

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – January 2018

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 25 January 2018 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Weir (Chair), J Dargue, M Horn, I Parks, K Morrison, T Hinton and Miss V Smith.

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

Actions

53: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Morrison
Cllr Parks
AAHS

54: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: Cllr Weir and Cllr Lewis declared an interest in allotments.

Before the meeting progressed, it was decided that Grave Digging contract and Cemetery Fees should be discussed in the public domain. It was also agreed that Fresh Air Fitness discussions should be discussed in private.

CHAIR

55: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

None.

55.1: Amble Allotment Holders Society Report

AAHS provided an update prior to the meeting.

The Chairman of the society has looked at Allotment 160 & 161 but could not see any new buildings however, he could only view half the allotments due to the pigeon loft so will ask the tenant for a further look next week. There was concern as to how much of the allotments are cultivatable as the Council are aware that there are a number of buildings at the site.

The allotment rules are being given to the tenants when they visit the hut to renew their Tenancy agreements.

The Council are deeply concerned that the methods agreed over two years ago regarding buildings do not seem to be having any effect, therefore we respectfully ask for an advance warning of the next inspection so that the Council can attend.

CLERK

Additionally, the Council request that the allotments are adequately numbered to ensure easy identification as discussed on a number of previous occasions.

The Clerk informed the meeting that there were 2 signs ready to be placed in each allotment site to state that users of this area do so at their risk. The location is to be agreed asap.

CLERK

Cllr Lewis drew attention to the Bird Flu press release that has been issued by NCC and requested that this be sent to AAHS.

CLERK

It was agreed to discuss agenda no 58.5 at this point.

Lynne Russell attended the meeting to discuss the litter problem within the town and surrounding areas. The Litterbugs Warkworth Facebook page has been set up and it was agreed for ATC to share and publicise their work. Litterbugs have been given some equipment from NCC and would like to expand the group and get more people involved.

CLERK

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Litterbugs has been allocated a monthly column in the Northumberland Gazette to promote the campaign. The issues are not solely relating to litter as there has been a lot of plastic found on our beaches and large sheets of plastic being found on the North Side, buried under sand, making it very difficult for it to be removed due to the sheer weight. Lynne was able to provide some photographic evidence of untidy areas, huge sheets of plastic that are being blown into the sea. It was suggested that if these were from planning developments that contact should be made with the planning authority. There was also further photographic evidence of plastics and litter not being properly secured by businesses in the town. It was agreed that ATC could draft a letter to the business owners and ask them to address this issue. ATC welcome these types of litter campaigns and suggested that these link in with the community litter picks that the Council organise. Contacts are to be made available to Litterbugs Warkworth including schools, cadets, skiffs, Amble Youth Project. The Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean weekend takes place on 3rd / 4th March. Litterbugs Warkworth to link in with ATC to arrange a litter pick event for this weekend. Future litter pick dates to be arranged and coordinated with Litterbugs Warkworth. The events can be publicised via social media, in noticeboards and via joint posters. It was reported that some national companies are trying to tackle the plastic issues by introducing water fountains, stop using straws, take your own bottle, bring your own cups. The Council are always trying to improve the litter situation in the town and are responsive to hot spot areas within the town, moving litter bins to where they are most needed. The “Take Three” litter campaign that is currently ongoing was also discussed, which encourages people to remove 3 pieces of litter per person which will dramatically improve the litter problem in the UK. Lynne was also made aware of the Duke of Edinburgh Award participant that ATC have currently sponsored who is also carrying out regular litter picks in the town. Lynne was encouraged to contact WPC and explain the work that Litterbugs Warkworth are doing. Lynne was also encouraged to give The Ambler and The Pelican a call.

CLERK

CLERK

CLERK

The dog fouling issues at The Mound were reported and will be reported to NCC.

56: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

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

Pat testing has been carried out in the office. The West Cemetery remains to be done. HS to arrange.

CLERK

NCC have been asked to stop their drivers from driving on the grass at Paddlers Park.

Signage for plastic spikes has been ordered as per request from insurers.

CLERK

A quote has been requested for the next section of the pointing of the East Cemetery Walls

Instruction plates for posts at Paddlers Park is in hand.

Cemetery Double Charging by NCC remains outstanding

Elder Shrubs at the West Cemetery have been removed by the Contractor.

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Northumbria Police have been asked to increase presence at Paddlers Park due to vandalism and the removal of winter plants.

CLERK

The Coal Truck planter at Acklington Road has been repaired. The Clerk to ascertain if JCSC wish to continue to look after it and provide the relevant materials.

A list of which Cllrs looks after which noticeboard is to be made. Additional keys have been made for the large notice board in the town centre.

CCTV signs are ready and will be collected asap.

Outstanding items to be resolved

Plant pots for HMP Northumberland – It was agreed that Cllr Lewis would make best use of the plant pots that are available at the raised beds. The Clerk to then liaise with HMP to ascertain how many extras are needed. The Clerk find out what happened to the plants pots from last year.

CLERK

Additional Winter Plants for Paddlers Park and Acklington Road are needed

56.1 Allotments

Updated provided above.

56.2: Allotments updated Rules and Regulations

Update provided above

CLERK

56.3 Cemeteries and update from Operative

The Clerk reported that bi-weekly meetings have been taking place with the operative. A dig bin audit has taken place. The Clerk to ascertain if there was a bin suitable to be placed at the side of Amble Skips. The Coal Truck at Acklington Road has been mended. The plants that were in Acklington Road Coal Truck are now in Paddlers Coal Truck as these ones were stolen over Christmas. Rachel Parks is to let the Council know if the school would still like to look after this planter. The bin at Paddlers had been damaged by a vehicle and has now been replaced. We have requested that the police have some presence at Paddlers Park and it was queried whether it would be possible to interrogate the CCTV footage and find out if there is a way to ascertain when there has been movement. The Clerk to discuss with Alncom. The Clerk updated TW on the issues around Fresh Air Fitness and requested that this be monitored. The Wreaths at the War Memorial can be removed. TW to check to see if the stands need washed and painted.

CLERK

The suggestion of Ivy for the High Street Wall is not suitable, it was agreed to leave this issue until the meeting with NCC. The Council prefers Lavateria and will discuss with NCC.

The removal of any equipment from the West Cemetery is to be put on hold.

Discussions are to be held with Sodexo re replacement of the seat at the top of The Wynd.

CW/HS

The bollards at Paddlers Park are damaged and the padlocks of the bollards have been removed. Cllr Weir and Helen Shepherd to discuss this issue further with Bill Pringle from NCC. Would it be possible to replace them with something sturdier, and possibly a deep kerb set? The Clerk to find out if the CCTV has picked up on anything with this. The tyre marks from NCC vehicles on the grass at Paddlers Park was raised and the

CLERK

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Council has been assured that this will not happen again.

56.7 Play areas

56.8 Report of Paddlers Park inspections

The inspection sheets had been received.

56.9 Report of Philip Drive play area inspections

The inspection sheet had been received.

56.10 Town furniture e.g. bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats

CW/HS

No response has been received in relation to the Boat Seat at the East Cemetery. This is to be addressed once the SLA commences.

Cllr Weir and Helen Shepherd to discuss with Bill Pringle an alternative material for the Church Street Bus Shelter floor.

HL/HS

Helen Shepherd and Cllr Lewis to meet to progress the digital mapping spreadsheets of items within the town and the photographic evidence of any dedication plaques attached to items such as seats. The dedication plaque that has been found is to be relocated to the High Street Garden if it is in a good condition.

East Cemetery Information Boards – Helen Shepherd is taking this forward, researching what options are available. Discussion took place on the possible location of the new notice board.

HS

Each Cllr was requested to volunteer to look after a noticeboard in their own ward.

Helen Shepherd is in the process of sourcing quotes for the required roof repairs at the West Cemetery. This work is ongoing.

HS

Helen Shepherd has also been progressing the issues with the water metres at the West Cemetery. Historically the Council were given a discount which has since been removed. Work is ongoing to ascertain what the discount was for and why this was removed. NWG are under the impression that the Council are being over charged and are investigating this on the Council's behalf. Helen Shepherd will report back in due course.

The quotes for repair of the West Cemetery footpath is ongoing. It was agreed to leave this for a decision at the March meeting.

CW/HS

56.11 Planting

Cllr Weir and Helen Shepherd are meeting with Bill Pringle from NCC to discuss planting requirements for the town. This would be an opportunity to discuss the whole picture, ascertain what we have already on order, what additional plants we need and to perhaps establish a 3-4-year rota if agreed. The planter at the bottom of The Wynd to be raised with NCC to give further consideration in relation to the RAF in bloom campaign.

The instruction plates for the Fresh Air Fitness equipment did not fit on to the posts provided by HMP. Beck Groundworks is preparing a base prior to fixing.

57: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

58: AGENDA ITEMS:

CLERK

58.1: CCTV Signage

CCTV signage is ready. Permission will be required to install on to any lamp posts although when discussions have been held it has been reported that CCTV signage only needs to be in the vicinity of the cameras. The Clerk to ascertain if planning permission is needed to install signs on the listed building. It is expected that if NCC are required to install the signage that there will be a cost involved.

CW/HS

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58.2: Dilston Terrace beds

Cllr Weir and Helen Shepherd to discuss with Bill Pringle.

58.3: Footpaths in the LTP

Cllr Clark is creating a database of all footpath repairs in Amble in the hope that there may be some S106 monies available to use. All Cllrs were encouraged to look in their individual wards and to report to Cllr Clark of any that are needed to be listed.

58.4: The Wynd Wall

The Wynd Wall has now been completed and payment is to be made.

Cllr Lewis brought the meetings attention to the other section of the wall that is also in a state of disrepair. Photographic evidence was looked at and arrangements to view the wall from the other side need to be made. An estimate will then be requested for repair. It was queried whether funding was available to repair the wall.

CLERK

Cllr Horn reported on a strip of land that did not appear to belong to anyone. The Clerk to ascertain from Land Registry ownership rights.

58.5 Community Litter Pick.

Litter pick dates were agreed as follows:

3rd – 4th March 10am

23rd May 4.30pm for AYP and 5.00pm for others. The Clerk to contact the volunteers to let them know the details and publicise the events on social media and website. Contact to be made with ACT, Schools, Cadets, WI, The Rotary, Skiffs, Lynne Russell, Faith Bell.

CLERK

58.6 WW1 Commemoration / Celebration 2018 update

Cllrs Weir, Dargue, Lewis with the Clerk met with Stephen Lunn to discuss the possibility of having a structure to commemorate all those involved in conflict worldwide. Concepts/Costs have been requested for Full Council.

The Ellington Colliery Band may be available to play on the evening, possibly a short concert and a march through the town. Costs have been requested.

Cllr Lewis and the Clerk met with Reaction Fireworks to carry out site visits on the suggested areas for the firework display. The North Side was not viable due to high tide. It was considered that there would be too much risk involved to have the fireworks at this location. The second location visited was The Braid. Reaction Fireworks were much happier with this site. Reaction Fireworks are preparing a proposal for Full Council. The Clerk to request NCC presence for litter and to alert all blue lights and request that if possible, for Amble Fire Station to be present.

CLERK

Elements to the evening could include a mini concert in the church hall, Ellington Colliery Band, an NTC play, light refreshments, parade to The Braid, lighting of the beacon at 7pm, Fireworks or the Lantern Parade. The Clerk was requested to seek a quote to operate PA equipment.

CLERK

Ongoing discussions are being held in relation to the Christmas Lights switch on. The next Events Committee takes place on 16 February. It was queried whether it would be possible to have copies of minutes to keep updated with what's happening.

CLERK

58.7 Water Testing at Paddlers Park.

A quote was received from HSL. The Clerk to ascertain what the Council must provide including what was decided last year. It is expected that there should be a one-off cost for the testing of the water at the beginning of the season.

58.8 Paddlers Park Drain.

The drain at Paddlers Park was flooded during Christmas. This area is to continue to

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be monitored and cleared. Cllr Horn agreed to meet with operative to help lift the drain cover. The drain rods are not flexible enough to get around the bends. The operative requested that the drain to be locked so to stop debris such as cans being thrown in. Cllrs agreed that at times of high tide/heavy rainfall immediate outflow may be not be possible due to the drainage system. It was expected this would be part of the SLA agreement and NCC have the equipment needed.

COUNCIL

58.9 Consideration of Recommendation to full Council regarding retention/disposal of items of machinery/equipment after SLA commencement.

It was suggested that it was recommended to Full Council to retain the large John Deere Tractor, the trailer, the covered trailer, hand mower and brushcutter. Recommend a working party for end February to see what equipment is there, make preliminary assessment and request for delegated powers to do what is required. Any personal items are to be disposed of. Suggest anything that is suitable for community groups to be gifted to charity groups if agreed.

58.10 Gloster Hill Wall repointing

Covered under 58.4

COUNCIL

58.11 Fountain operation and the disabled toilet options following the commencement of the SLA.

Recommend to Full Council that it be ascertained if an electronic timer can be implemented as NCC will not have time to switch this on and off again. Recommend to Full Council that the disabled toilet remains closed.

CLERK

58.12 Grave Digging Contract Tender

The tender and advert were previously circulated for review and comments. Invitation to tender to go to Northumberland Gazette and be added to the ATC website. The Clerk to adjust the burial figures. The Clerk to amend to ensure that the Contractor is to be remove any spoil. The first 12 months of top soil is to be covered by the Contractor.

58.13 Cemetery Fees and Charges

Some of the cemetery fees were adjusted by 5%. The only figure that has not been changed by 5% is the one to state where a body exceeding the age of 12 years due to the previous year's figure for double depth being incorrectly quoted in the previous fees. Cremated remains interment – scattering of ashes – currently £180. This was agreed to remove this charge altogether.

CLERK

The right to erect a memorial since 2011 was included in the exclusive right of burial charges. The text was amended to ensure clarity on this.

CLERK

It was also agreed to remove the charge to install a seat.

CLERK

59. INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

60: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on 29th March 2018 in the Council Office.

A site visit at the West Cemetery will be arranged for 5.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be

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excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

PUBLIC version of PRIVATE **Agenda Items**

61.1 Clerks Report - Fresh Air Fitness

The Double Air Walker has been replaced with the new model; the old one to remain at the West Cemetery for the present. Some items need to be removed. Quotes have been obtained from various sources. A meeting has been requested with an NCC officer to discuss the issues ATC have had. The Clerk to discuss the payment of the works as per their guarantee. The Double Air Walker is not to be removed from the West Cemetery. The Clerk to write to the supplier and NCC along with an itemised report of all problems with the project.

CLERK

61.2 Amble West Cemetery Footpath

HS is continuing to seek quotes.

61.3 East Cemetery Wall Quote (Island View Side)

It was proposed to go ahead with the quote to repair the East Cemetery Wall (Island View side) at a cost of £3400. The Clerk to proceed.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

HS

CLERK