

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – October 2016

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 27th October 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

48: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

49: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: None.

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

50.1: Amble Allotment Holders Society Report – The Representatives had submitted their apologies to Cllr Weir who had attended the re-inspections with them in 24th October. Cllr Weir informed that 12 letters had been sent following the previous inspections and of the 12 plots, 10 had improved, 1 tenant received a reminder and 1 tenant was requested to vacate their plot.

The tenant whose allotment had loose wire fencing in the walkway at the Percy Drive Site had been requested to remove the wire.

A plot was raised as a concern due to the structures, it was noted that it looked more like a storage site. AAHS had been asked to raise the issue with their tenant.

Concern was raised regarding asbestos, gas bottles, unsafe structure and stock piling of wood which required urgent action due to possible fire and H&S risks.

A letter would be sent to AAHS explaining that the Council were looking at having a fire risk assessment carried out in the future for their insurance purposes and welcoming Society Members to the next meeting to discuss further. It was acknowledged that the structures issue whilst as much a concern was being enforced over a period of time.

Copies of Public liability Insurance details were still awaited, numbering on gates was still to be done and Members requested a copy of the new tenancy agreement due to be issued in January 2017 as soon as possible.

51: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

Clerk

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

51.1: Allotment Wynd entrance water diversion - ongoing

51.2: Planting update - The Clerk informed that the planting order had been placed and the Environmental Operative would be working on the planters over the next few weeks to clear and prepare the soil. The tree guard was on order for the oak tree to be planted at the bottom of Queen Street. It was noted that the Christmas Tree for High Street Garden would arrive on 18th November and that the High Street Garden should be a priority for maintenance/improvement before Remembrance Day.

51.3: West Cemetery soil storage – The tidy up and clearing of the compound was to commence in preparation for the levelling of an area for access to a soil store which was to be constructed. The Clerk would request quotes for the levelling of the ground while the clear up was underway. It was noted that Cllr Watson had supplied some paving slabs that were surplus to his requirements and Cllr Horn was currently storing these. Both Members were thanked.

51.4: Paddlers snagging list – A quote for the spares set for the trim trail equipment had been received and Members agreed to order the spares for immediate repairs to equipment in the future. Whilst still debating with NCC over the responsibility to fund the replacement cover for the water pump (which had never been received by the Town Council), it was acknowledged that due to the need to switch the water off in the near future the Council would cover this cost and debate it later. A meter reading should be taken prior to the water being switched off and the water/electricity should be switched off as soon as the contractors have completed their snagging work or by 31st October, whichever is appropriate.

Horn/Weir

In general Members were not happy with some of the work carried out by the contractors, the manner of it or the trim trial equipment – it would be delegated to the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to draft a letter to express this disappointment to NCC.

Condensation was noted to be on the lenses of the telescope, this would be checked and report to the supplier if necessary.

51.5: Leazes Street Litter issue update – A meeting was to be held with Paul Jones and the other parties to discuss this further. It was noted that the line up of bins at this location was unaesthetically pleasing.

51.6: Seat/bench update – The seats that were part of the History Trail had been installed and the Island View seat was still pending installation.

The seats from the prison would be queried as Cllrs had been informed that they would only take a

Clerk

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couple of weeks.

51.7: 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) – The Seasonal time sheets were presented but the Clerk did not have the Environmental Operatives time sheets available. Noting the work carried out, Members were not convinced the Town Council was receiving the variety of work that had been contracted. This would be added to the Town Council agenda for further discussion but meanwhile a meeting would be requested urgently with the Chair, Clerk and Colin Green/ Ray Weallens to discuss in greater detail.

51.8: Water bowser update – potential alterations – this would be ongoing and would be revisited in the spring.

51.9: History trail update – PDF Proofs had been received for the original boards, this was ongoing.

51.10: Update on Remembrance Day preparations. Copies of the Order of Service would be available on 13th November but should be sent in advance to the Clergy, Cllr Dargue, Mr Hurrell and Cllr Watson for the Standard Bearer. The Seasonal worker would help with the transportation, erection and dismantling of items to and from the Town Square on the day.

52: COMMUNICATIONS: None.

53: AGENDA ITEMS:

53.1: Church Street bus shelter – Members agreed to retrospectively accept a quote for the amount of £75 for the artist to tidy up the mural on the church street bus shelter.

53.2: Turning the water off at Paddler Park – This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

53.3: Cemetery fees – The fees were discussed and a 10% increase on interment fees and rights had been agreed. Some changes to lengths of rights had also been agreed. A copy of the revised fees for implementation in April would be attached to these minutes.

54: INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

55: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on 24th November 2016 in the Council Office with the location of a site visit to be determined by the Chair.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm