

CLERK REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public have registered to attend.

4: ALLOTMENTS:

4.1 To receive a report from AAHS

A report is included with the agenda papers

The boundary of the West Allotments and the West Cemetery have now been clarified with NCC.

4.2 To receive an update on the planings work for Percy Drive Allotments

As part of the tarmac work at the cemetery NCC were asked to use the planings to fill the potholes at the East Allotments. This work has not yet been carried out. ATC staff have requested an update as to when this will take place.

6: TOWN:

6.1 To receive an update on the planting for the 3 town planters

The planters on Acklington Road, Broomhill Street and Lesley Drive are to be tidied and augmented. Cllr Weir to meet with NCC to discuss requirements.

7: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

7.1 To seek retrospective approval for the Shutter Service and discuss suggested renovations.

The service was carried out on 5 November 2020. The recommendation from the service was that new pin locks are required however we have not formally been advised of this. Staff have also asked for clarification on what their service consists of as it is felt that the work was inadequate.

7.2 To receive an update on West Cemetery Fountain

The work on the West Cemetery fountain was completed, however, after being on for one day the fountain was overflowing. It was thought this was caused by a blockage of leaves. NCC and ATC attended to switch the water and electricity off and are in discussions with the contractor to discuss possible solutions.

Because of the overflow issue it has been suggested to fit a nozzle or filter to the pipe to prevent further blockages. A fine wire mesh infill could also help to stop leaves entering the water recycling chamber

Staff have requested details of the maintenance contract- £95 per visit, this can be monthly, quarterly, six monthly or annually. Members are asked to discuss.

7.3 To receive an update on Wasp Nests

Members are asked to agree retrospective approval for the removal of 2 wasp nests at the cost of £90.

7.4 To receive an update on bed planting

Cllr Weir to meet with NCC to discuss which plants to purchase for these areas.

NCC have agreed to plant when available.

7.5 To receive an update on progress of memorial safety work

All failed memorials have now been made safe.

7.6 To receive an update on the plan of the layout of the new utilities

The contractor has been asked to provide a map of where the current utilities are for future reference. This will be circulated when available.

7.7 To receive an update on the Fire Extinguisher Service

Staff have asked for advice or a contact about inspection of the fire extinguishers in the stores, no responses have yet been received. ATC staff have contacted Chubb.

7.8 To receive an update on the tree survey interim inspection

The contractor has booked in the interim tree survey for 30/11/2020 and has been notified that as the Council now has responsibility of the Memorial Gardens, that these trees will also need to be included.

7.9 To receive an update on the mapping of section N

The Clerk has been liaising with Pear Technology around the plotting of Section N and awaits the latest draft.

8: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

8.1 To receive an update on Paddlers rope bridge and scramble net replacement

Both the rope bridge and scramble net have now been fully replaced.

9: TOWN FURNITURE:

9.1 To receive an update on oiling of the puffin

ATC purchased the Danish Oil, NCC have now carried out this work.

9.2 To receive an update regarding drainage channels and lighting of the Clock tower

The drainage inspection has been completed at the Clocktower, see attached report. It was reported that the light bulbs at the clock face had gone off. The Contractor agreed to replace these free of charge if ATC purchased the bulbs required.

9.3 To receive an update on bin allocation for Horseshoe Hill and A1068/Industrial Estate

NCC have agreed to place the spare bin stored at the depot a bin on Horseshoe hill. NCC checked if it is feasible to move the bin from the Persimmons Estate on A1068 to the edge of the Morrison's site. The operatives have reported the bin on the estate side is well used and should not be relocated. It is proposed to monitor complaints before determining whether a bin is required at the Industrial Estate entrance

9.4 To seek retrospective approval for replacement bird spikes for Church Street stone bus shelter roof

Members are asked to agree retrospective approval for the replacement bird spikes at a cost of £40.

9.5 To update regarding bus shelter cleansing

NCC have been asked to do a deep cleanse of the bus shelters, they will feedback on the frequency of how often this would be needed.

9.6 To update regarding seat maintenance

NCC have been given a list of seats to repair and restain/paint, this work will be carried out over the coming winter months.

10: COMMUNICATIONS:

10.1 National Allotment Society annual survey

Council received a questionnaire from AAHS however on further investigation it appeared that the majority of questions should be answered by them.

10.2 Memorial Wall Raised Bed

A member of the public has requested details of the work carried out here with a view to possibility offering volunteer assistance.

11: AGENDA ITEMS:

11.1 To seek retrospective approval for repairs West Cemetery entrance wall

Members are asked to agree retrospective approval for the repair to the entrance wall at a cost of £40.

11.2 To seek retrospective approval to extend Memorial Gardens Maintenance contract to end of November- payment pro rata plus bonus for tree assistance

Due to the milder weather, in order to complete works at the memorial garden as well as additional requirements, members are asked to agree to the contract extension to the end of the month. Additionally, as a lot of work went into the preparing, planting and placing of Christmas Lights on the two new trees it is proposed to add a bonus to the contractor. Members are asked to agree.

11.3 High Street Garden- revamp of border

Members are asked to recommend to Full Council that they remove the hardcore and concrete from the original wall and replace with a proper planted area.

11.4 Investigate maintenance work for Clock Tower Memorial and Commemorative ground plaque

It has become apparent that the ground plaque at the front of the clock tower is now a trip hazard as the surround bricks have dropped. Members are asked to agree costs for repairs. Staff are seeking as to whether Conservation Area and Listed Building consent is required for pointing work to the vertical joints of the base stones. It has also been noted that the floodlights are not working, staff are to investigate.

11.5 To receive an update on the South Roundabout Fish Sculpture

Members are asked to approve buying the paint at the cost of £42.99, however there are patches of rust and flaking paint that need wire brushed off before any work can start. It will also need a rust inhibiting primer undercoat that N&F Young have offered to supply for free. Councillor Weir is meeting with NCC to check that they still have the operative to do the work. Staff have been given details of the bulb required and these are now on order at a cost of £16 each. Members are asked to agree up to £100 for these works.

11.6 Discuss repairs to flagpole

There is an issue with lowering and raising the flag. Cllr weir is to meet The Flagman to discuss what is needed in respect of repairs, a call out charge of £35 will be charged to the council for this visit. Members are asked to agree to this payment.

12: INFORMATION ITEMS:

None