

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – JANUARY 2021

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 28th January 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom Video Conferencing link

PRESENT: Cllr T Hinton (Vice Chair) Cllr C Weir Cllr H Lewis Cllr K Morrison Cllr J Dargue Cllr D Bewley, S. Baxter (AAHS Secretary), S Moore (Minute Taker)

15: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Cllr I Parks - accepted. It was agreed for the Vice Chair to chair the meeting.

16: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

17: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

S. Baxter, AAHS Secretary, was present.

18: ALLOTMENTS:

18.1 To receive a report from AAHS

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The secretary gave a brief run through of the report.

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

Planings work has been done and the area is a lot smoother now. However, it was mentioned that if possible, there are 2 other large areas that require filling.

19: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:

19.1 Clerk's report attached.

Clerk's report was noted.

20: TOWN:

20.1 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 and liaise with NCC re: collection- agreed.

21: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

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

The nozzle that was previously put on the fountain was getting blocked easily, contractors have since been back and put a wire cage round to see if this would help. The cage is not on now as water is switched off over the winter once the water is turned back on middle of March until the end of September the wire cage will be added back to stop any leaves blocking the water flow.

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

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

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

Report was noted and that the issue of ivy on a tree has been removed.

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21.4 To receive an update on the mapping of section N

A draft layout has been drawn up for staff to confer with the mapping company before numbering.

21.5 To receive an update on the request for a seat

Staff were contacted regarding the placement of a memorial seat; this has been arranged and placement of the seat agreed on. Staff are to arrange for a base to be laid ready for the seat to be fixed once delivery date is confirmed.

The following was added at Chair's discretion:

Spoil area - Staff to liaise with grave digger re: placement of spoil here. A new bolt was needed for the gate - staff to arrange. Spoil removal company to be contacted mid- March for a price to remove the spoil.

East Cemetery

21.6 To receive an update on moles

Under general maintenance, it was agreed for staff to arrange mole catcher when needed due to the damage that can be caused by the moles making the ground unstable.

21.7 To receive an update on tree & shrub maintenance

A contractor has been appointed and work has begun.

22: PLAY AREAS:

Paddlers Park

22.1 To discuss graphics ground paint

Councillors to look at these areas before next meeting so a decision can be made on whether to leave as is for this year, arrange new graphics work or remove and smooth the surface. Staff to obtain quotes for new graphics and removal. Deferred to next meeting.

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

23.1 To receive an update on bus shelter cleansing

NCC have completed cleansing. This will be discussed in the SLA meeting.

23.2 To receive an update on seat maintenance

NCC have completed maintenance. Staff to spot check. This will be discussed in the SLA meeting.

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

Both trees have been staked to aid root establishment; these will remain in place for at least 6 months. The contractor was thanked for generously offering to compact and replenish the soil around them at his own expense.

23.4 To seek retrospective approval for the Wynd bed floral design

Members retrospectively approved the Wynd bed floral design to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the first National Fire Service.

24: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

25: AGENDA ITEMS:

25.1 Investigate maintenance work for Clock Tower Memorial flood lights

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Staff contacted a contractor who has got all lights working, but 2 which will need replaced. Staff to action the replacing the lights.

25.2 To receive an update on Flagpole installation

Flagpole has now been installed. It was suggested to set up a meeting to show the memorial garden contractor and a member of staff how to raise and lower the flag.

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

Staff have contacted contractors and with the Chairs were authorised to action in due course.

25.4 To discuss maintenance proposal for West Cemetery Fountain

It was agreed to book three dates for maintenance- end of March for switch on; then draft date of early July- flexible dependent upon working; and end of September for switch off and clean for winter. It was acknowledged that there may need to be closer intervals during the operational period.

25.5 To discuss Memorial Gardens maintenance proposal

Members discussed the maintenance contract for the Memorial Gardens. It was agreed, due to the satisfactory probationary period already completed, to invite a quote from a previous contractor for a 3-year contract for 35 weeks per year, one month termination either party and annual price review. If he did not submit, the contract would be advertised. If he did, full council would consider his quotation to determine whether it was acceptable.

26: INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

27: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 25th March 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

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

The draining contractor's report was being clarified before being presented to full council. NCC had paid for the initial investigations but were asking ATC to consider a contribution to the suggested remedial works in order so they could be trialled sooner.