

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – August 2017

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 31st August 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

28: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Amble Allotment Holders Society

29: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

None

30: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In accordance with Section 1(d-g) of the ATC Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council at this point on the agenda. The Council/Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date.

VS to clarify whether there is a need or not to re-do Councillors' dispensations regarding allotments.

VS

30.1 Amble Allotment Holders Society Report

The site visit took place at 5pm. The following observations were made.

West Allotment

- Weed killing is required outside the raised bed
- How are the allotment holders from no 21&22 getting access?
- Wood stacked up at No 32 is a fire hazard
- No 36 has been neglected and needs attention

East Allotment

- The fence along the old railway line has collapsed once again, giving way to some residents and young drivers using the access points this has created.
- The bollard towards the BT Exchange needs a light attached or fluorescent paint so that it can be seen in the dark.
- The walkways require weed killing.
- There are no numbers on many of the allotments.
- The allotment next door to Mr Kelly has numerous buildings erected.
- The remains barbed wire and rusted corrugated iron on some plots.
- The bollard at the Meadowburn entrance also requires a light or fluorescent paint.

AAHS

VS to flag with relevant colleagues.

AAHS

It was noted how well cultivated the majority of allotments were.

VS to flag with HfN the bushes at Straffen Court that are impacting on the footpath.

AAHS

VS to purchase 2 signs to state "Enter at your own risk" for the West Allotments.

VS to ask Bill Pringle if he has any plainings or hard core that we can have for the entrance of the West Allotments.

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31: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

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

31: Allotments

31.1: Fire Risk Assessment / Audit of Allotment Sites

Advice regarding Fire Risk Assessments for the Allotment sites was sought from NCC who provided the following:

“Local authority allotments are not subject to the current Fire Safety Order (2005) and as such, do not require a dedicated fire risk assessment for scrutiny by the enforcing authority (NFRS).

The only exception to this would be if a community building (place of assembly) was present on the allotment site, as this would possibly be subject to the requirements of the Fire Safety Order (2005).

A fire risk assessment (of bonfires, stoves within sheds etc.) would more than likely be covered by, and incorporated into, general health and safety risk assessment for the allotments”

VS to officially inform AAHS and urge that they inform all members to take responsible action.

32.2: Allotments updated Rules and Regulations

VS to ask AAHS to have a meeting

Cemeteries

32.3: Cemetery Compound update

It was reported that an additional skip is not needed

The compound has been organised and items set aside appropriately

The lean to shed is built but the base has not been prepared. This is to be done asap.

EB/CW met to discuss the office / storage issue

The work on the test bed area is ongoing and an update is to be requested.

An update is needed on whether or not the trees that were in the natural burial area were rescued

The holes in the natural burial area have been filled

The office is now empty and requires painting and cleaned so that it can be put to use. It was queried how water proof the room is. VS to find out.

HL/CW to meet to draw up a storage plan so as to make best use of the available space.

Reports of bi weekly meetings with the operative to be given

Have the edging stones at the natural burial area and noticeboard been done?

The roof tiles of the compound building are coming off and need repaired.

Shrubs around the compound and storage area need cut back.

Self sets need attention

There is a birds nest covering the vent which needs attention when appropriate.

VS to clarify if the manhole edge needs cemented again.

Shrubs at the entrance to the cemetery need cut back.

A convector should be ordered (if needed). A sum of under £500 was agreed to purchase shelving and a heater with HL/CW/EB

A resident at Mariners View has requested ATC to contribute to the cost of a new fence which borders the boundary between the houses and the cremated remains section of the cemetery. As the Amble boundary is actually the hedgerow that runs along in front of the fence, this will not be possible.

Play areas

32.4: Report of Paddlers Park inspections

The play area reports were discussed. VS is in the process of ordering the required parts.

The pump of the water feature continues to leak. The manual has been given to the seasonal worker to help him try and establish why this is continuing to happen. It was suggested that reducing the pressure from the main tap may stop the valve from leaking. VS to clarify where

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the main tap is and to request a new seal kit.

Trim trail equipment

There are continuing problems with the trim trail equipment and the double air walker has now been totally removed from the play area due to the dangerous break in the weld. It was agreed to raise a dispute with Fresh Air Fitness as appropriate and to remove any further play equipment that begins to fail. VS to check the guarantee period on the fresh air fitness products that are installed. This item is to be brought back to the January meeting where it will be decided if we are to purchase similar equipment from Kompan.

It was reported that Munchy the Caterpillar seat has been vandalised and has a sharp cut in one of the segments. VS is clarifying what is the best way to repair him.

Cllr Horn to check on the grassed / wood chipping area of the play area and confirm if more need to be ordered in the Spring.

Trim trail signs – Cllr Weir to resend the drawings to Sodexo and report back.

Fitness clubs are to be invited to use the park on a regular basis in the Spring time.

A flexi rod was purchased for the clearing of the water feature drainage problem. The blockage was apparently cleared following the removal of a can. Regular monthly checked of the drainage system are to be carried out. Further work is to be carried out in regards to secure the drain cover so that it cannot be lifted. Cllr Horn to give this more though report back.

VS to contact NCC and request that an enforcement officer regularly attends Paddlers Park as there are continuously dogs running around that are not on leads.

32.5 Report of the Philip Drive play area inspections

There is moss that needs cleared from the play area. VS to add this to seasonal worker duties.

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

32.6: Leazes Street Litter issue update

This item can now be removed from the agenda and will be monitored

32.7: Church Street Bus Shelter update

The mural at the bus shelter has been completed.

VS to check with NCC that the litter is being collected on a regular basis.

VS to chase the contractor regarding the relocation of the bin.

A quote has been received from the contractor for a Polyurethane floor screed. As this quote exceeded £1000 VS to check that this decision can be made at this meeting. In the event that it is, it was agreed to go ahead with this work. VS to ask to be sent a colour chart of available colours of screed.

VS to ask the contractor to take a look at the guttering behind the bus shelter as it is coming away and to also let us know if the ivy is growing over the wall.

Cllr Lewis provided some London Pride plants for the Church Street planter which have now been planted.

32.8: Litter pick update.

VS to print off more posters for distribution.

VS to obtain litter pickers and bin liners and arrange collection of the litter.

Clarity is needed on who will be taking the equipment down.

The Clerk to ask the creator of the Boat seat once again if he would like to repair the boat before it is taken down.

The coal truck planter on Acklington Road is to be painted. Cllr Parks may have a possible owner for the planter but will need to take this through the school for approval.

The seasonal worker should be ensuring that they are doing weeding and planting as we as looking after the hot spot areas, including the Acklington Road and South Roundabout entrances.

Planting

32.9: Planting update.

The bulbs have been ordered as per the conversation with Cllr Weir. Contact is to be made with Sodexo to ensure that they are able to look after the annual plants for us until they are ready to be planted.

Marigolds and Begonias are to be ordered next year and each planter will have one kind of

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flower in each. VS to order.

A meeting is to be arranged with Steven Goodacre from HMP Northumberland as soon as possible re: community work and plants. VS to contact Helen Cotterill to arrange a meeting with Steven Goodacres deputy in in absence.

The high street garden is in need of a general tidy up including edging where the wall used to be.

VS to discuss The Wynd planter and High Street Garden planter with CW.

32.10 Responsibilities Board and Window Cover

It was confirmed that the responsibilities board was free standing. The small amendment of adding the word “of” to the “provision” item to be corrected and order to be placed.

33: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

34: AGENDA ITEMS:

34.1 Water pressure testing at the cemetery

The mains pipe has narrowed on the inside thus reducing the amount of water that can come through. We may need to replace the pipe at own cost.

Northumbria Water carried out a pipes and flow test and found that it was measuring 3 bar at the first pipe and a flow of 3 litres per minute which was acceptable in terms of standards.

34.2 Meeting with Bill Pringle to be arranged

A meeting with Bob Hodgson and Bill Pringle is to take place to discuss issues in the town. This meeting is to take place w/c 11th September any time from 4.30pm.

A meeting with Greg Gavin to discuss SLA.

A meeting is to be arranged with Steven Goodacre to discuss town works and plants. VS to arrange to speak with Steven’s deputy via Helen Cotterill for w/c 11th September.

34.3 Use of Office Space

As above

34.4 East Cemetery Walls

It was reported that there are bats living in the East Cemetery Walls. There is funding in place for the repair works. VS to seek quotes from local contractors. HL to find out who does occasional work at Alwick. This work is to be planned for Spring 2018.

34.5 Consideration of winter tree works in the West Cemetery

Tree tagging is to be completed.

The tree survey report is to be revisited and all work as previously agreed up to an amount of £1000, including the removal of the diseased trees.

An updated survey would cost £250plus VAT.

35: INFORMATION ITEMS:

35.1 The Town Square

Pride in Amble met with members of ADT and others to discuss the way ahead for the Memorial

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Gardens and Town Square. The meeting was an informal meeting and it was suggested that it may be beneficial for a qualified person to look at the design for the Town Square. Pride in Amble suggested that this should be brought to the attention of the Town Council. It was agreed that this should be added as an item on the full council agenda.

36: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting takes place on 28th September at 6pm. A site visit of the West Cemetery will take place at 5pm. Subsequent meetings will take place bi-monthly.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

DRAFT