

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – SEPTEMBER 2015

At the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 24th September 2015 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble. This meeting was preceded by a site visit at Amble West Cemetery.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Dargue (Chair), H Lewis, K Morrison, and C Weir and with the Clerk; Miss E Brown. Cllr Watson was present for the site visit.

Actions

17: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs J Watson – Prior commitments, K Cassidy - holiday. The apologies were agreed.

18: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: None.

19: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes) None.

Amble Allotment Holders Society Report – No Members of the Society were present. Cllr Lewis raised concern of an overgrown bush in first of the West Allotments; it obscured the gate to the allotment plot when it was open and was therefore a danger to vehicles. This matter would be raised with AAHS.

As there were currently 3/4 vacant raised beds in the Simply Horticulture site, it was agreed to approach the AAHS and ask if anyone near the bottom of their waiting list would be interested in letting a raised bed while they remained on the waiting list for an allotment. The raised beds would be free until the end of December; they would subsequently be invoiced annually in January.

Concerns were raised that no Members of AAHS were present, a reminder of meeting dates would be sent to the Secretary. It was agreed to ask if Member of the Committee could attend the next site visit of Allotments that AAHS carry out. The Clerk was also requested to find out the date of their next Society meeting.

The weed killing at the Simply Horticulture site was currently being carried out by the tenants of the site via the Allotment fund. A strimmer is currently being borrowed to keep the weeds/grass down.

If the Town Council had an old strimmer in the machine store, it was agreed that this could be loaned by the raised bed site tenants once per month.

It was noted that the allotment walkways on both sites required strimming and weed killed; they should be monitored more frequently by the Operative.

20: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

The contents of the Clerk's Report were noted and any matter arising were considered.

20.1: Structure programme' - assessment and review of old and new structures on allotments – The Society were not present to provide an update.

20.2: Drainage Issues West Allotment site – The report following the CCTV investigation of the culvert had been returned. Following an enquiry to Northumbrian Water regarding riparian landownership and maintenance of the culverts, a response had been received.

The water course in question is classed as a culverted watercourse and these are generally an open watercourse/stream/burn which have subsequently been piped to allow land to be used for other means. These culverts do then remain within the ownership of the riparian landowner which in this case would be Amble Town Council. Water companies, and prior to these organisations the Local Authority, have rights to connect and discharge surface water to these culverts similar to discharging surface water direct to an open watercourse. The connection to these watercourses however does not make the water company discharge surface water into rivers, the rivers do not then become the responsibility of that said water company.

It was agreed to ask Steve McMasters for his thoughts on an Artisan Well to channel the natural Spring water which was a problem here.

12.3: Coquet Enterprise Park bus shelter removal – The bus shelter had been removed during the works at the site to install a roundabout. This matter would now be removed from the agenda.

12.4: Email sent regarding discharge of conditions on planning application 14/03842/DISCON relating to bus shelters – The Clerk had requested a copy of the legal agreement and also details of the timeframe under which the funds should be spent.

12.5: Litter bins changes – The bins on Queen Street had been changed apart from

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one at the junction with Cross Street as the new bin had a broken catch. The company were arranging for a replacement bin to be sent out. The bins at Island View and Links Avenue had also been changed.

Cllr Lewis queried whether one of the removed bins could be placed in the grassed area at the junction of Philip Drive/Percy Drive as this was a regular route with school children- permission had already been obtained from the landowner.

The next priority areas for bin replacements would be Broomhill Street, Leazes Street and the promenade. It was queried when the promenade railing were due to be repainted- these were in NCC ownership.

It was queried whether Amanda Cryer has investigated whether third party landowners were paying for the bins located on their land to be emptied.

12.6: Plaques for refurbished seats – A query had been received regarding a plaque in memory of Dr Robertson and whether it would be replaced. As the plaque was not on the wooden seat that had been removed from the Memorial Gardens, it was agreed that if the family wished to replace the plaque at their expense, the Town Council would arrange for it to be fitted to one of the refurbished seats in the Memorial Gardens.

12.7: Sodexo Community Involvement Update – The notes of the meeting had been circulated.

12.8: Town History Trail working party – The notes of the meeting had been circulated.

12.9: Town Council noticeboards Update – Warkworth PC were still waiting for their new notice board to be constructed. The Clerk would keep the Council up to date on this matter.

21: AGENDA ITEMS:

21.1: To consider comments from site visit –

- the gutters needed cleaning on the buildings
- Moss required spraying and scrapping
- Resurfacing of the tarmac drive may be required in the future
- The notice board required cleaning
- The notices could be replaced with fresher copies
- The flower beds were full of weeds
- The fence bordering section M and the old Paddock was in need of repairs.
- The new bed at the cremated remains required moving back towards the hedge. The remaining pavement bordering the turning circle with the old paddock would be broken up and turfed for the burial of cremated remains.
- The hedge at the back of the cremated remains section required reducing in height.
- Nettles, weeds and grass are growing through the paths.
- The bramble bush next to section M required cutting back
- There were a lot of unauthorised momentoes on graves, an article would be drafted for the newsletter covering this subject and polite notices placed on the grave spaces.
- The compound required tidying/maintenance – can any of the wooden seats be repaired? If not break up. Old flat sheets should be burned.
- More alpines/succulents were required for behind the memorial wall.

21.2: To ratify changes to Interment procedures – The changes were agreed.

21.3: To consider arrangements for Sunday 8th November – A meeting would be arranged with Ian Howard- Row for October.

Mr Rippon had informed that he would not be available to run the PA. It was agreed to ask Mr Mounsey if he was available to run the PA equipment and if there would be a cost involved.

21.4: Update on Paddlers Park – Members agreed that they were happy with the red line boundary of the site. It was agreed that it was too late in the season to leave the water on. Regarding the agency agreement for the area, clarification would be required on the future of the coastal defence wall. Once clarified, the agreement would be signed so that the funding which needed to be claimed by the end of the month would not be lost

The costs for the Neat team attending the site were discussed, it was queried whether the costs included the cost of the SLA for the existing play area.

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22: COMMUNICATIONS:

22.1: The Clerk informed that Cllr Arckless had queried the opening times of the cemetery gates following a complaint from a Member of the public. Members agreed that the gates would remain locked outside of the cemetery working hours.

22.2: Two quotes had been received for the tree works at the West Cemetery, it was agreed to accept the lesser of the two quotes, and ask whether it was possible for the contractor to also reduce the height of the hedge behind the cremated remains section.

23: INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

24: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next Meeting is Thursday 26th November 2015

Public version of Private

25. Charitable volunteer: A meeting would be arranged with Azure following the end of the 4 week trial period.

26. Acklington Road Bus Shelter – JCSC site – The quote for the steel work had come back as well above an acceptable figure. As the Council had already purchased some steel that was currently with the contractor, it was agreed to see if they could go ahead with blocking the rear side of the shelter to reduce the draft with the existing panels for up to £600.

The Clerk would write to Mrs Denham to update her on the project.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.