

## **CLERK REPORT – OCTOBER 2020**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public have expressed an interest to attend.

### **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

The Council is yet to be formally informed of the outcome of the Boundary Review although it is known that the boundary with Warkworth was rejected and the Boundary with Hauxley was approved. The Council has submitted an additional request for the consideration of increased councillor numbers.

### **MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 10 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Members are asked to agree

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**VICE CHAIR REPORT-** meetings reported elsewhere

### **REPORTS FROM COUNTY CLLRS**

### **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

£50,000 has been transferred from the current account to the CCLA.

The interim audit is due. The Clerk is to make arrangements with the internal auditor. This will require the clerk to drop the files off with the auditor as previous due to restrictions in place.

The rest of the furniture required for Covid 19 compliance is now beginning to arrive. The Clerk has personally been arranging for a family member to assist in the building of the furniture. It has been proposed as a gesture of gratitude that a small payment be agreed for time and labour. Members are asked to discuss.

### **GRANT REQUEST**

A grant request of £60.00 to support the memorial wall plaque for George Skipper. After seeking advice on this, the Clerk confirms that should members wish the Council could make the payment using powers under S137 expenditure so long as it is recorded correctly in the minutes. Proposal: A donation of £60 towards a memorial plaque for George Skipper in honour of his exemplary service for his country and his love for his adopted town.

### **AMENITIES**

#### *CEMETERIES*

The East and West Memorial Inspections have been completed. Staff are contacting surviving relatives and also arranging for the make safe of those highlighted. Cllr Lewis and Clerk met with a contractor to discuss the remedial works required to the unstable memorials at Amble West and East. Notes have been circulated.

Retrospective approval is requested for the quote received of £700 for the making safe of 28 memorials in sections C,D,I & J.

The reports for the rest of the West cemetery and the East are now available and highlight a total of 80 in the West requiring attention; 4 in the East but 1 required immediate work and this has been carried out. Members are asked to retrospectively agree to the East cemetery work and to approve the £2000 cost of that needed at the West Cemetery.

Damage to a memorial has been reported, photographs included within the agenda. Members will be asked whether to agree to the refixing of this on this occasion. Contractors have been contacted once again to be careful when carrying out works there.

Two wasp nests were located at Amble West. The pest control officer has been instructed to deal with these. Retrospective approval is required.

The water is now on at the cemetery, however due to the additional works and attendance of the contractor, the Council was billed more than expected. Therefore, alongside the complaint follow up with Northumbrian Water, the Clerk has also asked for reimbursement of these costs. There has been no response to date so it is likely that the complaint will need to be pursued with OFWAT.

Also a request has been made for a refund of the daily standing charges for electricity for the period when there was no connection.

The gutter cleaning and outside security light work is still to carry out; the shutter service and fire extinguisher checks are to be arranged as is the routine tree survey.

The Tarmac works for the West Cemetery were booked for 30/1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October. During this time there will be no vehicular and pedestrian access up the driveway. There is an alternative access for pedestrians. Residents have been made aware via Social Media. The contract makes arrangements for the plannings to be used to fill potholes in the Percy Drive Allotment walkways.

The fountain work is due to take place in the next couple of weeks. Date tbc

#### *TOWN*

There has been no follow up regarding the flooding issue at Paddlers Park. Contact has been made again and yet another new contact has been given. The officer now dealing with this has not been briefed on the issues therefore Cllr Lewis is working on a brief report to send to highlight the issues.

The rope bridge and scramble net are due to be replaced mid-October. This has been delayed due to Covid19.

The town Christmas Trees should now be delivered on time despite an initial hiccup with them being ready. Staff are liaising with NCC and David Barnes for assistance once a definite date is known. Clarity is still waiting from NCC regarding highways costs.

Wynd Wall- Works have now begun on the Wynd Wall- Office staff have been making checks when possible

The meeting with the SLA was postponed and has been rearranged for 21 October at 10am. In the meantime, a number of points have been flagged for their attention.

Following a complaint about lack of litter bins near the Industrial Estate entrance, Morrisons are being asked if they have any plans for their car park but nearer this location and NCC were asked if they feel there is a problem here. If there is and Morrisons have no plans, members are asked to agree to the relocation to the entrance to the entrance of the one at the unused bus stop on the A1068.

LTP priorities have been sent to NCC & Cllr Clark.

To Note: Clerk is asking for an up to date register of all documents at Northumberland Archives so checks can be made to ascertain if any should have restricted public access due to Data Protection.

The staff are preparing the check list for the winter seat maintenance work- if Cllrs are aware of any seats requiring work, please let the office know.

## **PLANNING**

The planning application has been received for Turner Street Car Park. Deadlines for comments was 2 October.

The response to the draft new planning document has been sent.

Planning Outcomes – to note

## **AGENDA**

**Relocation of the Fish Information Board-** Members are asked to discuss the relocation request received from Amble Development Trust.

**Community Cycles-** Mark Breeze has agreed to refurbish the bikes free of charge as a community gesture. Agreement needs to be sought on how the Council intends on donating these.

**Seafarers Memorial-** Hindhaugh Homes have donated the anchors and Warkworth Harbour Commissioners the bollard. Nick Spur has kindly agreed to move these to his workspace where volunteers can begin the required work needed.

Members are asked to discuss whether to agree to pay the planning application fee.

**Meeting with Planning Officers-** Cllr Lewis and Hinton along with Council staff attended a meeting with David English and other officers to try to clarify the allotment boundary with the cemetery. After much to and fro a final map has been produced – attached

Members are asked to agree and to also agree to sending information formally to NCC and the planning inspector to confirm and withdraw ATC's objection.

**Remembrance Day-** Due to government guidelines on events and large gatherings, it is highly unlikely the usual Remembrance Day Service can take place. It is proposed that with regret we cancel the event this year and replace this with a simple informal wreath laying ceremony with the appropriate social distancing in place. There will be no church service or formalities, and this will not be advertised. Northumbria Police have been advised.

**Volunteer Policy-** from time to time residents offer assistance such as at the Memorial Gardens. In order to be covered under the Council's Insurance, there should be a volunteer policy established and each volunteer agree to its criteria. Members are asked to discuss and agree.

Memorial Quote – To discuss the quotation received at £2000 to make safe the remainder of the memorial at West Cemetery. There are approximately 80 headstones involved.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

CAN News 18/9, 25/9

NALC 10/9, 21/9, 30/9

**Community Chest Scheme-** The scheme is now open to applicants who are eligible.

**Hope Tree Project-** Free trees are available for those who have the space to plant them. This has been passed to local schools.

**Dualling of A1-** Members were sent a request from Tom Lloyd to resubmit their objections to Highways England regarding the southbound Amble junction on the A1. Deadline for submission is 30 October. Members are asked to agree.

**Memorial Wall Bed-** a resident has requested permission to carry out work on the bed at the rear of the Memorial Wall at the West Cemetery. Members are asked to discuss.

**Robsons Way Information Board Request-** An email was received requesting the Council erect some type of information board at this estate to honour the Robson family who were killed here and to also make people aware of the reason the street names are named as such. A response was sent back to state that we have acknowledged the tragedy in the Reflections booklet and there will also be information on this in Amble Remembers WW2. If an information board is still preferred, the contact details of the developer have been passed on.

**Drainage-** A concern has been raised by a member of the community to Cllr Weir to say that the drainage in Amble needs cleared out as there is flooding certain areas.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Amble and Warkworth Rotary Planting Plan-** The Amble and Warkworth Rotary have submitted their planting plan for the raised bed at the memorial gardens. A meeting was held to discuss this further, notes of which have been circulated.

**Meeting with Northumbria Police / Alncom-** A digital meeting was held with Northumbria Police and Alncom. This focused on issues with the CCTV and other issues within the town. Notes to follow.

**Amble Youth Project-** A meeting was held with Amble Youth Project. Notes circulated in advance

**Bird Sculpture Trail -** A courtesy email from ADT was received regarding the proposed location of the sculpture at Paddlers Park. ATC sent a letter clarifying points raised and a response has since been received and circulated. However the exact location remains unclear.

**Increase in Councillor Numbers-** A letter was sent to Lesley Bennet regarding the request for an increase in Cllr numbers. A response is yet to be received. Letter attached

**Friends of the Earth** – leaflet for information attached

**Volunteering – a guide to the new restrictions**

**World Mental Health Day 10 October 2020** – members asked to note

**Active Northumberland-** The Council was asked for a comment in relation to the lack of sporting activities in Amble – email attached. In agreement with the Chair and Vice Chair a response was submitted which better reflected the outcome of the discussions with Active Northumberland.

**Community Engagement Event 14 October 2020**

Northumbria Police are hosting a community engagement event on 14 October 2020, 1pm – 3pm. Members are asked to get involved if they can.