

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2021

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr I Parks (Chair) Cllr H Lewis, Cllr D Bewley, S Moore - Administration Assistant

84: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Cllr C Weir, Cllr K Morrison, Cllr T Hinton - accepted

85: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

86: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No Members of the public were present.

87: ALLOTMENTS:

87.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members noted the report

87.2 To receive an update re: rodent removal training if available

The AAHS secretary sent his apologies as he was unable to make this month's meeting but is happy to come to the next meeting.

Before the next Amenities meeting, he will be asked to investigate who would like to do the course, what course would be the most appropriate and the cost of the course so that a decision can be made at the next meeting.

89: ASSETS REPORTS:

89.1 To receive an update on progression of asset remedial work

As there has been no response from Sodexo, it was proposed and agreed to go ahead and remove and dispose of the two donated seats from the Memorial Gardens. All the required bolt work on the seats had been carried out.

89.2 To discuss damaged seat at Bay View and determine required work

89.3 To discuss replacement of slats in older wooden seats

These items were taken together. It was proposed and agreed that:

The seat on the West Cemetery drive would be removed and used to replace the damaged seat at Bay View (which had already been taken away) as it was a similar design. The replacement work would begin with purchasing and fixing polyboard to all four seats on Bay View. A new Georgian seat would be purchased to replace the one removed from the West Cemetery.

89.4 To receive an update on placement of ATC plaques

Members were informed that the plaques are all made. These would be collected when other signs are ready.

90: TOWN:

90.1 To discuss quotation of cleaning moss from Clock Tower

The contractor was happy to take advice from War Memorials Trust regarding the most appropriate cleaning agent. Once agreed, although consent was not required,

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2021

staff would liaise with NCC Conservation Officer. The contractor would be asked to quote for all the surrounds- the present quote was not for all- as well as similarly affected areas of the Radcliffe Memorial.

As the details for moving the 'green' will take some time to finalise, it was agreed to have the roof checked by the contractor. In the future this would be seen as routine maintenance work for staff to authorise twice a year- possibly around early April and early October.

90.2 To receive update on commemorative seat and seat base

Members approved the quote for the concrete bases to be installed. Staff to let contractor know to start work.

90.3 To receive an update on Clock Tower external light

Members were informed a contractor had been contacted to look at the Clock Tower external light, no response yet. Staff to seek other contractors if necessary.

90.4 To receive an update on removal of detritus from the tower steps

As the period for previous grant work was still active, War Memorials Trust had requested further details. Staff to clarify with photographs and state this was mainly marks from previous pigeon droppings.

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

Members were informed that work has now been completed

90.6 To discuss work Radcliffe School memorial and determine required work

Members discussed the Radcliffe School memorial. Staff are to contact a contractor for a quote to clean the green and possibly coat the memorial so it reduces the green build up in future also to see if the lettering can be redone.

90.7 To discuss Clock Tower door and determine required work

Members discussed Clock Tower door. Staff are to contact a contractor to look at the thresh and advise if work is required as well as if the door needs staining, also to see if the hinges need painted.

91: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

91.1 To retrospectively approve of memorial wall remedial work

Cllr Parks is to take a look at the repair before approving.

91.2 To receive an update on new plaque at turning circle

Members discussed the options for the new plaque. It was proposed and agreed to have an A5 size plaque in black & gold. Staff to order.

91.3 To discuss the implications of the DEFRA consultation proposal in order to formulate a response

The serious implications if these proposals became regulations was discussed. A very large proportion of ground could not be used due to proximity to field drains or water courses. Extra costs would be incurred with the suggested additional depth required which would also mean previously bought double depth plots would not be available for a second interment. The proposed increased size of a plot would not

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2021

only mean less plots in a section but would render any reserved plots between previous interments unusable. All of these would not only have financially implications for the council, but a devastating effect on the community. It was proposed and agreed to oppose these draft regulations with copies for NALC and a plea to our local M.P. to join our opposition. Any further avenues of communication would be determined at full council.

91.4 To discuss the repair/new light for storage building

It was proposed and agreed to see if the strip light from the mortuary would fit the main existing light fitting in the storage building, if not then it was agreed to have both light fittings within the storage building replaced. Staff to action.

91.5 To seek retrospective approval for installation of markers for drainage channels

Members retrospectively approved the installation of markers for the drainage channels.

91.6 To discuss the future interment fee of two ashes caskets interred together

A request had been received for two caskets to be interred at the same time. It was proposed and agreed that the cost for this would be enhanced by any extra contractor cost. This would be included in the next annual update of fees.

The following was added at Chair's discretion:

To discuss out of hours burial fees- Saturday

Whilst it was already stated this would incur additional costs, no preset figure was given. It was proposed and agreed that the cost for this would be enhanced by any extra contractor cost. This would be included in the next annual update of fees.

East Cemetery

91.7 To discuss quotation repair to gates if available

Members were informed that quotes had been requested but not yet received. Staff to chase up.

91.8 To receive an update on removal of self-set willows

Members were informed that a contractor was asked to remove the self-set willows and that NCC were asked to remove the tree at the left-hand side if it was dead. A quote was awaited for the willow work.

92: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

92.1 To receive update if available on request for memorial seat and seat base

Members approved the quote for the concrete base to be installed. Members approved the content of the plaque which includes an image of a robin. Staff to order seat and let contractor know to start work on the concrete base nearer the expected delivery date.

92.2 To note insurance claim progress for water pump

Members were informed that the insurance claim was successful, and that payment has been received.

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – NOVEMBER 2021

92.3 To receive an update on installation of air walker

Members were informed that all parts have now been delivered and that NCC would carry out the work; however, on examination the operatives had found that fittings had been sealed in place by the installer. They would purchase a tool which they hoped would remove these but if the tool does not work a specialist will be required.

92.4 To receive an update on telescope cleaning

Members discussed the options to find a company that would clean telescope lenses. Staff are to contact councils that have telescopes to ask what company they use. Staff will then contact the companies and obtain quotes.

93: TOWN FURNITURE e.g., bus shelters, bins, noticeboards, seats:

93.1 To receive an update on commemorative plaque

Members were informed that the commemorative plaque is made. Staff to collect when other signs are ready.

94: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

95: AGENDA ITEMS:

95.1 To receive an update on highway tourist signage audit

Members discussed the tourist signage within Amble. Staff are to write to county as some signs are incorrect particularly directions to a non-existent Tourist Information Centre and ask them to let us know when these maybe renewed.

95.2 To review Equipment loan form terms and conditions

Members discussed the ceasing of loaning out the town gazebo.

When using this recently, the roof covering was found to be slightly mouldy, and the corners were wearing. This was due to general wear and tear but also the possibility of having been packed away whilst damp.

Council now only used this on one occasion, and it was discussed whether it was viable to continue to loan it out to other organisations.

Members proposed to forward to Full Council but to defer until the January Full Council meeting. Staff are to obtain costs of how much a new roof covering would be, the cost of a new similar quality gazebo and the cost to hire a gazebo, ready for the January Full Council meeting.

96: INFORMATION ITEMS:

96.1 To note thanks from Northumberland Estates regarding High Street tree

Members were informed of the thanks from Northumberland Estates

96.2 To note meeting notes with Chris Bowden re. West Cemetery work

Members noted the meeting notes

97: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 27th January 2021, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.