

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2020

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 26th November 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing link

PRESENT: Cllr I Parks (Chair) Cllr T Hinton (Vice Chair) Cllr C Weir Cllr H Lewis Cllr K Morrison Cllr J Dargue Cllr D Bewley V Smith S Moore (Minute Taker)

1: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

All members were present

2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

3: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public were present

4: ALLOTMENTS:

4.1 To receive a report from AAHS

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting. JD was happy there was a lot of take up of the allotments and that the waiting lists were full showing there is a desire within the town for the allotments and was thankful to the allotment society in these challenging times. Members queried if there was any update regarding the water problem. Staff confirmed there had been no further information received to the office. AAHS were contacted to make them aware of the Avian flu outbreak. The allotment society confirmed they were aware of the issue and had up to date contact lists for all plot holders and were monitoring the situation.

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

Staff have contacted NCC, but no date has been given yet as to when work will be carried out.

5: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

5.1 Clerk's report attached

Clerk's report was noted.

6: TOWN:

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

The planter at JCSC requires minimum work. Philp Drive needs more plants although it was thought that some from the cemetery could be relocated here. It is believed that the planter at Broomhill Street is maintained by a member of the public however responsibility of this remains with ATC.

The planting requirements have previously been agreed and circulated once again prior to the meeting. Cllr Weir to visit Azure Garden Centre to see what is available.

7: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

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

Members retrospectively approved the Shutter Service at the cost of £225. However, members are unhappy with the work that has been carried out, staff were asked to contact the contractor for an explanation of what their service fully entails.

7.2 To receive an update on West Cemetery Fountain

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The site visit by ST Controls needs to be rearranged to a later date due to COVID-19 restrictions. Details of a maintenance contract were circulated however this will be discussed at a later date once the initial issues have been resolved.

7.3 To seek retrospective approval for the removal of Wasp Nests

Members retrospectively approved the removal of 2 wasps' nests at the West Cemetery at the cost of £90.

7.4 To receive an update on bed planting

Cllr Weir and the Clerk met with NCC to discuss the planting requirements. Notes of this meeting have been circulated along with details of planting suggestions. NCC advised Cllr Weir to look at Azure for plants. Cllr Weir to action and update.

7.5 To receive an update on progress of memorial safety work

The Memorial safety audit was completed by NCC. Staff have contacted family members although no responses were received, therefore the council have had to make the necessary repairs under Health and Safety. Members were informed that all memorial safety work is now complete.

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

The contractor has been asked to provide these and they will be circulated once available.

7.7 To receive an update on the Fire Extinguisher Service

Members were informed that the Fire Extinguisher Service has been booked in for the 22nd March 2021 at a cost of £59 + vat. Members approved.

7.8 To receive an update on the tree survey interim inspection

Members were informed that the tree survey interim inspection has been booked in for the 30th November 2020. Cllr Weir to meet the contractor on site. The outcome of the report will highlight any works needed. It was proposed that staff contact Northwood Tree Surgery for a quotation. This was agreed staff to progress.

7.9 To receive an update on the mapping of section N

Members were informed that the mapping of section N has all been done, but not yet numbered. Staff are to visually check the mapping lines taking into account the tree line.

The following items were added at the Chairs discretion:

7.10 Interment of overseas ashes

Staff have been contacted regarding the partial interment of ashes at Amble West. Members had no objection to this in principle however the council must have copies of all certificates and legal documentation required. Members discussed that as this was not a full interment whether a full fee should be charged. Members agreed to recommend to Full Council a charge of £200 for this specific case.

8: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

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

Members were informed that the replacement rope bridge and scramble net are now installed.

9: TOWN FURNITURE e.g. bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats:

9.1 To receive an update on oiling of the puffin

Members were informed that the oiling of the Puffin has now been done.

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

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The drainage report was circulated in advance of the meeting, and whilst the contractor was doing this work also changed the bulbs on the clock face.

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

Members were informed that a spare bin has now been situated on Horseshoe Hill. After seeking information from NCC regarding the usage of the bin on the A1068 it was agreed not to relocate to the opposite side as this bin is already well used. Staff will monitor any complaints that may come in.

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

Members retrospectively approved the replacement bird spikes for Church Street stone bus shelter roof at the cost of £40. Further communications have been received regarding anti-social behaviour in this area. Members felt that this was more of an enforcement issue and Northumbria Police are aware. ATC are currently investigating increased lighting etc. but it is unknown what the cost of this will be or even if it is possible. Staff will report back once more information is known. Staff are to suggest the resident contacts the Police Commissioner and the local MP if the situation does not improve.

9.5 To update regarding bus shelter cleansing

As requested NCC have been provided with a list of bus shelters in the town. NCC are to programme these into their schedule and will come back to the council with details on how often they feel each shelter requires a deep clean.

9.6 To update regarding seat maintenance

NCC have been provided with a list of seats which will be repair and maintained during the winter months. Members have requested an update on the two seats which required immediate attention, these seats are on West Crescent and Bay View.

10: COMMUNICATIONS:

10.1 National Allotment Society Annual Survey

Members were informed that staff had received a questionnaire from AAHS however on further investigation it appeared that the majority of questions should be answered by the AAHS.

10.2 To note communication re: Memorial Wall planter

Council received a request from a member of the public to look after the Memorial Wall bed. The memorial wall bed is quite full at the moment and looks the way it does simply because of the time of year it is. It is expected that come spring it will look much better. Suggestions for a rockery and reallocation of plants for this area are included with the NCC/ATC meeting notes. The resident has been informed of the Councils plan and was reassured to know that this area will be maintained.

11: AGENDA ITEMS:

11.1 To seek retrospective approval for repairs West Cemetery entrance wall

Members retrospectively approved the repair to the West Cemetery entrance wall at a cost of £40. As this seems to be a recurring problem, members considered that if it were to happen again the contractor would be asked to peg the stone to make it stronger.

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

The contractor was asked and agreed to extend his contract by 7 weeks. This

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additional work was not included in his final invoice. The additional 7 weeks equates to £80 per week, totalling £560. It was therefore proposed to increase this payment to include the additional weeks plus an added bonus to cover time spent on the town trees and lighting. Members agreed to pay a total of £3200.

11.3 High Street Garden- revamp of borders

As the High Street Garden flower bed has been removed for the new town Christmas Tree, members were asked to consider the possibility of revamping this area. A proposal to remove all concrete and hardcore from this area and replace with a floral display / flower bed. As this would be a new project, members were asked to recommend that this be taken to Full Council for further discussion and investigation of costs. In the meantime, ATC staff are to look into costings ahead of the meeting.

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

The Commemorative ground plaque is causing a Health and Safety risk as the paving around it has sunk. A contractor quoted £150 for repairs which was subsequently agreed by all members to go ahead.

Members discussed the clock tower flood lights not working, staff are to investigate the problem. Members agreed up £200 to have them be repaired.

11.5 To receive an update on the South Roundabout Fish Sculpture

NCC have kindly offered one of their operatives to repaint the Fish Sculpture at the South Roundabout. The paint required has been sourced by NF Young at a cost of £42.99 with the rust inhibitor given free of charge. The lights of the sculpture have been checked and it appears that new bulbs were needed. Members agreed up to £200 for paint and replacement of bulbs.

Cllr Weir to discuss with Amble Inn about the planting.

11.6 Discuss repairs to flagpole

Members discussed options to repair the flagpole. It was proposed to replace the entire flagpole as this was a more cost-effective option at a cost of £390. It was also suggested to arrange a meeting to learn how to use it once it has been installed. Staff to action.

12: INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

13: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 28th January 2021 via Zoom Video Conferencing link

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

14.1 To receive an update regarding Playground Reports

The weekly Playground Reports were discussed. Staff are to monitor these as they come in.

14.2 To receive an update on flooding at Paddler's Park

Staff are awaiting an update from the contractor.