

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – JULY 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, Wayne Elliot (AAHS Secretary), S Moore - Minutes

16: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Craig Weir - Accepted

17: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None

18: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

None

19: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public were present except for Mr Elliot

20: ALLOTMENTS:

20.1 To receive a report from AAHS including rodent control training progress, Site Visits report and bonfire reminders.

The report from AAHS was noted.

One tenant is nearly finished the rodent control training, two are due to start the course soon.

Site visits would be arranged soon, and council would be informed as they are welcome to attend.

Reminders have been added on social media and notices displayed at both sites to remind tenants to be mindful of residents and wind direction when lighting fires.

20.2 To inform of Culvert division and cover works in West area.

Mr Elliot was made aware of the culvert division and cover works that will possibly be taking place at the West Allotments within the fenced off area, around September/October. Council would meet the contractor before then for details and hoped to cause as little disruption to the allotment tenants as possible.

20.3 Comments from Site Visits

A few minor things were noted, but there has been a vast improvement on both sites.

A walkabout is to be arranged with Mr Elliot and Cllrs to fully inspect both sites.

Some tenants had carried out weed killing on their boundaries, but this would be added as a reminder at the SLA meetings as it was included in that contract.

The following was added at the Chair's discretion:

20.4 To discuss notes from the Gloster Hill plot meeting

There was a proposal to remove some trees and scrub from the boundary with the allotments here. Mr Eliot was asked to inform the affected tenants of the proposal and ascertain their view. He would do this within the next few days and inform council so this could be added to full council's discussion.

Mr Elliot left

Members then discussed the proposal in detail and decided to recommend to full council that agreement was given provided the relevant reports on condition had

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been received and confirmed the proposal's worth. Staff to request the relevant section from the ecologist report as the tree surgeon had already supplied his.

22: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Asset report was noted

It was unlikely that a memorial plaque on one of the Bay View seats could be successfully removed and placed on the new seat. Members agreed to contact the owner of the plaque, stating this and if agreed, ATC will replace the plaque once the new seats are in place at Bay View with a plaque that is similar to ATC ownership plaques. There would be no charge for this. Staff to supply a draft of the plaque when contacting the owner.

23: TOWN:

23.1 Update on Harbour Toilets

Cllr Morrison informed members the toilets were reopened over the festival weekend. Staff to enquire if the toilets are now fully operational.

23.2 Update on Memorial Clock Electrical works

The contractor will attend on Friday the 12th August to carry out the electrical works repairs. Staff to contact Smith of Derby for a date to fix the clock after the electrical works have been completed

24: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

24.1 To receive an update on new seat installation

Members were informed the seat has been delivered and is currently at the NCC depo. A quote from NCC to install the seat was already agreed. Staff to contact NCC for update on when the old seat will be removed, and the new seat will be installed.

24.2 To receive an update on Storm Damaged Memorial repairs

Members were informed that there has been contact from the contractor, since a price was agreed but no firm date as yet. Staff to chase again.

24.3 To receive an update on Drive repair

Ongoing, awaiting top surface.

24.4 To receive quotes for 'office' building roof and gutter works

Members discussed the quotations and agreed to go ahead with the repairs at the costs quoted.

24.5 To discuss Section M Row allocation

Staff are to print copies of the section map and allocate rows within section M to Cllr Parks, Cllr Bewley, Cllr Lewis and Cllr Dancer to check the conditions of the graves at their earliest convenience and report any issues.

24.6 To agree staff training by ICCM

Members agreed to the staff training by ICCM.

24.7 To discuss pathway at Section M

The pathway leading from the turning circle to the memorial seat near section M is falling into disrepair. This was one of the tarmac areas which council had decided not to replace due to cost and quick deterioration. As this section is the most frequently visited, for consideration, Staff are to acquire quotes to dig out all the section in question and refill with soil and grass seed the area. Staff to check which special grass seed that will take better was advised from a previous contractor within

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another area.

The following was added at the Chair's discretion:

To discuss grave conditions

There were concerns that due to the hot weather some of the soil cracks had become deeper. Cllrs Parks and Bewley with Staff would walk over the grounds and mark any severe cracks with signage so that these could be pointed out at the onsite contractor meeting as requiring urgent attention.

East Cemetery

24.8 To receive an update on the gate repair

Members were informed that there had been a delay due to machinery needing repaired. The contractor has been in touch and work will begin soon

25: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

25.1 To receive an update on flooding issues if available

No update was available. As the locality meeting had been postponed it was agreed to write to Paul Jones, copy to Glen Sanderson, requesting an update and actions planned to alleviate this.

25.2 To discuss the ROSPA report and any actions required

The minor points raised:

Ground under the stepping pods - agreed to have this work carried out by the contractor installing a new piece of equipment.

Caterpillar - loose fixings - agreed NCC or contractor to tighten or reposition and refix if needed.

Ball Chute - agreed add check condition of single pole to weekly inspection report.

Swings - agreed NCC or contractor to check fixings grease and make recommendation for replacements so they were to hand when needed; raise chains by recommendation.

Cross Trainer - Agreed NCC or contractor to tighten loose footplate.

Cliff face/Gate - agreed adequate warning signs in place

Philip Drive

25.3 To discuss the ROSPA report and any actions required

Weed killing - this would be discussed at the SLA meeting as it was part of that contract.

Surface - gaps had previously been filled but this was not very successful. Staff to get a quote for replacing the surface with the same type as at Paddlers Park.

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

26.1 To receive an update on seats at Bay View

Members were informed all 4 new seats had been ordered. Staff to acquire quotes to install the new seats and dismantle and remove the 3 old ones which are still there.

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

Ongoing. Staff to meet with Cllr Parks and Cllr Bewley to finalise a bin replacement schedule. Staff to also obtain costs of new bin options. All will be presented at the next Amenities Meeting.

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26.3 To receive an update on renovation to bus shelter

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

26.4 To receive quotations for painting of bus shelters if available

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

26.5 To receive an update on reinstallation of bus stop signage at bus shelter if available

Staff have reported the missing bus stop signage and been informed the report has been received.

26.6 To receive an update on NCC painting of Queen Streets' furnishings if available

Members were informed that NCC may have just repainted all the furnishings on Queen Street. Staff to verify if this was the case, it was agreed to discuss the repainting of the seats on Queen Street at Full Town Council.

27: COMMUNICATIONS:

27.1 To update on situation regarding the grave plot covering

This had been checked and the contractor had been asked to add more topsoil and reseed the surface.

27.2 To note letter regarding the tree roots at Amble West and response sent

The letter and response not to remove as there could be no indication of how far these spread down into the grave plot was noted.

27.3 To discuss complaint re cracking ground in Section M

See item 24.5

28: AGENDA ITEMS:

28.1 To consider the quotation received for repair to the thresh of clock tower door

Staff to verify if an earlier quote had been received from a different contractor. If not, Members agreed to the quotation to repair the thresh of the clock tower door. Staff to wait to inform contractor until after the electrical work has been completed.

29: INFORMATION ITEMS:

29.1 To note the ICCM Publication

Members noted the ICCM Publication had been purchased

30: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 29th September 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.

31: PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

31.1 To discuss progress on coal truck renovation and sponsorship of the 'Fish' sculpture.

Staff to write to The Amble Inn regarding the coal truck renovation and sponsorship of the 'Fish' sculpture. Cllr Bewley to speak with the manager.