

## **AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MARCH 2021**

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 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 D Bewley, S Moore (Minute Taker)

It was agreed that Cllr T Hinton would Chair the meeting.

### **29: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:**

Cllr J Dargue - accepted

### **30: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

### **31: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

No members of the public were present.

### **32: ALLOTMENTS:**

#### **32.1 To receive a report from AAHS.**

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting. It was good to note that Covid regulations were being addressed and members regularly updated.

### **33: CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM:**

#### **33.1 Clerk's report attached.**

Clerk's report was noted.

### **34: TOWN:**

#### **34.1 To receive an update on planting for the 3 town planters.**

Cllr Weir has given Azure a list of plants that are required and they are all in stock, Azure have also given a 20% discount for the order. Cllr Weir was delegated to meet with Azure to inspect the order and a contractor will collect the plants when arranged.

#### **34.2 To seek retrospective approval for Clock Tower Memorial flood lights.**

Members retrospectively approved the renewal of 3 flood lights on the Memorial Clock Tower at the cost of £286.50.

### **35: CEMETERIES:**

#### **West Cemetery**

#### **35.1 To discuss items from site visit.**

Site visit was cancelled as many members were unable to attend. there is no plan to reschedule this visit at the moment.

#### **35.2 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.

#### **35.3 To receive an update on the mapping of section N.**

A hard copy of the map is being posted as the digital one is still inaccurate. Cllr Lewis and Clerk were willing to add final amends and send back. Members agreed.

#### **35.4 To receive an update on the request for a seat.**

The seat is due for delivery early April. Staff to chase up for a definite date and time and to inform the contractor who is installing the seat.

#### **35.5 To note maintenance work on West Cemetery fountain.**

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The first maintenance check has been carried out cost of £95. A further two have been booked.

### **35.6 To seek retrospective approval for West Cemetery tree.**

A tree which was safe but leaning over was made safe in the West Cemetery. Members retrospectively approved the works to a tree within the West Cemetery.

### **35.7 Update on drainage works in section N.**

The contractor has been made aware that the Council has accepted their quotation. Following members request, The Clerk and Cllr Lewis have drafted a basic map of the area to identify the layout and the drainage location. A further onsite visit with the contractor can be arranged.

### **35.8 Update on Spoil area removal.**

Staff have requested quotes for the removal of the spoil; there has been no response to date. Staff to chase up.

### **35.9 Update on free trees.**

The free trees from Friends of the Earth will be delivered when available. Friends of the Earth have been asked to co- ordinate with the Clerk so that NCC staff can be made aware, and they will be available to plant them.

## **East Cemetery**

### **35.10 To receive an update on East Cemetery wall repair.**

The insurer has agreed to go ahead with the Council's preferred contractor, however as extra stone may need to be purchased, they are yet to confirm if this is acceptable as this will increase the bill. Staff to chase up.

## **36: PLAY AREAS:**

### **Paddlers Park**

#### **36.1 To discuss graphics ground paint.**

The ground graphics at the Paddler's Park are starting to lift and leaving debris with the play area. This appears to be partly due to weather conditions and sea spray but also anti-social behaviour. ATC to discuss with NCC at the SLA meeting about cleaning this area more often. All graphics have something missing but pose little or no risk to the public. It was discussed that it may be best to leave them for now and plan to sort these next year. Previous quotes of £1400 - £1500 were given to replace the graphics completely, staff to obtain extra quotes. It was also discussed that another option maybe to remove the graphics completely. Members decided to revisit this again after the summer to make a decision.

## **37: TOWN FURNITURE e.g., bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats:**

### **37.1 To receive an update on bus shelter cleansing.**

NCC are in the process of commissioning a mobile jet and steamer. Once this is up and running in their workshops NCC will discuss with ATC a way forward at the SLA meeting.

### **37.2 To receive an update on seat maintenance.**

It was reported that 56 had been done from September, Staff were to check the recent highlighted seats as it was felt a greater level of maintenance was needed. ATC to discuss with NCC at the next SLA meeting. It was also discussed that the seat beside the new Persimmon's site has disappeared. Staff have contacted Persimmon's regarding relocation of the seat along with a new concrete base and bedding plants to be planted either side of the seat- discussions ongoing. ATC are aware that relocation of the seat may not be until the site is completed. Staff to chase up.

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### **38: COMMUNICATIONS:**

**38.1 To note a photo of the High Street tree and plaque has been sent to Northumberland Estates, to show acknowledgement of their donation.**

Councillors were informed of Northumberland Estates appreciation.

### **39: AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

NCC have requested a sample of the mortar that is planned on being used in the repair. ATC felt this was unnecessary - as it was being carried out using a qualified conservation stonemason using traditional lime-based mortar- and have written to the Director of Planning, there has been no response to date. Staff to chase up.

**39.2 To receive an update on the Fish Sculpture painting.**

Works to begin once the weather has improved, possibly after Easter. ATC to discuss with NCC at the SLA meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

**39.3 Update on mapping of assets.**

Due to Council staff working from home this has yet to be completed.

### **40: INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**40.1 To note moles at East Cemetery work completed.**

Completed work noted.

### **41: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 27th May 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**

**42.1 To receive an update on flooding at Paddler's Park.**

No further update.

**42.2 Grave Contractor Fees for 2021-22.**

Price increase was noted.