

AMENITIES COMMITTEE – May 2019

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 30 May 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, Jane Dargue, Clive Foxley, K Morrison, Michael Forrest- AAHS, V Smith (minute taker).

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

1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Weir and Hinton and were accepted.

2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To be declared as and when required throughout the agenda.

3: 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.

There were no members of the public present

3.1 Amble Allotment Holders Society Report

Michael Forrest attended on behalf of the AAHS.

AAHS have submitted their Annual report for Annual Parish Meeting.

A site inspection on 29 May 2019 has highlighted some issues that are being addressed, which include some tenants not working their allotment. There are currently 5 people on the waiting list. The difficulty for the committee is that when a tenant vacates an allotment that they leave their buildings there, which then need to be dismantled by volunteers before the next tenant can take over.

Discussions have been held with the committee about allotment rent for half allotments and how this could be made fairer. MF to continue to progress this with the Committee.

ATC suggest at their AGM that they propose incremental increases for 5 years which would allow them to secure some revenue for repairs and maintenance in the future.

ATC remain concerned about the buildings erected without permission and the burning of prohibited items. There is also concern about the unstable corrugated iron that still boundaries some allotments although there has been small improvements.

There was no update available on the West Allotments.

3.2 The Committee have agreed they would prefer removable bollards at their entrances and these to be placed in the middle of the entrance but must allow enough room at one side for pushchairs / prams and wheelchairs.

AAHS will have a key to the bollards, as will Northumbria Police and any other emergency service who requires them. ATC would prefer the bollards were only down when the hut was open, or by appointment for deliveries etc.

ATC updated MF on the graffiti on the pavement next to Meadowburn. NCC had to burn it off so the pavement will deteriorate sooner.

3.3 MF to let ATC know when the next inspection will be, a rep from ATC to attend if

AAHS

AK

AAHS

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possible.

4: CLERK’S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

All items are covered within the agenda

5. CEMETERIES

5.1 EAST CEMETERY

Weeding through the pavements needs some attention before it damages the path. Cllr Dargue queried whose responsibility it was to re-erect memorials once they are made safe. It was confirmed that it the responsibility of the family to have any remedial work done.

The bench on the links is in dire need of some attention.

Clerk

WEST CEMETERY

Now the new fence has been completed and the area behind has been cleared, there is now a much larger border at the cremated remains. It was suggested at the next SLA meeting to propose some planting is done at this border. Any suggestions ahead of the meeting are welcome.

5.2 Update on changes to rules and regulations for memorials of cremate remains

This item had previously been discussed at Full Council.

5.3 Update on utilities

The water is metered in the mortuary. Clerk is to check the reading against the bills received.

Clerk

It was queried if all the water for the cemetery comes from here. It was believed that the water comes to the mortuary, then goes to the office building and then the standpipes in the cemetery. This issue will need further investigation before any works are done to the driveway or fountain in the future. Delegated powers were agreed for Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to proceed with this issue.

As with the water, there are similar issues with the electricity. Where is the main electricity point and how does it connect up the drive. Delegated powers were agreed for Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to proceed with this issue.

Clerk

Fountain – the pipe is not wide enough for any kind of decent flow / display. Delegated powers were agreed for Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to proceed with this issue.

Clerk

As this is quite a large task it was hoped things could be clearer by Autumn so ground utility works could be carried out which could allow for any surface works to be carried out in the spring. If a peace garden is created in the future, clarity on the water issue is important.

Clerk

Council staff are currently obtaining numerous quotes for the tarmac of the drive.

AK

6 PLAY AREAS

6.1 Paddlers Park

Update on Paddlers Park Exercise Equipment

The equipment has successfully been moved and is being used. The pressure for the water pump is not great. There are weeds in the wall and under the caterpillar seat and pebbles in the water feature. Clerk to ask NCC to attend. The telescope lens needs

Clerk

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cleaned. It is expected that the Clerk will need to request a new key from the supplier.

Graphics – Council staff to find out how much new graphics are and report back. If based on their longevity, they are expensive, ask Sarah Holt for suggestions regarding painting them on and possibly involve AYP in this.

AK

Future Plans – The Council is giving some consideration to future play at paddlers. Suggestions so far include a new slide and/or zip wire.

Flooding – This area still floods as the drainage is not adequate. After the water feature is fully fixed, the Clerk to ask NCC to send a structural engineer to ascertain what can be done e.g. if sink pipe would help.

Clerk

The ROSPA report for both play areas is due to be completed in June.

6.2 Phillip Drive

Nothing to report

7. TOWN FURNITURE e.g. bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats

7.1 Bins have been replaced. Clerk to discuss inspection of works on a monthly basis with office staff.

Clerk

A request to clear up the dead weeds after they have been killed off is to be submitted to NCC, particularly at key points such as entrances to the town.

Clerk

Clerk

Strimming at the bottom of Wynd needs to be reported to NCC as some has been missed.

It had been suggested that Advance Northumberland ask Morrisons to provide a bus shelter at the retail park.

Noticeboards – The Town Centre Noticeboard is for all to use. The Clerk to add a notice saying to contact the office if you wish for anything to be included.

Clerk

The Information Board is still in progress.

Clerk

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Resident concerns regarding Parking on Marine Road / Ivy Street

This was passed to Highways some time ago and contact was made with the owner.

8.2 Complaints regarding grass cutting on Lord Mayors Field

There have been contradictory reports as to who is responsible for the cutting of the grass. Historically, the area has been split into two different areas of responsibility between Park Leisure and NCC.

It has since been confirmed that the area up to the back of the Radcliffe Club is Park Leisure. The Clerk to clarify if an agreed cutting schedule has been set.

The Clerk to send the map to Councillors.

Clerk

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8.3 Request for information on Weedkilling at West Cemetery.

Clerk

It has been brought to the Councils attention that The Editor of the Ambler has asked for details of the weedkiller used in the cemetery. Should an article be planned, a statement has been prepared by ATC. The Clerk will make a site visit to check the area.

Clerk

9 AGENDA ITEMS

9.1 Disposal of surplus equipment

The lawn tractor and covered trailer, 2 Stihl brush cutters and various other hand tools remain at the West Cemetery for disposal. The Clerk to contact Robson and Cowan and ask them for a trade value of the tractor and if they would be prepared to buy it.

Pride in Amble have requested a strimmer and the lean to shed. It was proposed to donate these items to Pride in Amble due to their sterling efforts. The proposal was agreed. NCC to be asked if any items would be useful for the SLA before offering items to the public or disposal.

Clerk
AK

9.2 Events Committee Account – Formal notification required

It was agreed that the events committee with community representation which organises the Puffin Festival and the Christmas Lights Parade is to no longer be a committee of the Full Council due to there being insufficient members on the committee to make it quorate. Therefore it was agreed that due to legal requirements as of 31 July 2019 the funds cannot be held by ATC.

This Events Committee was evolved from various initiatives. The Council was made aware that there was a lot of unease from it about having to set up new bank account and felt it had been a very last minute decision. This was disputed as it had been raised previously that they should consider this.

If it was to remain a Council committee, it would indeed be a council meeting and would have to be held at times when there are members available. If this is the case, any payments would have to be ratified at the Full Council meeting each month. There must be a minimum of 3 Councillors on the Committee to approve payments to be sent for final sign off. It was agreed that the group be informed of the decision to cease the finances as a part of ATC accounts and the reasons be clarified.

Clerk

9.3 Replacement Paddlers Park signage

The current signage is discolored and marked. It was agreed plastic would be best so the Clerk is to request pricing from NCC for a replacement sign with amended wording and to enquire if they have the ability to include graphics, similar to the existing ones. It was agreed to order three larger signs highlighting that dogs must be on leads throughout the whole area.

Clerk

9.4: Consideration of Cemetery Front Wall repointing

Quotes were received to repoint the front wall of the cemetery- only the coping stones required attention. A quote for £750 was received and agreed for the cemetery entrance and up to the path to New hall.

An additional quote for works to the coping stones to the West Avenue side of the wall was received at £250. The allotment side of the wall received a quotation of £900. The

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quotes were discussed and it was agreed to proceed with all of the above.

9.5: Consideration of Pigeon Problem at War Memorial

Cllr Lewis met with a contractor to look at the issues being caused by pigeons on the clock tower. The clock tower cables have been fastened to the internal panels over the apertures which would result in moving them very difficult. The Contractor agreed that a cherry picker would be needed to access externally to place spikes to deter the pigeons. The contractor said he possibly knew someone who could do the work required from a long ladder as he was used to working at these heights and he would also be covered by his insurance. He would get back to the Council after discussing with this colleague. The contractor must ensure he is adequately covered by insurance and send the Council a copy. The contractor carrying out the work could be attached to the safety rail installed. It was agreed to proceed with this if possible; if not a cherry picker would be costed.

10. INFORMATION ITEMS:

10.1 Litter bin replacement

Covered above

10.2 ROSPA Inspection

Covered above

The D- Day commemorations are taking place on 6 June 2019 at 10.45am in the Town Square. Alison Mills and Linda Coulthard have worked on the format on behalf of CCT. Cllr Weir will lead the service. Alison Mills to contact David Shoemaker re Bill Wake. The RBL will provide the standard bearer. Flowers have been arranged. Posters have been advertised.

11: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 25 July 2009 in the Council Office. A site visit will take place prior to the meeting at 5pm of 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

12. An update was given regarding the memorial gardens.