

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – September 2017

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 28 September 2017 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, I Parks, K Morrison, T Hinton and Miss V Smith.

Actions

37: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Hinton – Holiday – The apologies were accepted.

38: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: None.

39: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

None.

39.1: Amble Allotment Holders Society Report – No one was present.

40: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

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

40.1 Allotments

40.2: Allotments updated Rules and Regulations (if available) - Members commented that it appeared that no progress had been made on this, a meeting with the Allotment Holders society would be requested within the next two weeks and sight of the most recent version requested.

VS

40.3: Update from allotment site visit from 31 August 2017 – requests relating to AAHS had been sent to their secretary for action but no response had been received to date. This would again be chased up.

VS

The letter regarding fire risk assessment was still to be sent.

NCC had been queried about the repairs to the fence at Northumbria Terrace; this would be raised at a meeting with Neighbourhood Services.

40.4: Raised beds charges -Cllr Lewis proposed no charge for letting a raised bed at this late stage in the year as not much could be grown and it was more beneficial to have it let in order to keep weeds down. This was agreed with tenancy agreements continuing to run from 1st January to 31st December. Letting fees were agreed to increase from £8 large/£5 small to £10 large/£6 small from January 2018.

AAHS

Cemeteries

40.4: Cemetery compound update & update from Operative – It was queried when the weedkilling was done.

The base for the lean to shed would be progressed.

VS

The office was planned to be painted over the winter. Cllr Weir queried why this was a winter job and could not be done on a rainy day.

Cllr Lewis informed that the office needed cleared prior to painting then the PA and Gazebos could be stored there with pallets to raise them off the floor – the carpets should be disposed of. This job was ongoing. Equipment such as the weedkilling sprayer should be stored in the machine store. Shelving units were also required in the future.

Edging stones had been installed around the shrub bed at the natural burial area noticeboard.

Members questioned when the shrubs at the entrance were cut back and if they had

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – September 2017

been cut back at all.

VS would request PAT testing for both the cemetery and the office - The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require that any electrical equipment that has the potential to cause injury is maintained in a safe condition. However, the Regulations do not specify what needs to be done, by whom or how frequently (i.e. they don't make inspection or testing of electrical appliances a legal requirement, nor do they make it a legal requirement to undertake this annually).

VS

Cemetery double charging was being queried with NCC.

Complaint received regarding entrance of cemetery where the tarmac was patchy, particularly inside of the pedestrian gate. The complainant also raised concerns that the grave was not level and was mounded over. VS to send a letter to the complainant explaining why the grave was mounded. Council would also look at the path to section M. Cllr Lewis requested an abridged set of rules be added to the Cemetery noticeboards.

VS

Play areas

40.5 Report of the Paddlers park inspections – VS had ordered the caps, washers and chains for the play equipment. A replacement section of Munchy the Caterpillar would cost £103 and it was resolved to order this. Regular drain clearing had been done.

VS

The water pump should be turned off, pipes drained and winter plate put in place.

TW

The guarantee on Fresh air Fitness for main structural parts was 25 years. The broken air walker should be moved to the concrete base in the compound. It was proposed they be requested to come out and meet with the Chair of Amenities with the Clerk to discuss the state of the equipment.

TW

VS

VS

The dog warden was requested to come out to visit Paddlers Park. The dates and frequency of past visits was queried.

Cllr Horn discussed ideas to protect the drainage system of the water feature from blocking – this would be brought back for further discussions.

NOV

40.6: Report of the Philip Drive play area inspections – moss removal had been requested by the seasonal worker.

Cllr Morrison raised concerns about Council vehicles driving across the grass at Paddlers Park when they should park in the car park. VS would report this to Neighbourhood Services

VS

40.7: Equipment order – defer to spring.

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

40.8: Leazes Street Litter issue update – This item would be removed from the agenda

Morrison

40.9: Church Street Bus Shelter update – The mural sides had not yet been done; Cllr Morrison would chase this up. The floor way had been cleaned. The flat grey screed for the bus shelter had been ordered. The litter bin has believed to have been relocated.

Ivy growing from the vicarage over the bus shelter. It was noted that the resident would prefer to be called in the future. As a contractor had been asked to repair the guttering, plastic spikes would also be requested.

VS

The boat seat still required repairing, as this was not done the council would dispose of it. It was agreed to replace this seat with either a new recycled plastic one or ask Sodexo to refurbish the metal ends from an old seat that was stored in the compound.

Jan

40.10 Date of next Litter Pick – It would be spring before the next litter pick was arranged. This would be removed from the agenda.

Planting

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – September 2017

40.11: Planting update –

JCSC paving needs cleared of weeds, these had been killed but they needed removing. Cllr Parks informed that his wife looked after a lifestyle skills project at JSCS who were willing to look after the plants in this coal truck planter. The Council would be willing to fund paint etc. to the value of £30 for the lifestyle skills to paint and look after the planter. Some bulbs would also be given to the group. A letter would be sent to Mrs Parks informing of this. Some bulbs would be made available for the JSCS coal truck, Paddlers coal truck, Rivergreen, the Wynd and the Paddlers. The Dilston Terrace beds needed sorted before planting.

VS

The Environmental Operative would be asked what bulbs he had already has more may need to be ordered. Purple colours would be made available to JCSC so they can plant in school colours. VS to liaise with the Chair of Amenities regarding the planting requirements.

VS/CW

Marigolds and begonias had been agreed at the last meeting. It was queried whether they had been ordered. A letter would be sent to Sodexo clarifying that there were happy to 'bring them along' still. Numbers needed to be established for The Wynd, Rotary Way and Percy Drive seats.

VS

41: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

42: AGENDA ITEMS:

42.1: Outcome of meeting with NCC – A schedule was still awaited and this would need chased up. It was queried how this was progressing.

42.2 Outcome of meeting with Sodexo – Cllr Lewis had circulated the notes of the meeting.

42.3 East Cemetery Walls – VS found an itemised quotation for repointing the walls previously. VS had requested a new quote and Cllr Lewis met on site with another contractor to price the walls to do sections per year and this cost was expected before the October Town Council meeting.

VS

TOWN

43 INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

44: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on 30th November 2017 in the Council Office.

The meeting closed at 19.24