

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2015

At the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 26th November 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 J Watson and with the Clerk; Miss E Brown. AAHS Committee Members Michael Forrest and McDonogh

Cllr Watson informed that due to another commitment, he would need to leave the meeting at 6.30pm

Actions

27: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs K Cassidy – holiday, Cllr Weir – holiday. The apologies were agreed.
Apologies not submitted – Cllr Robinson.

28: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: None. It was noted that Cllrs Dargue, Lewis and Morrison had Council agreed dispensations relating allotments.

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

Amble Allotment Holders Society Report – Mr Forrest was requested to provide an email address for Steve McMaster regarding the drainage issues.

AAHS informed of problems with the fly tipping of doors and windows at the entrance to the Percy Drive allotments, a no fly tipping sign was suggested for here, the Clerk would query with NCC regarding appropriate wording. The Straffen Court end of the Allotments was also prone to fly tipping. It was agreed the Clerk would inform the police.

Clerk

Dog fouling was problematic despite the newly erected signage. As the walkways which were permissive Rights of Way, were well used by the public, the Clerk was requested to ask the dog warden to check the paths in early morning/early evenings.

Clerk

The Clerk informed of the emails sent to the Society dated October and November to which no response has been received. It was acknowledged that the Society were experiencing some administrative difficulties at present. It was suggested that subject to approval from the Full Council, the Council may be able to offer 6 months temporary admin help if the difficulties were to continue.

The information regarding raised beds was reiterated from the September meeting. The Society would consider the proposal.

The next meeting of AAHS would take place on Monday 11th January at 7.30pm in the Bede Street Club. AAHS were agreeable to Members of the Amenities Committee attending. Cllrs Dargue & Lewis were delegated

30: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

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

30.1: West Allotments - Overgrown bush – AAHS would trim this back.

AAHS

30.2: Structure programme' - assessment and review of old and new structures on allotments – The last inspections that were carried out by the Society were held in September, the next inspections were due to take place at Easter time. The importance of this was stressed, especially for older structures ,due to the recent damage in the high winds

30.3: Drainage Issues West Allotment site – The Clerk was still awaiting the contact details for Steve McMasters for his thoughts on an Artisan Well to channel the natural Spring water which was a problem here.

30.4: S278 Bus shelters (Persimmons) The Clerk had requested a copy of the legal agreement and also details of the timeframe under which the funds should be spent.

30.5: Acklington Road Bus shelter - Members were agreeable to accepting the quotation of £600 for filling the rear opening of the bus shelter with the steel in a special coastal coating of silvery grey colour. The Clerk would query the timeframe in which the works can be done. It was further agreed that if more steel was required as some of the original may have already been cut into shapes. The Clerk was delegated to spend up to £200.

Clerk

30.6: Dr. Robertson Memorial Seat – As no further communications had been received from the family, this item would be removed from the agenda.

30.7: Central Ward Noticeboard Update – The Clerk informed that as Warkworth Parish Councils new noticeboard was now in place, this work was imminent. It had been agreed previously that our employee would prepare the area beforehand.

31: AGENDA ITEMS:

31.1: To consider linking raised bed site to Allotment waiting list – This was

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discussed during the public participation section and agreed.

31.2: Allotment Regulatory procedures – Upon letting plots on the allotment sites, AAHS inspect to ensure new tenants are adhering to the one hut, one greenhouse rule. Members of the Committee requested tenants to be informed that no new structures are permitted without approval from the Society. It was noted that during the recent gales a hut (which was built from the fence) at the Percy Drive site had collapsed over one of the walkways. This emphasised the need for contact details of tenants to be made available to the Council along with the need for a numbering system to be used with plot numbers clearly identified.

31.3: Consideration of Allotment rent – Members agreed to a 3% increase each year for a period of 2 years.

31.4: Consideration of cemetery charges – Members agreed to a further 20% increase in the highlighted fees, which would be less than charged by other authorities but would help to cover the costs of the Cemetery. This included introducing a Nil interment fee for the body of a still born or child not exceeding one month.

The system for applications for memorial plaques would also be rolled out to Funeral Directors rather than dealt with in house to avoid VAT implications. The Clerk would inform the funeral directors of this and provide required stipulations.

Clerk

31.5: Consideration of updated quotations for new pre-fabricated Cemetery building – The Committee hoped the Council were agreeable to commencing the build by 17/18 but and it was agreed to apply for planning permission. It was agreed to request an updated quotation for the larger sized building to amend the apron to 2m at the back and sides of the structure, changed the vehicles door to a standard opening door rather than an up and over.

Cerk

31.6: To consider procedures for Stores & Equipment register and purchases – It was noted that the recorded stores and equipment register required updating. It was agreed that small machinery under the value of £1000 should be replaced every 4 years and that regularly used items should always have a spare in stock. A spare mobile phone was also require for funeral arrangements over the festive period. The purchase was agreed.

Clerk

31.7: Update on comments raised from September site visit to West Cemetery – The Clerk went through the works list and updated Members on work done and work to be done.

31.8: East Cemetery Mapping – Members viewed the first draft of the East Cemetery, the alignment of plots required some adjusting and clarification of the Cemetery Cottage boundary was required.

31.9: Environmental Works- Seats, Floral Planters & Planting, Trees – The planting requirements from Cllr Weir and the Environmental Operative were considered, it was agreed that the Clerk with Cllr Dargue compare and discuss before placing an order as soon as possible and subject to purchase and clarification of cultivation from Sodexo.

Clerk/Dargue

31.10: Paddlers Park Signage Update –

Councillors Lewis, Morrison & Weir met on site 05/11/2015

Concensus of opinion regarding signage required:

- A) 3 signs for the 3 entrances-
- Gordon Street near Dog Bin facing front;
 - Bay View near Litter Bin at an angle so those using the path at the last property or those crossing the Car Park to enter the area will see it
 - Coming along the Coastal path from the Links near the railings

To be approx. A3 Landscape Stainless Steel affixed to metal posts with jubilee clips.

Wording as attached

'PADDLERS PARK
RESPECT THIS RECREATION AREA
KEEP DOGS ON LEADS:
PICK UP THEIR WASTE
TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME
NO HORSES

CAR PARKS & TOILETS AT HARBOUR

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL, 6 DILSTON TERRACE, AMBLE NE65 0DT TEL:
01665710475

- B) Replace the existing sign in the small play area with a similarly worded one. Similar material

Wording as PADDLERS PARK- PLAY AREA

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AGE LIMIT 10 YEARS

CONDITIONS OF USE:

1. ALL PERSONS USE THE FACILITY AT THEIR OWN RISK.
2. THIS FACILITY IS USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE ONLY.
3. IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, PLEASE DO NOT BRING DOGS, GLASS, DRUGS OR ALCOHOL INTO THE AREA.
4. NO CYCLES.

THE EQUIPMENT ON THIS SITE IS INSPECTED ON A REGULAR BASIS

Amble Town Council and its employees cannot accept responsibility or liability for any claim, loss or damage whatsoever which may arise resulting from use of this facility except so far as provided by statute.

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL, 6 DILSTON TERRACE, AMBLE. NE65 0DT
TEL: 01665714695

C) Replace sign on Sea Wall with similarly worded one; place same at opposite end nearer boulder section. Similar material

Wording as attached PADDLERS PARK- WATER PLAY AND BOULDERS AREA

AGE LIMIT UNDER 10

THE WATER PLAY, LIKE ANY AREA OF

OPEN WATER, CAN BE HAZARDOUS

THERE IS A SLIGHT RISK OF INJURY OR DROWNING IN THIS AREA

AND THEREFORE AN ADULT SHOULD SUPERVISE

CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE USING THIS FEATURE

PLEASE NOTE:

PEOPLE USING THIS AREA DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK.

THE COUNCIL DOES NOT SUPERVISE THE USERS OF THE AREA

Amble Town Council and its employees cannot accept responsibility or liability for any claim, loss

or damage whatsoever which may arise resulting from use of this facility except so far as provided by statute.

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D) Replace 'No Dogs' Signs on wall (x2). Similar material

E) Place 'No Dogs' Sign at fence end for those approaching from cliff face.

As above

F) Trim Trail- a central notice would be too far from each piece so each item - except the small balancing bars- to have an explanatory notice beside it: some suggestions attached, balancing bars just need a general notice. Possibly stainless steel on metal posts painted green to complement equipment.

Whilst there:

- Suggest laying turf instead of reseeding grass areas in the Spring by trim trail equipment. Forward to NCC if enough left in budget.
- Coal Truck to be placed in corner of grass area at junction of paths from Bay View Car Park area as per photo.
- Request a kerb for the edge of the Paddlers Park Car Park to prevent vehicles entering over the grass. Forward to NCC if enough left in budget.
- Iconic Welcome sign to be placed as an arch over the entrance path at the end of the Paddlers Park Car Park or if not possible, then erected on the ground near there.
- History Trail board- text could include any other info. needed
- Coastguard Information- felt this should be at the lifebelt stations and pursued at NCC level.
- Request information from NCC on electricity supply and keys to cupboard.
- If ATC approve- submit grant application to Tesco for Galleon or Adult/ Middle School Trim Trail equipment dependent on price. The signage was agreed with A-F being placed as soon as possible, bullet points 1-3,6-8 agreed to be done and bullet points

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4 & 5 agreed in principle. The wording would be checked for conformity against that recommended by insurers

Clerk

31.11: Memory Box for Paddlers Park Update – The Clerk updated that she had already corresponded with the Schools but had not received a reply to date. The manufacturing of the box would be progressed with the engaged firm.

32: COMMUNICATIONS:

32.1: NCC - Little Shore Wave Basin

32.2: NCC- West Avenue Trees - This confirmed that the trees were covered by TPOs. The communications did not require a response and were noted for information.

33: INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

34: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting is Thursday 28th January 2015

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.