

Clerks Report – Amenities Committee – 29th July 2021

Prepared by Suzanne Moore

59: ALLOTMENTS:

59.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Report to be circulated once available

59.2 To receive an update on the meeting with the Allotment Secretary and NCC Pest Control Officer

Cllrs Lewis, Weir and staff met with Gary Tully NCC and Simon Baxter AAHS to discuss the ongoing pest problem.

Advice for tenants with livestock was received. NCC can offer pest control services at £55 per plot for 3 visits however it was suggested that going forward it would be beneficial if AAHS could have 3-4 volunteers trained in pest control. This was to be discussed at the next AAHS meeting and if agreed, they would investigate courses and costs whilst ascertaining the willingness of members.

Members are asked to discuss whether to assist with the financial implications of any/all of the above measures.

AAHS to confirm the number of plots on the border with livestock.

AAHS to communicate with their members.

Members to note attached meeting notes

59.3 To note complaint and response sent

A complaint was received about fires at the West allotments, Staff have passed the complaint to AAHS and have sent a response to the complainant to let them know action has been taken.

61: ASSETS REPORTS:

61.1 To note and discuss issues and agree any actions required from the June report

The asset report on Bus Shelters, Noticeboards, and ATC Signage has been completed and is attached for information.

Members are asked to review the remedial works highlighted in the report and decide if any works are to be carried out.

Photographs of the issues can be circulated on request but will be available at the meeting to view before a decision is made.

61.2 To note and discuss issues and agree any actions required from the July report.

The asset report on Planter's has been completed and is attached for information.

Members are asked to review the remedial works highlighted in the report and decide if any works are to be carried out.

Photographs of the issues can be circulated on request but will be available at the meeting to view before a decision is made.

62: TOWN:

62.1 To note visit to lower Queen Street

Members to see attached meeting notes

62.2 To receive an update on the Memorial Gardens Nordmann tree.

The tree is to be removed by 21 July. Cllr Weir and Lewis will hopefully be able to attend to salvage the lights if possible. As agreed at Full Council, a new tree is to be purchased, meanwhile the ground will be prepared.

The following companies have been contacted

Kielder Forest

Bawtry Forest

Scottish Christmas Trees

Trees Please

Paramount Plants

Costs have been provided from Paramount Plants as this is the only company that supply rootball trees. Members are asked to discuss and decide which option staff are to purchase.

63: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

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

The contractor has yet to send them on.

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

Discussions remain ongoing in terms of the mapping of Section N with Pear Technology.

63.3 To receive an update on marking out in section N.

The drainage works have been completed. It is likely that we will be burying in this section within the next month.

Cllr Lewis and the Clerk have met to mark out the area to help to guide the grave digger.

The spoil left over from these works has now been removed and the area seeded.

A draft of the first grave plots has been produced.

63.4 To receive an update on Spoil removal.

There had been a delay in the removal of the spoil due to contractors having to self-isolate, this has now been rearranged for the 22nd/23rd of July.

63.5 To receive an update on planting around tree in turning circle by cremated remains area.

This area is to be included within next year's planting schedule and is to be planted with bedding plants as per around the fountain.

63.7 To note agreement on memorial

Council were asked to agree a memorial which was larger than the guidelines as requests for alternatives are considered. Investigations were carried out and it was agreed this would be allowed provided all floral tributes are within the memorial area. However, stone masons are requested to try to guide their clients towards memorials which are of the recommended dimensions.

Staff have been reminded to check the sizes of the memorial requests before agreeing to their installation.

63.8 To note complaints and action taken.

Various complaints have been received regarding weeding, grass cutting and due care and attention at Amble West and other areas of the town. A meeting has taken place with the contractor regarding the issues. Amble is due for its next round of weed killing w/c 12th July where residents should see a vast improvement around the town. People are asked to be mindful that due to the effects of the pandemic, some teams are working with a reduced number of staff. It has also been reported that across the County there has been a great deal of green growth, more than normal, which is creating some issues for the operatives.

Members to see attached meeting notes.

64: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

64.1 To note the update re Water Feature and discuss its maintenance.

The Paddlers Park water feature is now fully operational. The maintenance can be done at the same time as the West Cemetery Fountain and will be a cost of £95 per visit. Members are asked to discuss.

A winter cover that had been placed on here whilst it was off has been broken. ST Controls can provide another one when they visit for close down.

64.2 To receive an update on play equipment repair.

No update available

64.3 To receive an update on drainage works.

NCC have been asked for an update however there has been no response to date.

64.4 To note meeting re: hard landscape areas.

Members to see attached meeting notes.

67: AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Staff have contacted the contractor several times. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

67.2 To receive an update on mapping of assets.

The asset mapping is ongoing as feeds into the asset checks.

67.3 To receive an update regarding Tree Preservation Order request.

No update available

67.4 To receive an update on seat ends from Sodexo.

There has been a change of personnel and the new incumbent needs to track them down.

67.5 To discuss the request for retrospective approval for a Memorial Plaque.

The Clerk received an email from a resident to state that a memorial plaque had been fitted to one of the seats along the Bay View side of the Little Shore and he was not aware that permission would be needed. Retrospective approval has been requested. Members are asked to discuss.

Additionally, he requested to scatter some ashes here and has been informed that he must seek formal permission to do this from the landowner, NCC.

67.6 To receive costs for a Commemorative seat.

As agreed at Full Council staff have ascertained the costs for a new seat. Members are asked to discuss which option they would prefer.

67.7 To consider the recommended Memorial sizes

A request has been received to increase the size of permitted memorials in Amble West. Staff have provided comparisons to that of some cemeteries in the area and have also discussed with stone masons around which are their most popular sized memorials – this information has also been circulated. Members are asked to discuss.

67.8 To seek retrospective approval for maintenance works at the West Cemetery.

On a recent visit to the cemetery, it was noted that some light maintenance work to the guttering of the 'office' building was required.

A contractor quoted £40 for these works which Members are asked to agree to retrospectively.

67.9 To discuss new litter bin request.

A new litter bin has been requested on the Industrial Estate anywhere between Pec and Tiger Lifting. Members are asked to discuss.

67.10 To discuss new Signage for West Cemetery

Cllr Lewis has proposed additional signage at the West Cemetery to remind people of the rules and regulations.

Members are asked to agree to the additional signage. The cost per sign is £83.23 with an additional charge of £45 for delivery.

Proposed areas are 1 at the main entrance, 1 at West Drive end, 1 near section M & N and 1 near the Cremated area.