

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MARCH 2024

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 30 May 2024 at 6.00pm

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

1: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

None

2: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None

3: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

None

4: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No public attended.

5: ALLOTMENTS:

5.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members noted report, however, were disappointed there was no representative present.

Staff to enquire how the registering of plot holders keeping birds is going.

Also what is the policy regarding the recording of access to keys for bollards as it has been noted that a van is regularly seen parked up one of the walkways.

Enquiries were still being made with HRMC regarding the need for AAHS to set up a Trust as was indicated by their National Association. The concern was that this could also transfer the land to their part ownership.

5.2 To receive an update on skips if available.

No update available. Staff to chase up.

5.3 Site visit – any items to note/action.

It was noted that there was a lot of overhanging willow which requires cut back.

It was also noted culvert works are paused.

Members took down old culvert notices.

7: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members noted the reports. Cllr Weir is to collect from storage and drop off the Christmas Tree lights to the Christmas Lights Committee as they have agreed to add the lights to the tree at High Street Gardens when required. These to be checked and Council informed when new are required.

A replacement West Cemetery entrance noticeboard was discussed, staff to investigate further.

8: TOWN:

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

Members noted the flood lights and photocell have now been replaced and are in full working order.

9: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

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

No update available. Cllr Bewley to send staff a separate contractor's details in the hopes to move forward with this.

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

Members were informed that the gates had now been repainted.

9.3 To receive an update on fountain area turf.

Ongoing, Cllr Weir to take another look at the area.

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

Staff are to arrange a site visit with a contractor as soon as possible to go over ideas as this could impact the laying of new turf.

9.5 To receive an update on Memorial safety signage.

Staff to get a quote for an A5 sign to be attached at the West Cemetery entrance after checking the post at the entrance to see this can be used. Signage already in place within the cemetery ground will be monitored as they may require being concreted into place later this year.

9.6 To note update with contractor re: cemetery drainage.

No update as ground is too saturated at present.

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

Members retrospectively agreed to the cost of £10.05 for the replacement water butt pipe.

9.8 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme.

Members were informed that work had begun laying down unstable memorials. The cost of this is to be given recommended for approval at Full Council. Going forward members agreed up to the cost of £800 per section.

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

Members retrospectively agreed to the cost of £650 to ensure all the boundary fence is secure.

The following has been added at the chair's discretion:

Site meeting update regarding weed killing within the cemetery.

Cllr Bewley and Cllr Parks met with the contractor on site at the West Cemetery to discuss their extreme displeasure at the unauthorised overzealous use of weed killer. This issue will also be raised at the next SLA meeting.

Memorial Plaque:

A relative reported that his plaque had fallen from the Memorial Wall. This would be reinstated.

East Cemetery:

It was highlighted that the handle on the East Cemetery gate is becoming loose. Staff to check.

10: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

10.1 To receive an update on the damaged seat.

Members noted the replacement seat and plaque.

Staff to contact the supplier of the former seat to inform them that members do not wish to have the seat repaired or returned and they may dispose of it.

10.2 To note upcoming ROSPA inspection.

Members noted the upcoming ROSPA inspection.

10.3 To discuss cradle swing quote.

Members agreed to purchase only one swing to replace the damaged one that was removed. However, if vandalism continues Amble Town Council reserve the right to remove any equipment altogether.

10.4 To discuss relocation of a picnic table.

Staff to seek quotes to lay a new base to relocate the picnic table and to remove the old base and back fill with soil and grass seed. Members have agreed up to the cost of £1000 for this work. A site visit with the contractor to be arranged.

10.5 To discuss placement of a water meter or alternative.

Staff to arrange an onsite visit with a contractor to go over ideas of installing an isolator and what this would cost.

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

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

Members were informed that all new bins have now been installed and any older bins have been relocated or disposed of.

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

Staff to arrange a site visit with a contractor to go over ideas.

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

As there have been no further responses from Northumberland Homes regarding replacing the damaged bin, members agreed to staff sending an invoice for the cost of a replacement bin.

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

Members noted the new memorial plaque installed on a seat at Bay View.

11.5 To note Tree Survey date if available.

Members were informed the next Tree Survey will take place the week commencing the 10th of June.

11.6 To receive an update on Percy Drive bus shelter

Members were informed that the replacement panels have been delayed but should be installed on the 3rd of June.

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

Members agreed to the quote of £220 to remove the moss from the Church Street bus shelter roof. Cllr Bewley to send contractor's details to staff to get quotes for repairing the rot that is appearing on some of the roof.

11.8 To receive an update on the Coquet Mouth sign.

Members agree to order a spare Coquet Mouth sign. Cllr & Mr Lewis were thanked for again agreeing to pay the cost of the sign.

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

Staff are waiting on example designs and costs. Members agreed up to £300 for the new sign and delegated to Chair and Vice Chair.

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

Staff to confirm with Longstone Manor that if Amble Town Council receive no maintenance charge for the new bus shelter, then responsibility of the bus shelter will lay with themselves and not Amble Town Council.

13: AGENDA ITEMS:

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

The Amble Inn have agreed to the suggested arrangement between themselves and Amble Town Council regarding the coal truck and the fish sculpture. Cllr Weir to collect the signed agreement.

Cllr Weir to inform the Amble Inn that Amble Town Council will purchase the sponsorship plaque once their donation has been received, this will be A5 in size with a silver background with a dark blue border and lettering - Sponsored by The Inn Collection – The Amble Inn.

13.2 To discuss independent Funerals and the Scattering of Ashes.

Members agreed going forward due to new Health and Safety regulations Amble Town Council will no longer allow independent funerals or the independent scattering of ashes within the West Cemetery. To be ratified at Full Council.

14: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members noted the reports.

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

Members noted updated Policies have been circulated.

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

Members noted the Fixed Appliances test and Fire extinguisher test are now complete.

15: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 25th July 2024, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.