

Clerks Report – Amenities Committee- 28 January 2021

ALLOTMENTS:

18.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members are asked to note the content of the update.

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

The plannings to fill the pot holes at the East Allotments has now been complete. NCC were asked if they had some waste from elsewhere if they could also do the ones at the entrance but it was accepted this may not be done.

20: TOWN:

20.1 To receive an update on planting for the 3 town planters.

The Wynd bed will be planted to recognise the 80th anniversary of the start of the National Fire Service whilst one or two of the Dilston Terrace beds will be planted to mark 100 years of RBL. Many thanks to NCC for agreeing to do this at such short notice.

21: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

21.1 To receive an update on work carried out to West Cemetery Fountain.

A wire cage type structure has been erected around the nozzle of the fountain. This should help stop the build up of leaves blocking the feature. The water is currently switched off for the winter period. Further consideration it to be given to whether the Council wishes to take up a maintenance contract for this and this will be discussed in the main agenda items.

21.2 To receive an update on the plan of the layout of the new utilities.

A diagram or map of the new utilities at the West Cemetery has been requested from the contractor. This will be circulated for information only once available.

21.3 To receive an update on the tree survey interim inspection report.

The interim tree survey was carried out and highlighted some issues to action which have now been done. NCC have cut the ivy from one of the trees in the compound. The contractor did not inspect the trees in the Memorial Gardens and these need to be included within the next inspection. Staff are adding these to the tree map in advance.

21.4 To receive an update on the mapping of section N.

Section N has been mapped but not numbered. There has been some delay to this being completed due to staff at the company working from home. The grave contractor

has requested that a marker be left for the first line of graves he is to dig in this section however, feels he will be able to use additional space in the current section first.

21.5 To receive an update on the request for a seat.

The office has received a request for a memorial seat to be erected towards the side of Section M. The resident has been updated with the choice of seats available and the costs associated with these. Once finalised, staff will be ordering the seat and the plaque. The resident bears the cost of the seat, inc delivery and the plaque, the Council will take on installation and future maintenance. Staff to proceed.

East Cemetery

21.6 To receive an update on moles.

A price of £95 per visit has been agreed as a maintenance cost for both cemeteries. It is thought the East Cemetery will require 3 visits and the West will require 2. Members are asked to retrospectively agree these costs.

21.7 To receive an update on tree & shrub maintenance.

Northwood Tree Surgery has been appointed to carry out the tree and shrub maintenance at the East Cemetery,

22: PLAY AREAS:

Paddlers Park

22.1 To discuss graphics ground paint.

Last year the graphics at Paddlers Park were repainted. It has since been reported in the playground inspection report that the graphics are peeling once again. Members are asked to discuss their preference for a way forward.

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

23.1 To receive an update on bus shelter cleansing.

NCC have completed the deep cleansing of the bus shelters. Further clarity is needed on how often these will be done. **Have asked Bill**

23.2 To receive an update on seat maintenance.

At the last SLA meeting it was reported that 56 had been done from Sept.

23.3 To receive an update on the stability of the new trees and works undertaken to ensure this.

The new trees have taken a battering due to the high winds over the Christmas period. The trees have been staked and will remain this way for around 6 months until the roots firmly establish. Many thanks to all those who have attended on the occasions where help has been needed to ensure the trees were put back in place. The contractor is to 'whack' the soil down in order to firm up the surrounding land.

23.4 To seek retrospective approval for the Wynd bed floral design.

Members previously agreed to having the National Fire Service commemorated in The Wind floral planter. NCC have agreed to do this.

24: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

25: AGENDA ITEMS:

25.1 Investigate maintenance work for Clock Tower Memorial flood lights.

Staff have been liaising with contractors regarding the repair of the War Memorial Flood lights. There have been no quotes received although it is likely a quote will be received this week.

25.2 To receive an update on Flagpole installation.

The Council agreed to replace the flagpole. It is expected that this will be completed on Friday this week.

25.3 To receive an update on the stone repair work of Amble War Memorial.

NCC have confirmed that as this is a repair and will not affect the structure and integrity of the memorial, that permission is not required. NCC have however requested details of the types of materials that are to be used in the repair. Staff have contacted numerous contractors and await quotations and specifications.

25.4 To discuss maintenance proposal for West Cemetery Fountain

ST Controls have offered to attend Amble West Cemetery Fountain on a maintenance basis for £95 per visit and this could be arranged annually, quarterly, bimonthly or monthly to suit the Council. The maintenance contract will mainly consist of keeping it clean and remove debris from around the nozzle cage and sump, carry out electrical panel, pump and lights tests to ensure correct operation and check water clarity. It is suggested 3 visits- late March before switching on, late June/early July and late September to switch off before too much leaf drop.

25.5 To discuss Memorial Gardens maintenance proposal.

Members are invited to discuss anything else to be included in the specifications other than the proposed changes in italics. As previously, following a satisfactory period- last year, it is proposed that the current contractor is asked to tender for this which will be for 2 or 3 years dependent upon the committee's decision. If his quote is not satisfactory or he declines, it will be offered to other contractors with the time period dependent upon a satisfactory first 3 months' probationary period. Members are reminded that whilst Amenities can set the parameters, any contracts are issued and signed by the full council, therefore the quotation will be requested by Monday 8th Feb. in order that members have time to consider it or, if need be, invite other submissions by the next meeting.

26: INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

