead create a Honourary Freeperson Garden at the High Street Garden with plaque naming all those awarded.

Second: Cllr Dawson

Resolved: 7 in favour, one abstention, proposal agreed. Staff to action.

Staff are in the process of looking at all community events with the aim of looking at how the community can contribute and be more involved.

204.5 To agree amendment to Standing Order 3c(i) regarding frequency of meetings

Proposal: Cllr McTaggart proposed an amendment to the non-mandatory standing order item 3c(i) to state “no less than four meetings to take place per year” this is to allow more flexibility for Members intention to hold bi monthly meetings with additional extraordinary meetings being called at the discretion of the Chair if required.

Second: Cllr Richards

Resolved: All members in favour. Clerk to amend the Standing Orders as per the instruction from members.

204.6 To receive an update on the Staffing Working Party

An update was given on the outcome of the staffing working party. Staff to investigate

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Employee Assistance Programmes. Further clarification of roles of Cllrs required. Out of hours contact arrangements to be reviewed. Further meeting to be arranged.

204.7 To agree retrospective approval for January 2026 newspaper

Resolved: The newspaper was approved.

204.8 To agree support to Amble Development Trust bid for Town of Culture Competition

Proposer: Cllr McTaggart - Amble Development Trust are bidding in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport competition and have asked Amble Town Council to support them in this bid. There is no financial contribution being asked for. A combined bid with neighbouring parishes is being worked on to include Amble, Warkworth, Hauxley and Acklington.

Second: Cllr Dawson

Resolved: All in favour.

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

205.1 NALC Newsletter

Noted

206. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

206.1 Amble Library Community Garden

206.2 To note Freedom of Information Request received on 19 January 2026

Noted

207. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

207.1 12 March 2026, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

Please note: The meeting scheduled for 12 February 2026 has been cancelled.

208. DATES FOR DIARIES

22 January 2026 – Joint Parish and Town Council meeting with Neighbouring Parishes

26 January 2026 – 3.00pm – 6.00pm – Northumbria Police Community Engagement Event, Amble Library

26 January 2026 – 6.00pm – Public Engagement session with Wynyard Homes – Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, NE650DT

27 January 2026 - 4.00pm - Headteacher Roundtable

28 January 2026 – 6.00pm – EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL – Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, NE650DT

29 January 2026 – 6.00pm – Amenities Committee - Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, NE650DT

***12 February 2026 – FULL COUNCIL CANCELLED**

20 February 2026 – 10.00am – NCC Led Estate Walkabout, meeting point Lesley Drive

25 February 2026 – 5.30pm – Northumbria Police, Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, NE650DT

5 March 2026 – 5.00pm – Town and Parish Council Spring Conference, County Hall,

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NE612EF

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

209. EXEMPT REPORT

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

The exempt report was noted.

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

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

None

211. AGENDA ITEMS

211.1 To discuss nominees for the Kings Garden Party 2026

It was confirmed that the successful nominee would be given one pair of tickets.

Clerk to ascertain availability and confirm.

Item moved to exempt portion of agenda at Chairs discretion

204.1 To agree decision on statutory grounds provision

Clerk to seek clarity on flexibility of current arrangement.

Tender documentation to be drafted. Scope of works to be provided.

Recruitment training to be arranged for staff.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm

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