

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

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 27<sup>TH</sup> May 2021 at 6.00pm preceded by a site visit to the East allotments at Percy Drive at 5.00pm followed by the West site.

**PRESENT:** Cllr I Parks (Chair) Cllr T Hinton (Vice Chair) Cllr H Lewis Cllr K Morrison Cllr D Bewley, V Smith, S Moore (Minute Taker)

### **43: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:**

Cllr C Weir, Cllr J Dargue - accepted

### **44: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None

### **45: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

No Members of the public were present.

### **46: ALLOTMENTS:**

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

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

#### **46.2 To receive an update on walkways/raised bed area weedkilling.**

Work on these areas has been knocked back due to the weather but will begin soon.

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

**East Allotments:** The AAHS Committee Chairman was passing and mentioned that following advice in the latest newsletter from the national society, they hoped to recommence site inspections in the next week or two. He noted that some plots were not being attended and once identified, letters would be sent to those tenants.

Whilst walking around a tenant requested that ATC again contact NCC regarding the rat problem as it had not abated over the last two years. The rats were still accessing nearby residents' gardens and there was a concern as the walkways were frequented by many people including children walking to the local schools. ATC to write to Public Protection.

It was noted that the walkways are yet to be weed killed and that an overgrowth was still to be cut back. Staff to ask NCC when work will begin.

There was also a loose post that will need concreting. Staff to get a quote for the work.

Overall, the site was looking tidy but there was a concern about overhanging shrubs and some broken glass in a door- AAHS would be advised.

#### **West Allotments:**

In the main, plots were tidy and well-tended.

It was noted that the walkways and raised beds area are yet to be weed killed, and the area to the right of the raised beds is still to be cut back. Staff to ask NCC when work will begin, and to also request that NCC avoid a boundary, to the left of this area that has been planted in, this area is marked with a sign.

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

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

The Clerk's report was noted.

### **48: TOWN:**

#### **48.1 To receive an update on summer planting.**

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

After a delay due to the supplier's crop failing, other plants have been sourced. Work has now started on the summer planting. Councillors had noticed the planters on Dilston Terrace have been completed today.

### **48.2 To receive an update on the Memorial Gardens tree.**

Northwood Tree Surgery have informed us that there is 20% of the tree browning, however it doesn't appear to be getting any worse. Trees are going to be monitored and watered frequently and should be okay. It was suggested that maybe pruning back the brown bits would help. Staff are to contact Northwood Tree Surgery and ask if pruning the brown bits would help and to also ask if the tree at High Street gardens can be checked too.

## **49: CEMETERIES:**

### **West Cemetery**

#### **49.1 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. Staff are to chase up and stress the importance of having this map should a problem arise.

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

Pear Technology has been provided with a hand drawn version of their hard copy, for them to make the requested amendments. There has been no response to date.

#### **49.3 To receive an update on West Cemetery fountain.**

The clay pipe has been removed and currently the 'spray' is looking nice - this will be monitored.

#### **49.4 To receive an update on drainage works in section N.**

Councillors were informed work is due to start on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June.

#### **49.5 To discuss quote for Spoil area removal.**

The spoil removal quote was discussed. Staff had queried the price as it was higher than a previous year. It was explained that the contractor hadn't fully realised what work was involved the previous year. It was agreed to go ahead.

#### **49.6 To receive an update on free trees.**

Councillors were informed that all the trees had now been planted near the natural burial area at the West Cemetery.

#### **49.7 To discuss the planting around tree in turning circle by cremated remains area.**

Cllr Lewis spoke with NCC as to what would be best to plant here. At present there is Lavender, and it is now turning woody. NCC suggested some bedding plants like those around the fountain would work best in this area. It was agreed that this would be a better option than to keep the lavender.

### **East Cemetery**

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

Councillors were informed that the East Cemetery wall repair work has now been completed.

## **50: PLAY AREAS:**

None

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2021

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

None

### **52: COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

### **53: AGENDA ITEMS:**

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

Councillors were informed that the contractor is just awaiting a start date, and that there has been no response from director of planning concerning NCC'S request for a sample of the mortar that is to be used. As NCC had confirmed their permission was not required, Councillors agreed to informing the contractor to start the repair work. Staff to contact contractor for a start date.

#### **53.2 To receive an update on mapping of assets.**

Now staff are back working in the office, the mapping of the assets has started. Staff to give all Councillors copies of the asset maps when completed and checked.

#### **53.3 To receive an update regarding Tree Preservation Order request.**

Staff have requested several tree's to be given a TPO. There has been no response to date.

#### **53.4 To arrange a date for staff, Northwood Tree Surgery and Cllr Parks to check out flag mechanism.**

Staff are to arrange a date with Cllr Weir upon which he can show staff, Cllr Parks and Northwood Tree Surgery how to work the flag mechanism. It was discussed that a few people should know how to raise and lower the flag in case another is unavailable at a time this would need to be done.

#### **53.5 To discuss seat refurbishment costs.**

Quotes for a new seat with recycled wood look plastic were compared to refurbishing the old cast iron ends with these planks. The latter was over 50% lower. It was agreed to refurbish but to check those seats already in use to see if they would require repairs within the next 2-3 years as ordering more would negate future carriage charges. Staff to ask Sodexo to return the ends.

### **54: INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **54.1 To note the request for a cemetery seat has now been installed.**

The installation of the new Memorial seat in the West Cemetery was noted.

#### **54.2 To note thank you for bonfire ban.**

Thank you letter was noted.

#### **54.3 Update on extra cycle parking equipment installation by NCC.**

Councillors were informed that several cycle racks have been installed around the town. Staff are to confirm locations.

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

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021, venue to follow.