

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – November 2016

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 24 November 2016 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Weir (Chair), J Dargue, M Horn, H Lewis and K Morrison with the Clerk; Miss E Brown.

Actions

56: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

57: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: None.

58: 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.

58.1: Amble Allotment Holders Society Report – None.

59: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

RECOMMENDATION - To note the contents of the Clerk's Report and any matter arising be considered.

59.1: Allotment Wynd entrance water diversion – ongoing

59.2: Response to letter sent to AAHS - Unfortunately AAHS Committee sent their apologies for meeting. They did however forward their comments:

the AAHS committee feel that they cannot give a donation towards the improvements to the kerb line as they feel that the sum of £1500 contributed initially to the water diversion was sufficient enough and feel that they remind ATC that they are not a profit driven organisation and have limited funds.

Regarding Fire Risk Assessments, Asbestos, Stock piles of wood, Unsafe structures and Gas bottles, AAHS Committee welcome some of the suggestions from the Council but also disagree with others.

The Committee would welcome a free fire risk assessment but disagrees with tenants having to remove gas bottles as this is the primary heat source for tenants to warm their greenhouses during the winter to bring on new plants, flowers and vegetables.

If ATC are willing to dispose of any asbestos then the Committee are willing to help in what way they can.

I have read through the insurance and I cannot find anything within it that states that we are covered with a public liability clause but the Insurance Documents seem to be incomplete and because they are in the old secretary's name I cannot get a new set sent out.

The insurance is up for renewal in the new year and AAHS will make sure that the new policy states public liability.

The Clerk would remind them that it was wise that the Public liability cover not only tenants but visitors too. It date the policy is up for renewal would be requested.

It was agreed the Clerk would enquire the costs of fire risk assessments.

It was noted that tenants were individually responsible for gas bottles and any damaged caused by them, the removal and safe disposal of them also.

A Committee Members list was still awaited. It was noted that contact details are provided on the Allotment hut door.

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An update on the stencilling of plot numbers would also be requested.

If there is anything else we can help you with then please do not hesitate to ask.

59.3: Paddlers – proposed letter to NCC A letter that had been circulated to Members was agreed to be sent to Mike Jeffrey, Emma Evans, the Leader of NCC and both Amble County Councillors.

59.4: Leazes Street Litter issue update – This was due to be discussed at the Neighbourhood Services meeting but in the mean time an update would be requested from the Harbour Commissioners.

59.5: Seat/bench update – Members disappointment was noted that the bench was vandalised within one day of being fixed in place. It had since been repainted. It was noted that the base around the seat on the Braid could do with being built up around the edges. The seat ends in the compound should be sent to the prison for refurbishment.

59.6: History trail update – Delivery was due imminently.

59.7: Feedback from Remembrance Day – The event had received favourable comments but the following was noted; there should be a maximum of 4-5 wreath layers at any one time, representatives should hold wreaths facing forward in line up, the sound could not be heard at the back of the town square (the sound could be turned up louder). It was suggested a marching band be investigated for the parade to the church, costs would be returned to the January meeting.

59.8: Church Street Bus Shelter update – The painting had been partially done and was to be finalised in the following week.

59.9: Paddlers Park update – The drainage of the water feature was prone to blocking, NCC informed that this had been unblocked prior to the official opening and provided costing for a local company. The Committee requested this be investigated further and the drainage plans looked at.

59.10: Oak tree + planting – The area of grass verge suggested was not possible for planting due to compacted gravel underneath the grass and soil, alternatives were being suggested.

59.11: Cemetery compound - Cllr Weir would supply the telephone number for the local scrap man so the Clerk could arrange the disposal of items no longer required. It was agreed that the greenhouses could be disposed of but any good panes would be kept. The removal of excess soil from the site would be included in any further grave digging tender.

The painting of the cemetery office would be carried out over the winter. Cllr Weir and Horn were thanked for their work.

59.12: The Environmental Operatives timesheets and diary will be available to view in the office on Thursday from 12pm (they are for noting work carried out and not intended for the purposes of monitoring time/movements) – Wood chips had been piled up against the wall at the Wynd entrance of the west allotments, the Operative would be asked to spread them out.

60: COMMUNICATIONS:

60.1: Mrs Green – Consideration of annual charge for cleaning/placing flowers for families no longer in the area – Members were in agreement that the Council were unable to offer such a service and would suggest Mrs Green contact other youth or community organisations in the town who may consider it.

60.2: PCSO Fawcett – Community Defibrillator – A request had been received to

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site a defibrillator on Queen Street, Members did not object to supporting this but suggested the Town Council may consider purchasing one for the Town Square.

61: AGENDA ITEMS: None.

62: INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

63: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting date will be held at 18.00 on 26th January 2016 in the Council

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.