

Clerks Report March 2021

207. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Mrs J Watson has registered to speak and would like to raise issues regarding:

- The footpaths of the green space of Philip Drive and the circular flower bed there
- Enhancing the South Entrance
- Speedbumps on Philip Drive

208. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

208.1 Central Government have not yet extended the power for local councils to meet virtually. This agreement runs out in May. The office is not suitable for public access at this time which is what the law states we must allow for.

If no extension has been agreed by the end of March it has been proposed that staff are to make enquiries about availability of Covid secure venues such as church halls for meetings from May onwards.

208.2 2021 Elections

The Clerk attended an election briefing on 2 March which gave some guidance on the procedures to follow. Nomination forms are now available from NCC but are unable to be submitted until 29 March 2021. The deadline for all nominations is 4pm 8 April 2021. All forms must be hand delivered and there is the opportunity to book a "checking slot" prior to submission.

A second and more in depth briefing will take place on 14 April 2021.

For more information please visit <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/elections.aspx>

214. FINANCIAL REPORT:

214.4 Grant requests

Amble Links FC have requested the Town Council to support them with a grant of £363.96 for equipment for their new football team.

215. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

215.1 War Memorial Stone Repair

Although planning permission was not required, staff agreed this with NCC Planning department before seeking quotations from accredited contractors. Staff have compiled with planning officers request for details of the mortar to be used; however we are now being asked what we consider a non-essential and excessive demand of requiring inspection of a sample of the mortar. A letter has been sent to Director of Planning for a response as it is felt that this is unnecessary.

215.2 War Memorial Flood Lights

A quotation has now been received for repairs to Amble War Memorial Clock Tower Lights. It has been confirmed that these lights have dusk til dawn sensors and as agreed under delegated powers the contractor has been instructed to carry out the works.

215.3 Paddlers Park

NCC have accepted responsibility for the land area and agreed to fund the total amount for the test drainage solution proposed for the area.

Since the last meeting, NCC have written in response to the letter send on 15 January

requesting a contribution towards the water feature prototype production and installation. They have agreed to contribute £750 towards the cost of this. ATC have asked NCC to confirm how they wish to exchange the contribution.

The contractor responsible for the water feature prototype have yet to be given the go ahead to proceed- members are asked to decide on this.

215.4 Azure Trade Card

Cllr Weir has been liaising with Azure regarding ATC having a trade card for the purchase of planting for the town. The discount is a markup from cost price on all products but as this is not a set discount it will be different on each item as the cost price for each item will be different. The discount is on garden and planting products. They do a limited delivery service which at the moment for Amble costs £30 plus VAT for one van load; however NCC may collect the items.

215.5 West Cemetery Flooding in Unused section

Staff and Members have met various contractors to discuss the flooding issue at Amble West. To date there has only been one quotation received for the works. It is proposed that Members agree to this quotation and that the contractor is supplied with a plan of the proposed layout of the area.

215.6 West Cemetery Seat

A quotation of £400 was received for the base and installation of the seat for West Cemetery. This was agreed and the seat should be installed within the next month.

215.7 Cemetery Moles

Work has begun at both cemeteries and the contractor has been asked to rake the hills into the ground so as to not lose soil.

216 PLANNING COMMITTEE:

217. AGENDA ITEMS:

217.1 Cemetery Fees 2021-2022

Cllrs Hinton, Weir, Lewis and Clerk met to discuss the proposal of the new Cemetery fees for the oncoming year. It was agreed that from now, all Rights and Interment figures are based on a percentage formula from single non-resident costs. After discussion and taking into consideration the current financial situation for many due to the Covid pandemic, it was felt it would be prudent to have as low an increase as possible. Members are asked to agree to most costs remaining static, with an approx. 1% rise for Rights and Interments. Applying the new formula this year results in Rights for Residents rising by £7.50 and Single Interments by £6, but Double and Cremated Interments will reduce. Other suggested figures are attached to the meeting documents. If required, further clarity can be obtained from the Clerk.

217.2 Newspage

To seek retrospective approval for Newspage

217.3 RBL Centenary

The RBL has requested permission to use the Memorial Gardens for an event to commemorate 100 years of RBL on Sunday 11th July 2021, restrictions permitting.

218. COMMUNICATIONS:

218.1 NCC Feasibility Study on The Braid

Since the article in the Gazette regarding the feasibility study of motorhome parking on the Braid, the Town Council has received several communications outlining both support and concerns about this.

A notice has been placed in the Town Council's website to state that:

ATC have had several enquiries since NCC's announcement of a feasibility study for the Braid.

The finance being allocated by NCC is for a feasibility study to determine if an area of the Braid Car Park could be used for campervan parking. No decisions as to the amount of this area it would cover or the form it would take, including charges, times, waste facilities etc. have yet been determined. This study, along with similar ideas from AONB, is being undertaken as there are concerns about the lack of facilities along the coast for such vehicles and the need to alleviate any possible damage caused by indiscriminate parking. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in this type of 'staycation' in the future due to the Covid restrictions on travel.

Concerns about the facility expanding onto the more open area of the Braid which is widely used by many as access to Amble, to the riverside and Warkworth, and for walking exercise, would require deregulation of the area as a village green which would be subject to public consultation- however this area is not a part of the proposed feasibility study.

If the feasibility study suggests that some of the car park area could be a viable idea then it would come through the planning process and both Warkworth Parish Council, whose area encompasses this, and Amble Town Council will be invited to comment. At that time any perceived effect upon parking spaces for those accessing the facilities there or Amble itself, disposal facilities, times etc. could be addressed.

218.3 Noise Complaint

ATC were made aware of a noise complaint affecting a property in the town and have advised of the correct officers and organisations to deal with this.

219. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

219.3 Local Transport Plan

Cllr Clark was requested to clarify some points raised in the LTP agreed at the last North Area Committee. A copy of this has been circulated with the papers.

219.4 Footfall Survey

The feedback from the footfall survey was submitted and has been circulated with the papers.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

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.