

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2022

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 26 May 2022 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllrs Parks (Chair), Cllr Bewley (Vice Chair), Cllr Lewis, Cllr Morrison, Cllr Dancer, V Smith - Minutes

1: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Craig Weir - accepted

2: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None

3: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

Members are requested to advise the Committee of any Declarations of Interest pertaining to the below agenda items.

To declare as and when on agenda.

3: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

In accordance with Section 1(d-g) of the ATC Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council at this point on the agenda. The Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date.

No public was present

4: ALLOTMENTS:

4.1 To receive a report from AAHS

The report from the allotment society was noted.

4.2 To receive an update re: rodent control training progress

The allotment society confirmed that there were two members willing to undertake the rodent course. As this certification is an individual qualification and does not belong to the organisation it has previously been suggested that the tenants who carry out the course may like to contribute to the cost. The council is still waiting to hear about this proposal.

4.3 AAHS Site Visit report

Staff are to ask for the date of the site visit once available and a member may be able to attend. Members were disappointed that no representative from the allotment society was available to attend the meeting and asked staff to circulate meeting dates.

6: ASSETS REPORTS:

6.1 To note and discuss issues and agree any actions required from the April/May report.

The planter at JCSC needs re-planted and this is part of the SLA.

The noticeboards within the town are needing to be cleaned and the noticeboard at the West Cemetery needs to be reset into the ground as it has become loose. The noticeboard at the west cemetery is required to be oiled regularly. Members queried whether the noticeboard here was sprung. Staff to check and let members know.

A bin replacement schedule is currently being worked up. It is expected that new bins will be placed in the centre of the town and if those bins currently in place remain in a good condition they will be placed in the surrounding areas. The bin schedule is to be added as an agenda item to the next meeting.

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7: TOWN:

7.1 To discuss Lighting of Clock Tower over Jubilee celebrations

Andrew Mounsey was asked if he would be available to light of the clocktower on the Jubilee weekend however unfortunately he was booked elsewhere.

8: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

8.1 To receive an update on new seat purchase

New seat for the Cemetery has been delivered and is currently in storage. Staff to ascertain whether NCC are going to fit it and whether there will be a cost.

8.2 To receive an update on Storm Damaged Memorial repairs

To date there has been no date as to when the damage from memorials will be repaired. Staff are urged to obtain a date from the contractor as families have been waiting a long time for the memorials to be repaired.

8.3 To receive an update on Drive repair

There is no date yet for the repair to the west Cemetery driveway. Staff to contact Simon Jackson for a date and to also state that the state of the drive is affecting the disabled access of the side of the cemetery and the town council are receiving complaints.

NCC also to be contacted about this area as it is desperately needs trimmed back.

8.4 To discuss drainage at Section P

Quotes were received to be kept on file.

8.5 To discuss items from site visit

A site visit took place before the Amenities Committee and the following points were raised for action;

All shrubbery at the entrance of the west cemetery needs to be cut back.

Entrance to the mortuary area needs cleaned, weed killed and tidied up. Staff and members were urged to ensure that these general housekeeping issues were raised at the next SLA meeting.

The thistles of the left-hand side of the drive are to be removed.

Members appreciated that the county council wait until the bulbs have died back before cutting the grass at Amble by Cemetery however the bulbs have been gone for some time now and we are receiving complaints that the area is not being maintained.

It was noted that the spoil area gate is twisting because it is not being close properly.

The hedge by the cremated remains sections needs cut back.

NCC are to be asked to clean up the loose bits in the path next to the seat at the top of section M.

There was concern that as the temporary markers in section N are not straight that the memorial Mason may not put the memorials in a straight line.

Staff to ask Grave Digger to make sure that the temporary markers are straight.

Staff are to ask funeral directors to meet on site to ensure that markers are placed in line.

Staff to make a note of the names in section N so that when a memorial form is submitted they can ensure that the memorials to be placed here are done back to back as agreed.

The paths at the back of the cemetery which splits sections A and J has become a trip hazard and needs levelled up. Staff to ask the county council if they can level this up.

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One of the trees in front of the children's section has a loose tree branch that needs to be removed. Staff to contact NCC.

The retaining wall at the memorial wall planter is starting to deteriorate. Staff to request NCC to take a look.

The pathway to the disabled ramp at the entrance of the cemetery needs to be weed killed. It was suggested that the left-hand path needs to be compacted further. Staff to seek quotes.

East Cemetery

8.6 To receive an update on the gate repair

The East Cemetery gate has been taken away. Staff to ascertain how long it is expected that this work to take so that John Young can be contacted to program in the painting so that the gates are not left exposed for a long period of time.

9: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

9.1 To receive an update on repair to the air walker

It was requested that the air walker be chained up to prevent usage as it is apparent that adults and children are still playing on the equipment which could result in an injury.

Staff and members are due to meet a representative of Kompan with regards to the push-up bars. The quote received does not include instalment or services and a suitable location needs to be identified.

9.2 To receive an update on flooding issues if available

Clerk to contact Francis Povey with regards to the flooding update at Paddlers Park.

9.3 To receive an update on the water feature if available

Clerk to seek an update on the fountain at the west cemetery and the water pump for paddlers Park.

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

10.1 To receive an update on seats at Bay View

There are due to be two new seats at Bay View with the aim of replacing the other two the following year. The seat which was at the cemetery is to be disposed of. It was delegated to the chair, vice chair and staff to agree a way forward for town seats. The seat on Island View still needs the wood renewed.

10.2 To receive an update on bin replacement schedule including reviewing future bin types

NCC preferred bins which house wheelie units however, these are not suitable for Queen Street. They can be used in the High Street Garden and the TIC car park. There are smaller versions available. NCC were asked if they would be able to provide wheelie bins however, they are unable to do this every time but could supply some second-hand bins to start with once the town council has decided which ones they want to change.

This issue was delegated to the chair and vice chair to decide which ones. The cost of the bins is £600 per bin or £400 without the wheelie bin. There are some monies left in the budget which can be allocated if necessary.

10.3 To receive an update on renovation to bus shelter

There was no update on the renovation of the bus shelter on Links Avenue.

10.4 To receive quotations for painting of bus shelters if available

There were no quotations received for the painting of the bus shelters.

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10.5 To receive quotations for painting of Queen Streets seats if available

It is possible to paint the seats on Queen Street however these will need to be removed and put in the workshop for the work to be carried out so that the paint can dry. Staff to ask NCC if it is possible for the seats to be unbolted so that they can be relocated whilst the work is carried out.

11: COMMUNICATIONS:

The council has been contacted with regards to the paths at the west cemetery as mentioned earlier on the agenda.

12: AGENDA ITEMS:

12.1 To receive an update on reinstallation of bus stop signage at bus shelters

The bus shelter signage has not been actioned. Staff to contact Richard McKenzie. Discussion then took place around a concern regarding cyclists going against the one-way system on Leazes Street. There is also a concern that cyclists are turning right when they come out of Broomhill Street. Staff to contact NCC highways.

13: INFORMATION ITEMS:

13.1 To receive an update on replacement plaque

A volunteer has offered to install the Muriel Usher plaque free of charge however members were not keen on it being installed in wood because it will deteriorate quickly. This matter was delegated to the chairman and vice chair to discuss this with Councillor Weir.

13.2 To receive an update on ROSPA inspection

The ROSPA inspection has been booked, date to be confirmed.

14: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 28th July 2022, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

15: PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

15.1 To discuss progress on coal truck renovation

Cllr Bewley to discuss with The Amble Inn.