

Amenities Committee Agenda Report – 30th May 2024

Prepared by Suzanne Moore

5: ALLOTMENTS:

5.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members are asked to note the report.

5.2 To receive an update on skips if available.

No update available.

5.3 Site Visit – any items to note/action.

Members are to discuss any additional issues arising from the site visit.

7: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members are asked to note both the asset report and the asset zone report and discuss and determine actions where needed on any items highlighted within the reports.

8: TOWN:

8.1 To receive an update on the Clock Tower flood lights.

All four clock tower flood lights have now been replaced as well as the photocell at a total cost of £328.70 & £65.74 VAT. Staff have checked and the lights are all working as they should.

9: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

9.1 To receive a quote to repair the old mortuary if available.

No quote available. Staff have chased up.

9.2 To receive an update on repainting of the west cemetery gates.

Staff were informed the gates were repainted on the 21st of May. Staff to check and update at the meeting.

9.3 To receive an update on fountain area turf.

Cllr Weir to update at meeting.

9.4 To receive a quote for raised kerbs at top of drive and fountain area.

No quote available. Staff have chased up. Cllr Parks is investigating with local contractors.

9.5 To receive an update on Memorial safety signage.

Staff ordered 13 signs which reduced the cost per sign by £2 however received 14 so there are two spares should they be needed in the future.

All the new memorial safety signage has now been installed. Staff have a location map of all signs and photographs have been taken. Members to discuss having a larger memorial safety sign at the entrance.

Members to note that some of these signs and the section areas signs are starting to lean as they are only stuck in the ground and not concreted in.

9.6 To note update with contractor re: cemetery drainage.

The contractor will give a date for starting work once the weather improves.

9.7 To retrospectively approve the cost of a replacement water butt pipe.

Members are asked to retrospectively approve the cost of £10.05 for the replacement water butt pipe. NCC installed the replacement on the 24th of April.

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9.8 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme.

Work on the laying down of unstable memorials will begin in the coming weeks. At present there are 57 that are required to be laid down for Health and Safety concerns.

9.9 To retrospectively agree the repair to the fence at West Cemetery.

Some of the rest of the boundary fence between the Cemetery and the Allotments has come down, Vandalism? Therefore, it seems prudent to have not only this repaired but the rest of that boundary too. This is a maintenance and safety issue, so the work has been scheduled for the week commencing the 27th of May. An update on the cost will be presented at the meeting.

10: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

10.1 To receive an update on the damaged seat and determine future action.

Members are asked to note a Polyboard seat with plaque has been located here. (Replacement seat £585 & £117 VAT and replacement plaque £14) The damaged seat report was discussed at Full Council. It was agreed to write to the contractor to discuss a way forward. Following the letter from staff, the contractor has given two options in moving forward –

1. The seat can be returned as it is (no repairs) and they will absorb the cost of collection and redelivery.

2. As a gesture they are prepared to repair the seat and absorb the cost of the repair (approximately £200) if the council are prepared to cover all transportation costs. Transportation costs include the original collection of the seat from the NCC depot to return to the contractor £124.80 and re delivery of the seat £102.00, so a total of £226.80.

10.2 To note upcoming ROSPA inspection.

Staff have been informed that ROSPA is due to inspect the play areas, however no official date has been given as they don't announce their arrival in advance.

10.3 To discuss cradle swing quote.

One of the cradle swings at Paddlers Park was recently damaged. NCC have removed and disposed of the damaged swing. Staff have received a quote for a complete replacement swing plus a second complete swing to have as a spare at a cost of £1906.03 and £381.21 VAT. Members to discuss the quote.

10.4 To discuss relocation of a picnic table.

Due to the continued deterioration of the ground under the picnic table where the worst flooding has been, Members are asked to consider relocating it further back. If members agree staff will seek quotes.

10.5 To discuss placement of a water meter or alternative.

Whilst considering the installation of another meter nearer the water feature, another alternative has been suggested.

Due to higher costs than anticipated for the water feature, staff are seeking advice on whether it is possible to have an isolator or stopcock mechanism installed in the manhole nearest the water feature. Although there is a smaller manhole in the grass nearby, it is unclear what is inside, possibly a place to fit a standpipe,- if an isolator or stopcock cannot be fitted here it would have to go within the large manhole and a type of one person access hatch would need to be created. Staff

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have asked a contractor whether this would be possible and if so, would continue discussions with N Water and NCC when necessary.

N.Water have stated their unwillingness to relocate the meter (however this was not the request) and have advised about possible surveys which would need carried out; an initial visit to discuss would be £128.12 + VAT.

Members are asked to discuss and determine future actions.

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

11.1 To receive an update on bin replacements/relocation this year.

NCC have had some issues with the fixings supplied with the new bins and have had to use their own anchors, which NCC needed to purchase more of, however, staff believe all new bins are now in place and older bins have been relocated or disposed of, except the green bin at Burton Road which there was no replacement for. This is because the bin that got crushed by the wall near the braid was replaced with one of the bins on Leazes Street

Staff to check and update at the meeting and will also update their photographs and location lists. Staff would ascertain the problem with the fixings to see if these could be changed for future orders.

11.2 To receive a quote for Church Street bus shelter floor.

No quote available. Staff have chased up. Cllr Parks is investigating with local contractors.

11.3 To receive an update from Northumberland Estates re damaged bin.

No updates available. Staff have chased up.

11.4 To note memorial plaque installed on a seat at Bay View.

A new memorial plaque has been installed on a seat along Bay View.

11.5 To note Tree Survey date if available.

The next full tree survey will take place the week commencing the 10th of June.

11.6 To receive an update on Percy Drive bus shelter.

Panels on the bus shelter have been damaged and look unsightly. It was agreed to replace all 6 large and 4 small polycarbonate panels at a total cost of £1257.46. Staff have been informed the work should be carried out on the 28th of May.

11.7 To discuss moss removal on church street bus shelter quote if available.

Members are asked to discuss the quote of £220 which has been provided to clear all the moss and weeds from the bus shelter roof. Members to note that there is a bit of rot on the rear right-hand corner of the roof.

11.8 To receive an update on the Coquet Mouth sign.

The Coquet Mouth sign has now been installed; however, we no longer have a spare should we need one. Staff have received a quote of £54 + VAT to order a replacement. Members to discuss the quote and if a spare is required.

11.9 To receive a quote for a plaque of the Radcliffe School Memorial.

The Radcliffe school Memorial stone within the Memorial Gardens is continuing to deteriorate. Members agreed at Full Council to place a plaque alongside the memorial to preserve history. Staff have requested a quote for a slanted sign on metal stakes 1200mm x 350mm. A quote will be presented at the meeting if available.

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11.10 To receive an update on the Longstone Manor bus shelter.

The new bus shelter is now in place at Longstone Manor on Acklington Road. Staff have contacted home group regarding a maintenance charge payable to ATC, if no forward.

13: AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Cllr Weir to update at meeting. It was noted the truck had been planted and was now painted.

13.2 To discuss independent Funerals and the Scattering of Ashes

In the light of current Health and Safety regulations, Members are asked to discuss whether to discontinue the above.

14: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members are asked to note both recent playground reports. Members are also asked to note the additional photograph attached showing that NCC have filled the hole on the rope bridge ledge with a special form of silicone that can easily be removed if necessary.

14.2 To note updated Memorial Policies sent to Funeral Director and Stone Masons.

All updated Memorial Policies have been forwarded to Funeral Directors and Stone Masons.

14.3 To note the Fixed Appliances test and Fire extinguisher test are complete.

Members to note the fixed appliance test took place on the 2nd of April and the fire extinguisher test took place on the 20th of May.