

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – April 2026

**The Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Thursday 9 April 2026, 6.00pm,
Conference Room, Fourways2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.**

PRESENT:

**M Joyce (MJ), L McTaggart (Chair) (LMc), I Rackham (IR), J Richards (Vice
Chair)(JR), K MacColl (KM), T Regan (TR)
V Smith (Minutes)**

Confirmation sought from NALC that Council was compliant with clear days' notice.

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In line with Standing Order 3d-I 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 Michael Hill queried item number 197.2 from Council meeting on 28 January 2026 regarding enforcement support re Coquet Grange and Hauxley Grange developments. It was clarified that Council had written to NCC and County Councillors regarding early discharge of conditions without conditions being adequately met. The intention is to support residents in these estates help to have the estates looking as best they can and that the landscape management company are meeting their obligations. Mr Hill was concerned that there may be an increase in management costs to residents and as the company had been employed only 12months that more time should be given while they get established with the site.

Cllr Richards explained that it is the same contract across all builds however more difficult at Coquet Grange given their conditions have been signed off incorrectly. Having looked at the management plan, it does not appear to be being managed as it should.

Mr Hill assured that the area was not overgrown now and was requested to share his correspondence and raise his concerns with the resident associations.

It was reiterated that the Council has a limited role in planning but is there to help represent the views of the community.

Mr Hill also expressed disappointment that the Sports Hall Community Asset Transfer was unsuccessful. Mr Hill queried why the Council was not the applicant and money from the sale of the coal yard be used for this purpose. Mr Hill was advised that in order to do this, the precept would have needed to be significantly increased.

Cllr McTaggart explained that Council has limited access to funding and Amble is lucky to have a Development Trust to provide additional resource and experience of running and developing large projects. Mr Hill was informed that it is NCCs intention to rationalise its property portfolio, to limit any further land acquisition and dispose of any unused buildings. The outcome would not have been any different had the Council been the applicant.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

231.APOLOGIES

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Cllr Connolly, accepted
Cllr Dawson, personal, accepted
Cllr Osborne, illness, accepted

232. 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 were reminded to update their declarations of interest as and when they rise on the agenda.

233. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

233.1 To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2026, items 212 – 230.2

Propose acceptance: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr MacColl

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as a true record.

234. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

234.1 Clerks Report attached

Clerks report was noted.

235. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

235.1: Chairman

LMc/TR met with partners to discuss economic development opportunities and how these may feed into the strategic plan. The way in which funding is allocated is changing and Council must be alert to this to enhance prosperity and education in Amble.

LMc, JR, VS, Cllr Arty Hume and Julia Aston (ADT) attended a meeting with NCC to discuss economic development opportunities in Amble. Disappointment was expressed at the refusal of the Sports Hall Community Asset Transfer given that all reasons for refusal were mitigated in the Business Case. There remains concern as to how the new school will be able to fulfil its community access obligations. Looking forward, another meeting is to be arranged to look into more detail of the options available and begin a feasibility study. Cllr Sanderson was invited to the Parish meeting on 14 May 2026. This will be a long term piece of work.

235.2: Vice Chairman

Cllr Richards, as well as meetings covered above, attended residents meetings at both Hauxley Grange and Coquet Grange. Assistance is welcome from other members.

236: Update from Neighbourhood Development Steering Group

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

Background papers for each of the policy areas have been drafted including Housing, economy, local green space.

They will be sent to the Steering Group for review.

Once these have been reviewed, the overall document, with input from NCC officers and planning consultants, the statutory pre submission on the plan will be arranged.

237. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

237.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Hume

Cllr Hume the disappointed regarding the Sports Hall Community Asset Transfer. Cllr Hume reaffirmed his commitment to ADT and the Town Council.

Cllr Hume has met with Coquet Medical Group to share ideas, he has also met with Police and Crime Commissioner re ASB and has been working on a CCTV solution for Morrisons. Cllr Hume still has MLIS funds available.

Additional meetings have taken place with JCSC, King Edwin Primary, Northumbria Police. Cllr Hume was made aware of fly tipping issues on A1068. These have already been reported on Fix My Street.

Cllr Hume was thanked for his work.

237.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Davidson

Cllr Davidson sent apologies and was wished well.

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

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

Cllr Rackham attended the Northumbria Police Community Engagement event and also attended a meeting with NCC Suicide Prevention Officer. Cllr Rackham proposed for May meeting that a tear out page in The Ambler be funded by the Town Council with details of support available if you are in distress.

Amble Youth Project held is AGM.

Councillor Richards left the meeting.

239. FINANCIAL REPORT:

239.1 To consider voucher numbers 303 – 326 for payment and 74 - 79 for receipt.

Proposer: Cllr Rackham

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Accepted

239.2 Bank Reconciliation to 31 March 2026

Proposer: Cllr Joyce

Second: Cllr MacColl

Resolved. Accepted

239.3 Year to date figures

Noted

239.4 Grant Requests

None

239.5 To agree additional signatories for the Council accounts

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Additional volunteers for banking signatories are Cllrs McTaggart, Regan and MacColl

240.AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

240.1 To receive the minutes of the Amenities Committee from 26 March 2026

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

240.2 To discuss request for x2 skips for East Allotment to assist with cleaning up affected plots

Cllr Rackham declared an interest.

Proposer: Cllr Joyce

Second: Cllr Regan

Resolved: Hire of skips agreed, locations to be agreed with AAHS.

240.3 To discuss the Paddlers Park Water Feature and possible leak on system

Cllr Rackham investigated whether he could hear a leak on the system. During his investigation 20 litres of water was used.

Proposer: Cllr Rackham proposed to remove the water feature.

Second: Cllr Joyce

Resolved: Clerk to investigate the possibility of having the water feature capped off so that there is no standing charge. Members are asked to consider alternative provision for the next meeting.

241: PLANNING COMMITTEE

241.1 To receive and note planning report

Noted.

242. AGENDA ITEMS:

242.1 To receive an update on in house grounds maintenance progress

- **To consider proposed draft timeline for in house grounds provision**
Timeline agreed – job advert to be posted ASAP in sector specific advertisements
- **To consider quotations for West Cemetery Buildings refurbishment if available**
No available
- **To consider and agree Draft Job Description and Person Specification for Grounds Manager / Operative**
JD/PS agreed. Full time, flexible hours depending on work schedule.
- **To consider waste management costs received**
Not available
- **To consider Play Area Inspection costs if available**
Staff to undertake routine inspection training as interim measure.
- **To note sign off on Work Nest contract**
Noted
- **To note update from insurers**
Noted. Clerk to contact when further items to add.
- **To agree date of working party**
Clerk to arrange date asap.

242.2 To consider quotations for Memorial Gardens works

Item deferred to Clerk and working party.

242.3 To note the update with regards to CCTV provision

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Morrisons and Advance Northumberland are seeking internal approval for a 50/50 split for 12 months CCTV provision.

242.4 To consider provision of Bus Shelter on Percy Drive

It was agreed to ask developer and local business to contribute and so also ask Cllr Hume whether he would be willing to use some of his MLIS fund.

242.5 To agree litter pick dates and sites programme

Clerk to liaise with Greener Amble to arrange some dates and purchase of Hi Viz vests.

242.6 To receive an update on the Town of Culture Expression of Interest

The expression of interest has been submitted with a broad and inclusive vision for the Town. Many thanks to Jim Donnelly.

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

243.1 None

244. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

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

244.1 Notes of meeting with Northumbria Police 25 March 2026

Noted

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on 14 May 2026. A draft of the strategic plan will be available for consultation with the community with a focus on Q&A.

The Annual Town Council meeting will take place the week after. Following the May meeting, Council will look to bimonthly meetings. In advance of this, Clerk to write to local organisations to determine whether Council membership is still required.

Cllr Rackham requested alternative attendance at the NCC walkabout as he is unavailable.

245. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

245.1 21 May 2026, Amble Town Council Offices, Fourways2 at 6p.m.

246. DATES FOR DIARIES

7th April 2026, Suicide Prevention Officer, 11.00am, Police Office

8th April 2026, Economic Development, 2.00pm

9th April 2026, Amble Town Council Strategy meeting, 5.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2

9th April 2026, Full Council, 6.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2

17 April 2026, NCC Led Estate Walkabout, 10.00am, Meeting at Dansfield Square

23 April 2026, Amble Town Council Strategy meeting, 5.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2

23rd April 2026, Joint Town and Parish Council meeting, 6.00pm, Conference Room, Fourways2

14th May 2026, Annual Parish Meeting, 6.00pm, Dovecote Centre

18th May 2026, Police Community Engagement Event, 3.00pm – 6.00pm, Amble Library

21st May 2026, Annual Meeting of the Council followed by Full Council, 6.00pm, Council Offices

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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

247. EXEMPT REPORT

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

Not available.

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

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

An update on the Community Asset Transfer was given however did not provide any additional information as to more in-depth reasons for refusal that were not mitigated in the Business Case. Further negotiations required with ADT / NCC re welfare.

As the Town Council had in principle committed some funding towards this and it is not now going ahead, the budget can be aligned with other priorities within the strategic plan.

It is expected that Rob Murfin will meet the Town Council to discuss planning matters.

Clerk was requested to seek information on the outcome of the LTP priorities.

Concerns were noted with regards to education / school performance and the barriers this presents to development.

249. AGENDA ITEMS

None

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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