

## **AMENITIES COMMITTEE – July 2019**

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 25 July 2019 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble. An inspection of the West Cemetery took place prior to the meeting.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs H Lewis (Chair), I Parks, J Dargue, C Foxley, K Morrison, Michael Forrest-AAHS, A Kruk (minute taker).

The Chair explained that the meeting was recorded for the benefit of accuracy.

### **13: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies received from Cllrs Weir were accepted.

### **14: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

To be declared as and when required throughout the agenda.

### **15: 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.

**Members of the public attended to discuss an issue which is being covered in the AAHS report.**

### **16.1 Amble Allotment Holders Society Report**

Michael Forrest attended on behalf of the AAHS.

AAHS have submitted a proposal to site a small storage container at Percy Drive. This would be used to store gardening equipment, compost, poultry feed and any other items used by the allotment holders.

A site inspection had taken place and 6 plot holders have been evicted.

A floodlight is now in place for added security at the site.

Plot 168 have erected a new hut -the plot holders were asked to remove the ducknet from their plot as they now have the hut.

Bonfires – ATC have received complaints about smoke from bonfires (on the East site) from members of the public, some of which were present at this meeting. The complaints were mainly about the times and frequency the fires are being lit with some burning all day resulting in the smoke making it difficult for residents to enjoy their gardens and having to keep their windows and doors closed, with some bonfires burning into the evenings and at weekends. It is mainly the plots along Percy Drive affecting the residents.

It was agreed that the rules for lighting bonfires should be enforced and a reminder to

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be sent out to the allotment tenants. These should include a reminder about times when bonfires can be lit and urge tenants to only burn vegetable and wood, encourage them to compost waste and/or use bins to dispose of rubbish.

AAHS

The other option discussed was installing brown bins from NCC, however this could result in having to pay the commercial rate of £14,000 per annum.

Members of the public were reminded that a Committee member was on site when the hut was open and that he could be approached to resolve any issues.

AAHS

Bollards to the entrance – the same ones as installed at the Paddlers Park are to be ordered and contractors to be asked for a price to install them.

AK

Proposal to site a small storage container at Percy Drive

This would be used to store gardening equipment, compost, poultry feed and any other items used by the allotment holders. AAHS are considering buying a used shipping container and install a concrete base for it to stand on. Full dimensions, costs and timeline are set out in their Proposal. The containers door to be facing onto the allotments towards Straffen Court for ease of delivery. ATC had no objections to the container being on site and painted green as opposed to putting wooden cladding on the container.

Simon would be organising the purchase and looking into funding, there are a couple of local companies – 1 in Amble and the other in Alnwick who supply used containers; the cost is going to be approximately £1,800 for the container and delivery plus the cost to install the base which is around £450.00.

No objections to this proposal and agreed this could go ahead. Cllr Lewis advised that a grant application from ATC could be considered towards the purchase of the container and/or costs to install and consumables. Grant forms are available from the Town Clerk.

AAHS  
Clerk

There had been some comments put on social media about residents not being able to get an allotment; a response had been posted informing people that there is a waiting list if they wish to apply for a plot.

The next Amenities Management Committee meeting in September will start with site visit to the allotments.

### **17: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:**

All items are covered within the agenda

### **18. CEMETERIES**

Due to the dry weather parts of the ground are opening up around the cemeteries – NCC have been approached to fill in any holes as they appear.

HL

18.1 Utilities - Wave has responded to the Clerk earlier today, Cllr Lewis to draft a response back.

18.2. Moving of supply points – no further forward with this.

AK

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- 18.3 Reminder to be sent to Peter Sample about a quote. No replies from other contractors who have been approached.
- 18.4 The tractor and trailers are currently being advertised for sale. Closing date for sealed bids is 29<sup>th</sup> August with open viewings on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- 18.5 Existing complaint – Damage to flowers/vase; Cllr Lewis checked the grave and has taken photos. Artificial flowers were not all fixed in place on one and the vase on the other was plastic which can deteriorate over time and shatter as it becomes brittle. A member of the family was claiming that no response has been received from ATC to their complaint but it had been verified a response had been sent. Operatives have been reminded to take care around headstones.
- Wasp nest – Town Clerk has reported this to NCC- being dealt with
- Request for larger headstone to be erected near the hedge boundary in the cremated remains section – this request was approved and granted provided it was no larger than a similar one nearby- Clerk to clarify.
- Broken tap – this has now been replaced with an ordinary outside tap.

### **19 PLAY AREAS**

#### **19.1 Paddlers Park**

Update on recommendations of ROSPA report

Cliff Face: “Danger Do not Climb” signs ordered and received, NCC have collected them to put in place.

Edges of the Tunnel – NCC were to grind the sharp edge.

Possible Safety Surface beneath- both Playdale and Kompan approached; Playdale are not able to assist and still awaiting response from Kompan

New swing seats and chains have been ordered. NCC will install and they have agreed to raise the height of the replacement swings to the recommended height.

AK

The replacement bolt covers and swing chains have also been ordered.

Spares for all will be kept in store so repairs can be undertaken more rapidly.

#### **19.2 Phillip Drive**

Gaps in the tiles - Playdale are unable to assist and awaiting response from Kompan. NCC consulted too

Wood on Bo-Peep – emailed contractor for an update (*note: response now received and work has been carried out*)

AK

### **20. TOWN FURNITURE e.g. bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats**

**20.1** Information Boards for Town Square – The board to be 53” wide to accommodate the existing gap, to be ordered in a dark wood with a bar or two between the uprights, £2,500 has been delegated for this purchase.

Clerk

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20.2 No response back as yet from the Amble Inn re Coal Truck.

Church Street Bus shelter – An email has been sent to Bill Pringle asking that a basic clean be done at the bus shelter and a schedule to regularly carry this out. The home owner (Mrs Davison-Archer) to be approached for permission to trim back the overhanging branches.

HL  
Clerk

Earmarked funds from NCC/ Persimmon for bus shelter. Check back through Scribe to find out when the funds were allocated.

Arriva have confirmed that they are not be changing bus route 420 or X18 to re-route nearer the new retail development.

AK

Percy Drive bus shelter – When the new development opens it might be possible to have bus shelters at the roundabout end, Cllr Lewis to draft a note to the Town Clerk.

The bus stop on Percy Drive outside Meadowburn has a low wall next to it and owners are concerned that people waiting for the bus use it as a seat. Any damage would be the home owners' responsibility. There is insufficient room there to install a public seat. Action: contact NCC Highways asking if it can be moved or for example a "Do not sit on the wall" sign can go on the wall.

### **21. COMMUNICATIONS**

Clerk

21.1 **Bonfire complaint** – already discussed under 3.1

AK

### **22. AGENDA ITEMS**

22.1 **A1068 verge near South Roundabout** – It was to be investigated whether this area was suitable for Wild flower planting. NCC had been approached about the seed mix used elsewhere but a full response back was awaited. The mix used on Rotary Way is locally sourced from Coquet Valley. To be put on the Full Council agenda for discussion.

22.2 A1068 update on path sign to the Braid – AK to chase this up.

22.3 Public use of Noticeboards – it was agreed that members of the public would be asked for a £5.00 refundable deposit for the keys and a notice placed in each area.

22.4 Secret Garden category of the Community Garden Awards – Only 3 entries were received this year – agreed that this category would be stopped.

22.5 Fish Sculpture – A local voluntary organisation had initially agreed to take on painting the sculpture but had now put this offer on hold whilst clarification was sought, The Town Clerk has received an email from ADT regarding the "ownership" a response is to be drafted back to ADT.

### **23. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

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### **23.1 Contents of Allotment Law and Community Growing**

A meeting had taken place with the Open Space officers. This was for up to date information regarding permitted allotments

### **24: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 26 September 2019 in the Council Office. A site visit will take place prior to the meeting at 5.00pm starting at the West Allotments, meeting at The Wynd entrance.

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

### **PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE**

**25.** Paddlers Park Incident- This is in the hands of our insurance company for them to deal with.

Cock and Bull- It was noted that Picnic Benches have been placed in front- NCC would be informed