

Clerks Report – February 2022

189.2 To note the concerns received regarding the growing anti-social behaviour on Queen Street and responses to date

In light of the concerns raised regarding ASB on Queen Street, Northumbria Police have been contacted in order to raise the issues experienced by some residents and also staff of Tesco. The Clerk has also sought clarity on the remit of the VOL meetings and has requested that this issue be addressed within these meetings via officers who attend on behalf of the police.

VOL stands for Victim, Offender, Location - derived from the problem analysis triangle. Attached separately for information.

195. FINANCIAL REPORT:

195.6 To note the Annual Management Charge from CCLA will cease on 31 March 2022

Extract from Public Sector Deposit Fund letter “In light of ultra-low Sterling interest rates, which had reduced the income distribution to investors, a further temporary reduction of the Annual Management Charge (“AMC”) has been applied to the Fund since 12 May 2021. This saw the AMC reduced to 0.06% from 0.08%.

This reduction has been kept under constant review with the intention of reverting once interest rates increased to a higher and sustainable level. Following the Bank of England’s decision in December to increase its Official Bank Rate, Sterling money market interest rates have risen subsequently, and sufficiently enough to reverse the May 2021 AMC reduction.

This letter is to give you notice that the temporary reduction of the AMC will cease on 31 March 2022 and will revert to the previous 0.08%”

195.7 To receive an update on Town Council insurance comparison if available

The Clerk is seeking quotes for Town Council insurance to ensure best value for money. At the time of writing no quote was available.

195.8. To discuss event insurance quotes if available and items covered.

The Clerk is seeking quotes to cover events including cancellation cover.

A previous quotation of £300 was received for the fireworks display however on further investigation was found to be solely for enhanced public liability and did not cover the event as a whole. At the time of writing a second quotation was not available.

196. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

196.2 To approve the 2022-2023 Cemetery Fees

As discussed at Amenities, it was agreed to increase the cemetery rights and interment fees by 1% and make some other minor adjustments. Members are asked to formally approve these.

196.3 To note amendments to the Equipment Loan form

After some initial amendments to the loan form, it has also been suggested that an additional condition should be added to include that a member of staff or Cllr must check the equipment is in good dry condition BEFORE packing to return. Members are asked to discuss.

196.4 To note the registration of the Queen Street defibrillator

The Clerk is in the process of registering the defibrillator sited on Queen Street.

196.5 To discuss recommendation to store URC Memorials if in the future the building is due for demolition

There are two WW memorials on display in the URC church which need temporarily housed safely if the building begins to be demolished. In these circumstances, Members are asked to agree to store them whilst suitable permanent locations are discussed.

196.6 To receive an update on and discuss the works required to the Clock Tower and clock mechanism

An engineer has been out to remove the spring from the clock tower and whilst there also noted some damage to the quarter bell and the drum chains. It has been suggested that a waterproof membrane should be fitted to the flooring above the clock mechanism to minimise the impact of any future water ingress. The engineer is meeting with his team on Monday and will be in touch when a full brief and costs of the works is known. A further meeting is required with the electrician in light of discussions with the engineer which may alter the works required and therefore also alter the quotation. A meeting with the electrician is taking place on 4 February. An update will follow.

198. AGENDA ITEMS:

198.1 To receive an update on the Physical Activity Survey

The survey has now closed and there has been over 200 responses received online. It is unknown how many responses were received by Amble Library. The team will now begin to analyse the results and will come back to ATC when this is done.

198.2 To receive an update on the Rollerskating Rink and Jubilee arrangements

The Clerk is seeking insurance quotes to cover damage to utilities and cancellation for the rollerskating. This is currently in process.

The fireworks arrangements are all in hand, NCC require site plans along with event safety plans which are currently being adapted.

198.3 To agree a date for the planting of trees with schools

The schools have been approached with some dates w/c 15th February and if not suitable, after 28th February. It is also hoped that Cllr Parks and Cllr Hinton can arrange suitable dates around this time for involvement with AYP.

199. COMMUNICATIONS: RECOMMENDATION - *That the Council note the items. That the Council discuss the items.*

199.15 To discuss the offer from Asset Watch

ATC have been contacted with an offer for CCTV monitoring from Asset Watch.

Costs are as follows:

For a single camera installation, the one-off cost to install is (192.00 ex vat) the weekly ongoing cost is £62.00 (ex-vat) for 24/7 monitored CCTV, unlimited responses from the patrol team, random patrols to show a presence, incidents reports and liaison with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and NCC. The weekly cost also covers the costs to maintain the camera system including the internet & equipment purchase. Annual costs **per camera** are £3,224.

Members are asked to discuss

199.16 To discuss the request for business advertisement on town bins

The Town Council has been asked whether it would allow a takeaway business to advertise its business on the town bins. Members are asked to discuss.

199.17 To discuss Local Free Newsletter

The Town Council have been approached to ask if it would be interested in supplying reports to a free local e-newsletter hoping to start circulation. Members are asked to discuss.