

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MARCH 2023

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Parks (Chair), Cllr Bewley (Vice Chair) Cllr Lewis, Cllr Weir, Cllr Dancer, S Moore - Minutes

79: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Cllr Morrison - accepted.

80: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None.

81: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

None.

82: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No public present.

83: ALLOTMENTS:

83.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members noted the report.

83.2 Hens loose at the west allotments.

Members were informed that the tenant was notified and warned to keep hens inside.

83.3 To note Allotment Survey.

Members noted that staff had requested the Allotment Survey to be completed by the Allotment Society.

85: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members noted the very full summary report for which they were grateful. Many of the items had been discussed at the SLA meeting and a way forward by zoning had been suggested.

It was agreed NCC would be asked to complete the bin relocation work.

It was agreed NCC would be asked to remove the graffiti from the two bus shelters- it was agreed the small one could be repainted if necessary - delegated to Chair and Clerk.

Painting of the mural was still awaited. Quotes for painting of the under bench area, ceiling and floor were being sought.

NCC Housing had been asked to considering painting the boundary wall at Links Avenue.

It was agreed missing signage would be replaced.

It was agreed to purchase Postcrete locally to repair a post at the East Allotments. ATC plaques to be attached to the coal trucks at JCSC, Paddler's and opposite Spurreli's.

85.2 To discuss a suggested zoning schedule.

Members were informed that a zoning schedule had been passed to NCC to better organize cleaning of the town's assets. If areas are not okay staff and members will readjust accordingly. A zone would be completed within a month, then passed to ATC to check for satisfaction before proceeding to another zone. It was hoped this

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would be easier to monitor and result in all assets receiving attention to correct maintenance.

86: TOWN:

86.1 To receive an update on the Radcliffe School Memorial.

Members agreed a cost of £250 for the restoration of the Radcliffe School Memorial.

86.2 To note the date of the Clock Tower drainage inspection.

Members were informed that the Clock Tower drainage inspection was booked in for the 14th of April.

86.3 To receive an update on the seat removed by Persimmons.

Cllr Parks and Cllr Bewley agreed to an on-site meeting with Persimmons to remind them of the place for the relocation of the seat. Staff to contact Permissions to agree a date.

86.4 To receive a quote to repaint the coal truck rails.

A quote of £60 was accepted to paint the coal truck rails. The new coal truck sign has now been installed. Staff are to clarify this was in the quote and if not, Members agreed to an additional £20 for this.

86.5 To discuss planter ideas for Gibson Street.

The new idea from NCC of smaller planters, rather than very large high planting pots, was acceptable. However, as they were quite small, members requested information of the number to be installed.

86.6 To discuss plan for EIRR bed on Dilston Terrace.

Members agreed to NCC's suggestion for the EIRR bed. The total cost for the bed which will now include Lily of the Valley at members request is £809.97. The cost will be halved between both Amble Town Council and NCC.

87: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

87.1 To receive an update on Storm Damaged Memorial repairs.

Members were informed that no date to start work on the damaged Memorials has been set yet but were made aware all works will be completed by the middle of June due to a contractual obligation.

87.2 To receive an update on Section M survey.

Cllr Parks, Cllr Bewley, Cllr Lewis and Cllr Dancer are to check the conditions of the graves at their earliest convenience and report any issues.

87.3 To receive an update on the walkway.

Members were satisfied the lower walkway was adequate at present as the build-up of leaves had been removed but it would continue to be monitored. The new area at the entrance to section M required taping off as people were indiscriminately walking on it. It was suggested that two small entry ways were left in the soil area; these could be seeded later. The seed would be monitored but if there was no grass growth by mid-May the contractor would be asked to reseed.

87.4 To receive an update on plumbing.

Cllrs Bewley and Parks would check after the water was turned on.

87.5 To receive an update on the fountain maintenance and water switch on.

Members were informed this was due to take place the next day.

87.6 To discuss issues at Section N and future ground maintenance.

It was agreed that the larger caskets would be interred after the drainage area. Cllrs Weir and Lewis were delegated to discuss this with the gravedigger at a meeting which was being arranged.

87.7 To discuss staff feedback on Exclusive Right of Burial Training and implications of preferred procedures.

Members were informed that this required several forms renewed. The work was ongoing and when complete it was delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair to agree to the wording and then report back to committee.

87.8 To discuss a request for a new Memorial seat.

Members did not agree to the seat as unfortunately the area requested has underground drainage. The resident has been informed to let staff know of another area within the cemetery if they would still like a seat.

87.9 Site visit - any other matters to note/action.

There were some rubbish bags by the spoil area to clear.

The drive drainage channels and sinks required cleaning.

Small fencing and planting on the length of graves was noted. Owners would be contacted to remove these as it hinders ground maintenance.

The offshoots at the base of the tree nearest the seat on the drive need cutting.

NCC had suggested sowing wildflowers amongst the newly planted saplings and whips. It was agreed this was a very good and thoughtful idea.

88: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

88.1 To receive an update on flooding issues.

No updates available. Staff to continue to monitor.

88.2 To receive an update on the Spin Bike instructions.

Members had been made aware prior to the meeting that the seat height adjuster knob on the spin bike had broken. The supplier has confirmed that staff will be informed of a date when they can come and repair this. There will be no cost for this as the spin bike is still under warranty.

88.3 To discuss quote for repainting play area gates.

Members agreed to the quote of £100 to repaint the play area gates.

88.4 To receive an update on Water Feature turn on.

Members were informed that the Water Feature had been turned on.

Philip Drive

88.5 To receive an update on the ownership of land.

No update available. Staff to chase up.

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

89.1 To discuss the future bin replacement schedule.

Staff compiled a future bin replacement schedule. Members agreed to the schedule on the understanding that any bins removed will be used elsewhere if in good condition.

90: COMMUNICATIONS:

90.1 To note complaint of dog waste and rubbish on Queen Street and Harbour area.

Noted.

90.2 To note complaint and actions taken with regards to Amble West Cemetery.

A meeting had been held with the complainant and concerns noted. Suggestions had been made and these would be discussed with the gravedigger.

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The following was added at the Chair's discretion:

To discuss access to Section M.

The lady would be informed that once the grass grew where the deteriorated path had been removed, then access should be improved. Also, that section M was being surveyed by members to see what was required to make the surface better accessible.

91: AGENDA ITEMS:

91.1 To discuss water usage at Paddlers Park.

Members were informed that the water had been turned on and a meter reading of 2778 had been taken. Staff are to contact NCC to leave the water on for school holidays but suggest turn off on Monday 17th of April at 9am take a meter reading then turn on again Friday 28th April at 9am, this will give 12 complete days to see if any water being used.

92: INFORMATION ITEMS:

92.1 To note the most recent Paddlers Park and Philip Drive Playground Reports.

Members were given a most recent copy of the Playground Reports. However, following this report staff were informed that a swing within Paddlers Park had broken. Members agreed to order 4 new seats with chains and brackets up to the cost £3000. Staff are to also order rubber stoppers for the playground gates within this cost.

92.2 To note response regarding the wall leading to the braid bridge.

Members had been made aware of this. It had been checked and no problem had been found.

92.3 To note email sent to former contractor regarding damaged memorials.

Noted.

92.4 To note unauthorised plot enclosures.

See site visit.

92.5 To note tree boundary suggestion.

See site visit.

92.6 To note damage to Philip Drive grassed area.

Noted.

92.7 To note forthcoming Walkabout date and time.

Members noted that the next walkabout would take place on Monday the 3rd of April. Cllr Parks and Cllr Bewley will attend.

The following was added at the Chair's discretion:

To note the outcome of the DEFRA consultation.

The report published on 22nd March 2023 stated that the relevant regulations regarding water courses, tables and field drains would only apply to new cemeteries or new extensions. Therefore, ATC burial land could still be used.