

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – March 2019

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 28 March 2019 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble. An inspection of the West Cemetery took place prior to the meeting.

PRESENT: Cllrs H Lewis (Chair), I Parks, C Weir, Jane Dargue, Clive Foxley, Michael Forrest- AAHS, A Kruk (minute taker).

The Chair explained that the meeting was recorded for the benefit of accuracy.

105: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Butler and were accepted.

106: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Lewis, Weir, Dargue and Parks declared an interest in allotments. The next allotment holders meeting AGM is scheduled for 10th April 2019 Cllr Lewis, Dargue would attend and possibly Cllr Parks.

HL
JD
IP

A complaint had come into ATC relating to the newly built addition to the allotment holders hut, a resident complained that the supporting posts were attached to the fence. Cllr Lewis and Weir had made a site visit and confirmed that the posts were not touching the fence and there was a gap between the posts and fence. **Action:** An email would be sent to the resident confirming the findings.

TC

107: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In accordance with Section 1(d-g) of the ATC Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council at this point on the agenda. The Council/Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date.

John and Janet Milburn, plot holders at the West allotments, had emailed in a complaint about NCC killing some of their plants during the weed killing programme. The use of yellow dye was queried by the Milburn's, they also asked why the contractors had sprayed the area outside their fence which they had planted, and if they could have notification in advance of when NCC were next weedkilling. Cllr Lewis responded that the dye had been added to the weed killer as, in the past, residents complained that the work had not been carried out, she also said that it was difficult to give advanced notice of the weedkilling due to NCC's schedule of works, which often changed. **Action:** Cllr Lewis will flag up these concerns with NCC at the next SLA meeting.

HL

John Milburn asked if he could plant wild flowers at the Welfare garden- he would have to ask ADT; Cllr Weir suggested they could help with planting in the Memorial garden.

107.1 Amble Allotment Holders Society Report

Michael Forrest attended on behalf of the AAHS.

The next allotment holders meeting AGM is scheduled for 10th April 2019 starting at 7.00pm at the Bede Street Club. 3 members of ATC will be attending.

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Cllr Lewis informed Mr Forrest of the complaint received about the addition to the allotment holders hut. He informed the meeting that further work is planned to add boarding to the structure which would go along the fence line, no objections from ATC as the hut does not affect the fencing.

Collapsible bollards – This had been discussed at the previous meeting and taken to the AAHS Committee and they have no objections to these being installed. Members would discuss later on the agenda but the cost to install each one is around £200, ATC will pay for the installation costs and cost of up to 3 bollards. They are to be sited at each end of the allotments preventing unauthorised vehicle access to the site. A discussion took place around wheelchair access, currently only 1 allotment holder uses a mobility scooter and times when the bollards would remain lowered. AAHS proposed that they would remain down at weekends between the hours of 8.00 am and 6.00 pm to be confirmed at the AGM. The allotment hut and emergency services would be provided with keys.

Cllr Lewis informed MF that NCC have agreed to fill the current potholes on the drive way.

Cllr Lewis informed MF that she had met up with John Dagleish prior to this meeting to inform him of the new fence/scrub removal next to the West allotments and that as soon as a date is received for the work to commence AAHS will be informed.

Weed killing – AAHS were aware of the complaint had been received via email after NCC carried out weedkilling at the West allotments.

New Tenants – New allotment tenants at the West and East; currently only 1 plot at the West allotment is available to let.

Fly tipping – 2 allotments having to remove insulation and flooring which had been fly tipped onto their plots by previous tenants. However, there are no issues at the entrance at the moment.

MF had a meeting with the police yesterday following a couple of break-ins at the allotments and livestock (hens) was stolen, there has also been some vandalism with locks being broken off the gates; the police will attend the next AAHS meeting.

Mini motorbikes have been using the allotments as a cut through; the police have caught 3 culprits so far. CCTV is not much help as there is no number plates recognition but the angle of the bikes is wrong. Police have spoken to the persistent offenders and warned them that their bikes may be seized and destroyed in the re-offend. The biggest problem the police have is actually catching them in the act.

Signage – AAHS are trying to enforce hazard signage on plots which use/store gas bottles and pesticides, and also to get each plot correctly numbered. This will help emergency services if they need to attend an incident.

Seed Project - Cllrs asked if anything has progressed with the request that was

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received by the Seed Project to acquire an allotment for a community gardening project. MF reported that he has seen them working on their plot and things seemed to be progressing.

Cllr informed MF about the self-sets which we are thinking of cutting out on West Avenue adjacent to the allotments and the leaning tree; costs are being sought for removal of both.

MF informed the meeting that he received very little communication from the West allotment holders, and that John did keep him updated. He concluded his report and left the meeting.

108: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM: Accepted

Fencing and maintenance

Fencing and clearing of scrub area - A quote for the fencing and clearing work has been approved, subject to one amendment: the quote showed costs for fitting 2 gates when only 1 is required. **Action:** As soon as a date is received for the work to commence the AAHS will be informed.

AK

The broken tap at the West Cemetery has been replaced with a new push style tap.

NCC has carried out the weedkilling under the SLA.

Tarmac entrance/drive way – 1 quote has been received from NCC further quotes to be sought.

AK

Mapping

Mapping - ongoing. Section M and Ma mapped out with Section N is to be added next. Other data is still to be added regarding rights and memorials. When the system goes live we are still be using the books to record in as this is a Legal requirement.

TC

The mapping of the cemetery by Pear Technology is part of a process which will include the whole of Amble Town Council's assets when completed.

Tree work

All work to remove the branches from the December gales has now been completed. There is one tree adjacent to the allotments which is leaning, AK to ask fencing contractors for a cost to remove this.

AK

Life Belts - update

ATC have made a request that NCC check all the existing life belts and replace any which are missing. We need to ensure that the appropriate checks have been made and that follow up inspections are carried out on a regular basis. To be discussed at the next SLA meeting.

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Planting

The clematis plants have been bought and are with NCC awaiting planting at the West Cemetery. Cllr Dargue praised and thanked the Rotary Club for the crocus display on the Braid.

109. CEMETERIES

109.1 West Cemetery

SLA going well; cemetery appearance improved

109.2 East Cemetery update

None

110 PLAY AREAS

110.1 Paddlers Park

Update on communications with NCC

ATC still waiting for a response from NCC regarding NCC's proposal to fresh Air Fitness for compensation and removal of equipment. The installation of the new equipment from Kompan is scheduled for week commencing 20th April and this should be up and running by early May.

TC

Kompan would carry out a site visit to confirm locations the week prior to the work being completed.

Cllr Morrison asked if the signage could be cleaned and to ask the dog warden to pay regular visits to the area. She stated that people walking their dogs did not appreciate where the paddlers/play areas started and finished and asked if clearer signage would improve the situation. Members felt that additional/larger signs would not help.

AK

Flooding – Draining issues with the land would be raised again with NCC, but would ask them after the new equipment had been installed. It was suggested that sunken pipes might help to drain the surface water underground.

TC

Dolphin graphics: TC is currently reviewing options to renew the graphics. Action TC to request a cost of removal and replacement of the graphics and to investigate the possibility of an artist painting graphics

AK

110.2 Phillip Drive

[The grit bin has now been moved from the corner of Phillip Drive.]

Work on the Little Bo Peep is due to be carried out over the Easter holidays. Action: Not during the holidays but ask if this can be done prior to the Easter holidays.

AK

111. TOWN FURNITURE e.g. bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats

111.1 Town header boards – These have been done.

111.2 Dilston Terrace seat has now been reinstated.

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Ken Henderson has been contacted regarding the availability of a hut to store some equipment nearer the Town Square.

112 COMMUNICATIONS

None

1123 AGENDA ITEMS

113.1/2 Cemeteries

NALC has advised of a court case which highlighted that some Muslim burials state that there is a strict code stating that no one can walk over the graves, this includes cutting of the grass and access to maintain the grave. After discussions at the last meeting we are proposing leaving two plots at the Gloster Hill bottom end of section N for these type of alternative burials; these plots would be on a rotation basis. Cllr Parks asked if kerb stones would be permitted around the graves as this are used in other cemeteries for Muslin burials. Cllr Lewis said this might be requested but as we did not allow these elsewhere we would need to consult with ICCM for advice over the wording of this proposal. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

TC

Re-surfacing of the drive: quote for approx. £15,000 to carry out this work, other quotes are being sought and the specifications provided would be used as guidance.

AK

Electricity and water supply prior to resurfacing bottom area – quotes would be sought to place these out of the machine store prior to the re-surfacing work being carried out.

AK

Self sets to be removed – check that this could be included in the SLA.

TC

Resetting of the copping stones/wall – quote for £1,500 received for all work, request an itemised quote for the work. Delegate up to £750 for the copping stone work.

AK

113.3 Paddlers: Cost for turf surface under the new play equipment is £390- £300 more than for seed. It was agreed that this price is acceptable. Kompan to be informed.

113.4 and 113.5 Memorial Gardens: Replacement of the existing gate could become ATC's responsibility; the gate was listed therefore the replacement would have to be like for like. Cllr Lewis proposed siting the information board pertaining to the memorials and WW1 Centenary events be placed into the gap. This was agreed.

AK

113.6 East Allotments – It was discussed and agreed that up to 3 collapsible bollards could be installed; 2 at the bottom entrance and one at the top. Costs for installation to be sought; Cllr Lewis to supply photo of locations

113.7 Community

AK

Planting of trees along The Braid: The WI have been contacted and they have 5 oak trees left over. As this land is in Warkworth Parish and the trees are still quite small, Members felt it was not appropriate to make a decision about these. Cllr Lewis was asked to draft a response to Cllr Butler who raised the query originally. There is still a

HL

TC

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question mark over the suitability of the ground for planting trees and if NCC will carry out the planting.

HL

113.8 Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D-Day on Thursday 6th June 2019 -Cllr Weir proposed ATC contact Cllr David Ledger at NCC to ask what NCC were planning and if ATC might be involved in those. After some discussion it was agreed that the event would be a short service of prayer and readings at 10.50am at the Memorial with the laying of a spray of flowers followed by 1-2 minute's silence and then the Kohima Epiphany. Coquet Churches Together would be asked to meet with ATC to make the arrangements and then ATC will advertise the service and inform others who usually attend on Remembrance Day that they are welcome to attend.

TC/
AK

114 INFORMATION ITEM

114.1 Rolling programme of new litter bins. The 9 new litter bins have been ordered and the delivery date is 11th April. These will replace the rest of the blue bins in the town- these being used to replace dog bins but some small dog bins will be left in-situ for the time being due to their suitability in their location. The wheelie bins at Leazes Street would be replaced but it was reported that WHC were looking at the problems with litter there.

115: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be held at 6.00 pm Thursday 30th May- subject to AGM- with a site visit to the East Cemetery and Paddlers Park prior to the meeting at 5 pm.

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

116: AGENDA ITEMS

116.1 ASB in West Cemetery

Update – A local man has been spoken to by the police about the ASB in the West Cemetery, and there have been no reported problems since. A letter of thanks has been sent to the person who helped the police after seeing him acting in a suspicious manner at the cemetery.

116.2 Memorial Gardens

The legal work regarding this area was on-going and would take approx.. 4-6 weeks. ROTL scheme – Cllr Dargue asked if maintenance work for the memorial garden could be covered under this scheme. To be discussed with ADT as they were responsible for this work.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm