

Clerks Report – Amenities Committee – 28th September 2023

Prepared by Suzanne Moore

35: ALLOTMENTS:

35.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members are asked to note the report.

35.2 To note date of next AGM if available.

Members are asked to note the date of the next AGM if available.

35.3 To note concerns re: bonfire late evening/ overnight.

A bonfire was left burning fiercely into late evening and smouldering overnight. AAHS have placed notices to remind tenants of their obligations regarding bonfires.

35.4 To note update on Weed suppression.

Staff chased up with NCC for an update, NCC were on their way to spray both sites on the 14th of September.

Members to note blue dye is added to the quad sprayer and knapsack sprayers, and when the nomix versions are used the dye is white.

37: ASSETS REPORTS:

37.1 To note and discuss issues and agree any actions required from the reports.

Members are asked to note both the asset report and asset zone report and discuss any items that are highlighted within the reports, if available, due to staff annual leave and inclement weather.

39: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

39.1 To receive an update on the new Exclusive Right of Burial forms and procedures.

Another meeting is to be arranged with ICCM for the 19th of October to discuss the new forms and guidance notes which staff have prepared, as there were connection issues during the first meeting.

39.2 To receive an update on removal of unauthorised items from grave plots.

This will be reviewed at the West Cemetery site visit. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

39.3 To receive an update on request for memorial seats.

No updates available.

39.4 To discuss the installation of Section area signs.

Members are asked to discuss the idea and quote for new cemetery section markers.

The markers will include a black plaque with a copper/gold letter on to match with other signage within the cemetery, they will also include a 500mm stake to concrete in the ground.

These will be £23 each. So total cost would be £276 for 12 Letters A - L if M and N are required this will be an extra £46 making it £322 for all 14 letters.

39.5 To discuss items raised in Site Visit.

Members are to discuss any issues raised at the site visit.

Whilst on the site visit members are requested to review the walkway.

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East Cemetery

39.6 To note repair completed to gate.

It was noted that the right gate handle on the East Cemetery gates had been snapped off, this has now been repaired. Members are asked to retrospectively approve the cost of £152 to have this replaced.

40: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

40.1 To receive an update on flooding issues.

It was noted on Monday the 18th after a heavy rainfall there was no sign of any surface water.

40.2 To receive an update on the Spin Bike instructions.

The instructions for the spin bike have now been installed.

40.3 To receive an update on Kompan equipment.

Staff are still waiting on a response regarding the replacement matting under the stepping pods, the removal of the balanced beams sign while on site, and the painting of the Monkey Bars and Pull up Bars.

Staff have informed Kompan that we now have all the spacers/caps etc for the multi climbing frame as they stated they would fix this while on site too but are still awaiting a response.

However, the replacement parts for the air walker have now all arrived, and the equipment is fully operational again.

40.4 To note the order of spare parts for the rope bridge.

Members are asked to note the spare parts for the rope bridge that were highlighted in the recent ROPSA report have been purchased.

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

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

Persimmons have now updated their formal drawings to include the new location for the seat that was removed before works began on the site.

41.2 To receive an update on Church Street Bus Shelter painting.

The quote was accepted in Septembers Full Council meeting.

Staff have informed the contractor and have requested a start date. Once staff receive this, staff will liaise with NCC to power wash the bus shelter prior to works being carried out. NCC have agreed to barrier off the area whilst work is carried out.

42: COMMUNICATIONS:

42.1 To note complaint regarding maintenance at the West Cemetery and response.

A complaint was made regarding overgrowth of shrubbery onto a walkway and a missing bin. Shrubs cannot be cut back until October; bin being looked into by NCC.

42.2 To note complaint of leaning headstone.

A resident raised an issue of an unstable memorial. The memorial has now been staked to secure it. Staff have contacted the deed holder to make them aware of the issue and request that remedial works are done as soon as possible.

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43: AGENDA ITEMS:

43.1 To receive an update on water usage at Paddlers Park and response from Northumbria Water.

A further invoice has been received. Staff await a response from Northumberland Water regarding a visit to determine if a new meter can be installed.

43.2 To receive an update on the Amble Inn Coal Truck and the fish sculpture sponsorship.

Cllr Weir to update at the meeting.

44: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members are asked to note both most recent playground reports.

44.2 To note staff course.

Due to a family emergency the Cemetery Management and Compliance Course that was due to take place on the 12th and 13th of September was postponed the new date for the course is the 5th and 6th of December.

44.3 To note report of Lampposts at Paddlers Park

It was noted that two lampposts at Paddlers Park were not lit. These were both reported on the NCC website on the 11th of August. Staff have not had the chance to check if these are now fully operational.

44.4 To note fountain switch off at West Cemetery.

The contractor is due at the end of the month to turn the fountain off. While staff were checking assets it was noted that the fountain was not working correctly. The contractor has been contacted; staff are awaiting a response.