

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – JULY 2015

At the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 30th July 2015 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

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

J Lauderdale – Administrative Assistant

Actions

9: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs J Dargue - Holidays, P Robinson - personal reasons. The apologies were agreed.

10: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: A dispensation had been received and agreed from Cllr Watson regarding the allotments as he was rent paying tenant at the raised beds site.

11: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

12: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

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

12.1: 'Structure programme' - assessment and review of old and new structures on allotments

12.3: Drainage Issues West Allotment site – It was agreed to accept the higher quotation for the CCTV survey of the suspected collapsed culvert as this would give a more detailed analysis. The Clerk would progress this.

Clerk✓

12.4: Signage (no horses and dog fouling) for allotments – The signage has arrived and the Clerk was making arrangements for them to be put in place.

Clerk✓

12.5: Acklington Road Bus shelter – The steel was with the local firm and costing of the project was awaited. The Clerk would pursue this.

Clerk✓

12.6: Coquet Enterprise Park bus shelter removal – The Clerk would request the removal of the bus shelter.

Clerk✓

12.7: Email sent regarding discharge of conditions on planning application 14/03842/DISCON relating to bus shelters – The developers have agreed to fund the shelters as part of the Section 278 Agreement highway improvement works on the A1068 associated with their housing development. NCC had not invoiced them yet but would keep the Town Council informed with details of precisely what had been agreed. Cllr Watson expressed an interest in being kept in the loop on this.

Clerk✓

12.8: Sodexo Community Involvement Update – The Clerk would chase up a 'Welcome Sign' picnic benches and the bench for the Links. Cllr Morrison suggested the any seat base at the Links should be slightly raised so that those seated could take in the views- this was agreed.

Clerk✓

12.9: Litter bins changes – It was agreed that:

Blue bin at Cross Street junction with Queen Street to be replaced with another black gull proof bin (we have this in storage at the West Cemetery)

Blue metal bin from Queen Street is to replace the blue plastic bin at Links Road/Links Avenue

Blue plastic bin from Links Road/Links Avenue is to replace the broken bin at Island View

Broken bin at Island View is to be disposed of.

Clerk✓

Two new gull proof bins to be ordered.

Members agreed to a rolling programme of replacing old bins working from the town centre outwards. As part of this they intended on replacing 3 bins along the promenade in the future. Details would be requested of where WHC purchased their larger bins from and whether they had any plans to replace the bins on Harbour Road in the future.

12.10: Town Trail working party – It was agreed to hold a working party meeting at 1730 on 1st September 2015 in the Council Office

Clerk✓

12.11: Town Council noticeboards and suitable locations for siting them - It was agreed that the WPC noticeboard would be located in the shrubbery next to the gull proof bin at the TIC.

If a key could be obtained for the new bus shelter on Acklington Road, this could be use as the West noticeboard. The noticeboard at the Harbour Officer would be relocated to the wall near the VJ shop, although an excess half brick would need to be removed from the wall. The Clerk would progress this.

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13: AGENDA ITEMS:

13.1: To consider comments from site visit –

It was noted that a stone on the corner of the East Cemetery wall required repair.
2 x Wildflower area signs would be purchased to go on the car park side of the Cemetery Wall.

Clerk✓
Clerk

Area around shrubs near seats required cutting back so grasses did not encroach.

[A 'no overnight camping' sign would be requested for the NCC car park]

The footpaths required edging along with the kerbs.

The dead rabbits needed to be removed.

It was agreed to price a possible memorials stone project where the remaining fallen memorials from the back of the Cemetery could be placed around the wall for safety reasons. This would allow holes in the ground to be filled and a duplication of the wildflower area.

Clerk

New info boards were also required. This would be discussed for a spring 2016 project.

13.2: To consider arrangement for Sunday 8th November (Appendix 1) – The format of the ceremony was agreed to be amended as per Appendix 1.

It was agreed to ask Ian Howard- Row to announce the arrangements for joining the parade.

Clerk

Wreath layers would be asked to be in place for 10:40 and report to the Ian Howard-Row.

Clerk

It was agreed to allow the volunteer to light the rockets on Sunday 8th if he was willing to do so. The Coastguard would be asked to light flares on 11th to mark the silence.

Clerk✓

13.3: Name of Play area – vote results to be announced – The vote was counted and the park would be named 'Paddlers Park'.

13.4: To consider Play area opening event and wording for plaque at entrance (Appendix 2)

A coal truck planter constructed by the prison was donated by Pride of Amble, it was agreed that this would be located near an entrance and a 'time capsule' would be underneath it.

The wording for the plaque was agreed as suggested.

The opening event was discussed and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

Clerk

13.5: To consider the future of the garden awards (Appendix 3) – It was agreed that the criteria needs to be amended and the event needs to be publicised more. The number of gardens for the judge's short list would need to be reduced. A business category would be introduced. A civic award for volunteers was suggested. A slide show of pictures of gardens could be screened at the awards ceremony. Cllrs Weir & Lewis were delegated to produce a report for a decision at full Council.

Lewis/Weir

13.6: To consider removal of surplus clay soil at West Cemetery (Appendix 4) – Removal costs of the surplus spoils would be queried. The clay would be offered free via social media. Soil would be moved to the East Cemetery to fill in rabbit holes as part of a wider project to relocate damaged memorials.

Clerk

14: COMMUNICATIONS: None.

14.1: The Woodsman – Tree survey (Appendix 5) – The Clerk would request quotations for the recommendations plus the other trees with dead wood and it was agreed to delegate the decision to the Clerk with the Chair of the Committee.

Clerk✓

14.2: Azure – volunteering opportunity (Appendix 6) – It was agreed that a following satisfactory clarification of some points, a meeting would be set up with the potential volunteer, the Chair and the Clerk to discuss the opportunity further. This would then be deferred to the Town Council meeting for further progression.

Clerk/Weir✓

15: INFORMATION ITEMS: None.

15.1: Invitation to ICCM Northern Branch meeting 9th September Durham and notes of previous meeting (Appendix 7) – It was agreed that the Clerk could attend if workload permitted.

Clerk

16: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: The next Meeting is Thursday 24th September 2015

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.