

# **Clerks Report January 2022**

## **170. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

### **To receive an update on the Co-option Vacancy**

The vacancy has been advertised and there have been a number of candidates who have expressed an interest. Details have been forwarded but to date no applications have been received.

## **177. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

### **177.5 To discuss the final version of 2022-2023 Precept Request**

This is the final opportunity to amend the proposed precept request.

## **178. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

### **178.1 To note the request for replacement trees on Percy Drive.**

Persimmons have been asked to replace the Silver Birch trees along Percy Drive which have been removed by them without permission. They have agreed to monitor the position as their works are carried out and to replant up to 12 trees along this road.

### **178.2 To agree retrospective approval for the removal of damaged trees, root balls and tree debris at Amble West Cemetery and retrospective approval for fencing and signpost works due to storm damage**

As members aware there has been a significant effort required to clear up the cemetery after Storm Arwen. The costs to remove the huge rootballs left by fallen trees is £600. The cost to replace signage and fencing of the spoil area and boundary fence was £1250. An unsafe tree leaning over the old mortuary building was assessed and recommended to be removed as it was lifting the ground around its base. This has since been removed under Health and Safety and an invoice will be received in due course.

### **178.4 To agree retrospective approval for provision of skips for removal of debris from Allotments after extensive storm damage**

The allotment sites were also severely damaged during the storm and AAHS asked if the Council would consider hiring some skips to assist with the clean up of both sites. As there were funds available in the allotment pot, this was agreed at the time. The total cost of all skips required was £1650.

Clerk is pulling together an insurance claim with all items.

## **180. AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **180.1 To discuss providing a letter of support for ZEBRA Business Case submission**

ATC have been asked to provide a letter of support for Transport North East's project of providing 73 zero emission buses. The deadline for responses is 14 January 2022.

### **180.2 To receive an update re office lease**

The new lease for the office has been agreed for a term of 4 years with a rent review at 2 years. There are still some maintenance details to be clarified however this does not affect the terms of the lease, which has now been signed.

### **180.3 To discuss the parking restriction proposals for Leazes Street**

NCC have proposed a loading ban at all times on this section where double yellow lines are already in place - this means that Blue Badge holders would be prohibited from parking on the restrictions

and motorists are only permitted to stop on the lines in order to briefly pick up or drop off. 'Red Route Clearway' restrictions, in this case being in the form of red lines, are prescribed for busy urban city centres by the Department for Transport and therefore do not apply to the county of Northumberland. Members are asked to provide comments.

#### **180.4 To receive an update on the clock repairs and costing**

The clock pendulum spring has broken. The cost for the contractor to attend site over two visits and remove and repair the pendulum will cost £2059.00. Other avenues were explored in order to reduce the cost but it was felt that allowing the experts to complete the job from start to finish was the best way to guarantee the works.

#### **180.5 To discuss the options for the Clock Tower Annual Maintenance**

The time has come to renew the annual clock maintenance. There are 2 options available.

As you may be aware ATC previously prepaid for a 3 year service agreement and these have now been completed.

A further 3 year renewal has been offered:

##### **Option 1**

To service the clock in 2022, 2023 and 2024 at a discounted rate the cost would be £540.00 net plus VAT in total and would be payable in advance of the first service.

##### **Option 2**

If ATC would prefer to pay annually the cost for the 2022 clock service will be £198.00 net plus VAT. The yearly option is subject to an increase each following year (usually 3%).

#### **180.6 To retrospectively agree to the PA hire for Jubilee Fireworks**

After discussions with the pyrotechnics company carrying out the fireworks for the Jubilee, it has been agreed that a strong PA system should be hired to carry out the audio requirements. A contractor previously provided a quote of £800. Members are asked to agree retrospectively for this.

#### **180.7 To discuss renovation or replacement for Gazebo and future community loan and to review Equipment loan form terms and conditions.**

Previously when the Gazebo has been loaned out it has not been dried before being folded away which has now resulted in mould on the Gazebo as well as material deterioration. Members are asked to consider replacing the Gazebo at a cost of £450 inc VAT plus delivery costs. With this in mind Members are asked to consider whether to retain the option of community use and if so to review the equipment loan form terms and conditions with more stringent rules and deadlines of collection and return.

#### **180.8 To discuss dates of planting of 'whips' and agree other potential areas for planting.**

The whips were received before xmas and were planted temporarily in the compound until such a time when they could be planted properly.

Members are asked to consider and provide some suitable dates to propose to those schools who wished to be involved. Members are also asked to consider additional areas of planting available, particularly as many trees were damaged and removed during the storm. One new area suggested is on some boundaries of the old wagonway and a corner of the industrial estate to make a more attractive walk into town.

#### **180.9 To approve news page**

Members are asked to approve