

## AMENITIES COMMITTEE – September 2019

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 26 September 2019 at 18.00 in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble. An inspection of the West and East Allotments took place prior to the meeting.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs H Lewis (Chair), I Parks, J Dargue, C Foxley, K Morrison, David Bewley, A Kruk (minute taker).

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

### **26: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies received from Cllrs Hinton were accepted.

### **27: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

To be declared as and when required throughout the agenda.

### **28: 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.

No members of the public attended this meeting.

### **28.1 Amble Allotment Holders Society Report – none received.**

A site visit took place for the East and West allotments.

Email to be sent to the allotment secretary at West about the amount of wood being stored on sites; this could be a potential fire hazard.

AK

East Allotment – contact to be made with plot holders who have corrugated iron cladding in poor repair; barbed wire on their fences and 2 plots identified as having asbestos on their plots.

AK

Bollard installation – The Allotment secretary to be informed of the delivery delay now and later the date that the 3 bollards are going to be installed. Currently we are waiting for delivery of the items and appointment of a contractor.

AK

Contract Richard Schofield at NCC to enquire about 'gravel' for the walkways; ask Town Clerk to contact to see if the new Morrisons site can provide gravel/crushed stone to use.

CLER  
K

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

All items are covered within the agenda - agreed

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### 30. CEMETERIES

#### West Cemeteries Update

- 30.1 The covered trailer has been sold, staff to check that the money has been received then contact the buyer to see when it is being collected.  
The contractor who came to quote for the work at the cemetery expressed an interest in the open trailer and we are expecting a bid to come in for this.  
An enquiry has been received about the tractor; additional photos were requested and HL has taken these.  
If the tractor and trailer are not sold prior to 1<sup>st</sup> November, they will be put up for sale at Acklington Mart; a lighting bar may be needed for the trailer and Michael Lewis has kindly offered to take both to the Mart on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

AK

### 31. PLAY AREAS

#### Paddlers Park

##### 31.1 Playground Inspection Report

Play area reports are received weekly and it has been noted that there are some inconsistencies in the reports this is due to different inspectors carrying out the inspections.

The new rubber stopper part for the gate has been ordered and received.

#### Phillip Drive

- 31.2 Quote for new gates received from Kompan; this is approximately £2,000  
Playdale can supply gate replacement parts. Agreed send photo of the gate to Playdale and then purchase 2 sets of replacement parts.

CLER

- 31.3 Horse springer a new part has been ordered.

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

- 32.1 Bins – 5 new bins to be ordered, NCC has agreed to store the spare bins at their depot on the industrial estate. 3 bins to be put in place; 1 beyond Rivergreen, 1 at the bus pull in A1068 South and 1 on the Links almost opposite the junction of Ivy Street – 2 new spare and 1 blue bin to be stored and the 1 blue bin which will be removed from A1068 will go into storage unless required on Coquet Enterprise Park.

AK

### 33. COMMUNICATIONS

- 33.1 Alternative burials – Cllr Lewis updated the meeting on advice received from National Cemeteries.
- 33.2 Request for Bus Shelters A1068 The Wynd- this was received but due to the splay of visibility NCC Highways would need to be consulted before this could be

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discussed further. Members had viewed the area when on the site visits.

33.3 Complaint from Mrs Cook about soil being put on a relative's grave – A response had been sent explaining why this is necessary and the legal impossibility of ascertaining any relations to those interred either side of a reopened plot or adjacent to a new plot.

33.4 Litter bin report from NCC – a complaint was received that the dog waste bin has fallen of the post, this is behind the site of the new Morrison's development. The Town Clerk to contact Advance as it is their responsibility as the land owners, Cllr Lewis suggested relocating the spare blue bin to here. All new bins will be dual purpose for dog waste and litter. AK to source stickers for the older bins which show dog waste/litter and if inexpensive ask NCC to put these on the older bins around the town.

Bin Mapping – currently our map does not tally with NCC, this need to be addressed and updates made where required.

AK

### **34. AGENDA ITEMS**

34.1 Coal Truck – the one at Paddlers Park needs repairing, one side has collapsed and the boarding bubbling. Cllr Lewis asked if Cllr Weir would investigate using scrap metal to make liners for the coal trucks.

CW

Mr Geggie asked again about the upkeep of the coal truck near his shop; this is on the Harbour Masters land and they had agreed to maintain this when they accepted it.

34.2 Bollards and netting – quotes are in-hand.

AK

34.3 Unstable Memorial – Estimates to make the memorial safe have been sought and the cheapest one is £70.00 per headstone to lay them down; this was accepted. However NCC have the banding machine and the Town Clerk to contact NCC and ask for this back as they would not be using it. Total cost of making all the unstable memorials safe is estimated to be around £2,000.

The Church of England guidelines are that the memorials in their churchyards should be laid face down. Section M is not a church ground nor consecrated ground therefore ATC can choose what they wish to do, i.e memorials in this section could be laid face upwards to allow for identification. Agreed that the cheapest estimate is acceptable but to first establish if it would be the cheaper to band the memorials or if the agreed Contractor could use the machine instead for the same cost.

34.4 Water feature switch off, Paddlers – Conflicting reports about a problem with the water feature have been received from NCC. Agreed that the water would be turned off at the end of October and turned back on at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The seal will be stored in a bucket at ATC. Action: check that there is a spare seal.

CLER

34.5 The water will be turned off at the West Cemetery the same as last year-

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November to March.

- 34.6 Paddlers Park decals – Town Clerk is obtaining quotes to remove the existing damaged decals and cost for replacement with similar ones. This will be picked up in Spring time and added to January’s agenda. CLER
- 34.7 New playground equipment – A play apparatus contractor quoted approx. £6,000 for the 2 new pieces of play equipment including laying of new grass mat surface, turf, the removal of the existing parallel bars. They also quoted £1,750 for an information board on how to use the equipment, they can also supply age appropriate stickers if required. It was agreed to obtain the two items but ask them for a discount on the 2 new pieces of equipment and to request age appropriate stickers. Note to remind the contractor that their representative felt the stepping “pods” were not installed in the correct order; these would need to be put right when they install the 2 new pieces of equipment. CLER
- 34.8 See under Communications 33.2
- 34.9 Raised flower beds – response to be sent saying that the area is unsuitable for disability access, that there is mares tail growing in the area which is not conducive to growing which is why it has been extensively weed killed. Town Clerk to respond to the person which first made this request and to give them the contact details for the SEEDs Project; also to arrange a meeting to discuss this further if they so wish. CLER
- 34.10 Northumbria Water, site visit – Wave have been charging ATC for a 2<sup>nd</sup> water supply to the Amble West Cemetery which relates to a tap in the centre of the site. To ascertain its exact position, Wave propose coming out to do a site visit at a cost of £150.00. As this is not required it was decided to look at ways to disconnect the supply and install the new connection; this is being discussed with contractors who are quoting for the work required to move the electrical and water supply at the West Cemetery. Clerk to contact them regarding disconnection of this supply and whether the current one to the Mortuary has to be disconnected or just amended as the new route will come from the same mains access point.
- Fountain – Cllr Lewis suggested that we contact a water feature expert on what to do with the fountain. Any work could be carried out at the same time as moving the existing water supply. Contact to be made with Alnwick Gardens and other councils to seek expert advice. AK
- 34.11 Access for soil/spoil at Amble West Cemetery – It was agreed that the cemetery contractor could use a piece of the existing grave shoring which is stored in the mortuary building for this purpose. CLER

### 35. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 35.1 Update on information board – Some re-wording is required so that it is equal on both sides of the board. One board has black and white pictures; one of the original images chosen has a copywrite on it therefore Cllr Lewis has asked

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another photographer to supply a different photo. Cllr Morris will also ask Jim for an alternative photo. A quote for the boards has been received for £7,729 and the Town Clerk to place the order.

35.2 Amble Inn have agreed to take over the coal truck.

35.3 The Town Clerk has written to Mike Jeffery re the Paddlers Park water feature.

35.4 An incident at the Paddlers Play area has been reported to the Town Clerk, a 5 year old child slipped whilst playing on the “orange” equipment. The child was attempting to climb up a support pole- not the intended role for this. This resulted in a graze injury to the child’s leg, the child is fine. An age appropriate sticker to be put on the equipment to emphasis the suitability range. Incidents would be monitored, if any further incidents occur the small toe pods may be removed.

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

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 21 November 2019 in the Council Office.

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**

37. An investigation took place regarding an interment delay.

38. Update was given on the correspondence received from a developer.

### **AOB**

Slight damage to corner stones in Amble West Cemetery; the contractor has been asked to reminded their operators to take care when cutting the grass.

Update given on the Men’s Shed.

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