

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MARCH 2025

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 27th March 2025 at 6.00pm

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

76: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

None

77: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None

78: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

None

79: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public were present except for Mr Crisp on behalf of the AAHS Secretary

80: ALLOTMENTS:

80.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members noted the report

1. Avian Bird Flu

AAHS continue to monitor government guidelines.

2. Allotment Hut

The hut is open on Saturdays and Sundays.

3. Meetings & Inspections

Inspections will take place on the 30th of March.

4. Improvements

Assistance from plot holders to clean the gardens which require some TLC has been arranged

5. Waiting list

The waiting list is still very strong with inquiries on a daily basis

6. Communication with Members.

AAHS continues to communicate with members via AAHS Facebook page, posters placed on East & West sites, word of mouth, and email when available. Signs were put up regarding parking near the entrance on Percy Drive, but someone took them down overnight.

7. Water

Water is now off and will be turned on at the back end of March

Mr Crisp reported that 2 allotments were to be allocated to Amble Youth Project.

8 people who had yet to pay rent were being contacted.

There were currently 8 vacant plots but more were anticipated.

Members asked that new tenants were advised to site poultry and bonfires at the end furthest from walkways and housing.

80.2 To receive an update on damaged fence

Members were informed the fences had been repaired.

80.3 To receive an update on Allotment Survey

Members asked Mr Crisp to thank Mr Elliot for his cooperation with the survey.

82: ASSETS REPORTS:

82.1 To note and discuss issues and agree any actions required from the reports, if available

Members noted both reports.

83: TOWN:

83.1 To receive an update on Tree Survey report works.

All tree works have all been carried out.

83.2 To receive an update on the painting of Memorial Tower Rails and Door before May 2025 event

Repainting was completed on the 27th of March.

83.3 To receive an update on flower bed signage.

Members agreed to the proof signage and sizes, members agreed, after consultation by staff with the Chair and Vice Chair, up to the cost of £500 for the signage including the Radcliffe School Memorial signage, see 86.1.

84: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

84.1 To receive an update on all kerb work

Work has not yet started. Staff to chase up contractor for a start date. Staff to inform NCC and funeral directors once a start date has been arranged as vehicular access will not be possible.

84.2 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme.

Work is ongoing.

84.3 To receive an update on damaged fence.

The fence was repaired on the 19th of March.

84.4 To discuss damage within the cemetery.

During recent checks it was noted the boundary fence between the compound and the allotments is partially down. Staff to seek quotes to refix in place as the fence is not damaged. The Chair and Vice Chair have been delegated to approve.

It was also noted machinery treads have caused some damage to the land in front of the mortuary. Staff have confirmed with the contractor that no equipment will be stored in the mortuary building after the 28th of March.

Staff to ask the contractor who will be carrying out the tarmac work within the cemetery if rather than have the cost of disposal, the removed debris could be deposited and rolled here to tidy up this area.

84.5 To receive an update on fountain maintenance.

The fountain maintenance was carried out on the 26th of March, and the water was also turned on. The fountain is programmed to turn on at 8am and turn off at 6pm. Staff to check the tap beside the office cemetery is working since the water switch on.

85: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

85.1 To receive an update on turf

Cllr Weir was informed the size of turf required was 5ftx8f. Cllr Weir to make arrangements and inform staff if any other assistance is needed.

85.2 To receive an update on placement of a water meter or alternative.

Staff have chased up, no updates available.

85.3 To receive an update on the repainting of the balance beams

The repainting has all been done.

85.4 To receive an update on equipment caps

Members were informed replacement caps for the caterpillar had been ordered at a cost of £12.43 had now been installed, and replacement caps for the small and large multi units and the activity board are being sent from the supplier. NCC to install once they arrive.

85.5 To discuss damaged play equipment

Staff assessed the issue with the teacup kick board. NCC have now repaired this.

85.6 To receive an update on the Water Feature.

The new and improved water feature was installed on the 26th of March. Staff checked and tested while contractor was onsite. Each button press allows 25 seconds of water. NCC have been asked to take monthly meter readings so staff can become aware of usage. It was determined that as there was only 2 weeks until the school holiday, the feature would remain on.

The contractor has been asked to return the metal plate when they return the old handle next month.

Philip Drive:

85.7 To receive a quote to repaint railings.

Staff to seek further quotes.

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

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

Members agreed to the proof signage and size, members agreed up to £500 for the signage including the two flower bed signs, see 83.3

86.2 To receive an update on seat bar installation into agreed bus shelters.

Work has not yet started. Staff to chase up contractor for a start date.

Staff to inform the resident who originally raised the lack of seating at the bus shelters once work begins.

86.3 To discuss options for bus shelter on Acklington Road

This was placed here under Cllr. Watson's member's small scheme. Disabled access is restrictive and therefore it will need to be replaced. Staff would contact Cllr Watson to appraise him of the situation and enquire, should he be re-elected, would he be willing to fund the work again. Matter to be brought back to full council.

86.4 To discuss location for the 'chatty bench'

Members agreed a good location for the 'chatty bench' would be on the Braid.

Members agreed up to £500 for installation should permission be granted.

Staff to contact Danny Goodall of Country Parks to request permission and ask for him to arrange removal of the existing.

86.5 To discuss the 2025 seat replacement schedule

A seat replacement schedule was agreed in 2022. Members have agreed to replace the ten seats on this year's schedule and also to replace any plaques which are currently installed on the seats to be replaced.

Most of the existing seats will be disposed of due to their deterioration, however there are four serviceable seats which members would like to donate to AYP for their premises and allotments and Border Links Allotment project should they wish to accept them.

Members also discussed the seat on Philip Drive, it was agreed to remove this seat as it was originally installed for the bus stop however there is no longer a bus stop here.

86.6 To receive an update on the reinstallation of seat and trees along Percy Drive/ Hauxley Grange.

Members noted the seat base has been laid; however, the base appears to have been designed to house flower beds which were not agreed by ATC and currently the base presents a trip hazard. Staff have contacted Dan Nicholson of Persimmon Homes to discuss this.

87: COMMUNICATIONS:

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

A query regarding the movement of a headstone

The headstone was located adjacent to a tarmac path. No machinery uses that path for any access or work and therefore members felt this was the normal deterioration through age.

89: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members noted both reports

89.2 To note a quote for the servicing of the roller shutters is being sourced.

Members were informed that staff are sourcing quotes to service the window and door roller shutters on the West Cemetery office.

89.3 To note delivery of the Barndale-by-the-Sea commemorative plaque.

Noted, staff to contact Barndale-by-the-Sea school to find out if the raised bed was complete so that Chair can arrange handover of the plaque.

89.4 To note Fire Extinguisher test date

Members noted a test date had been booked for the 6th of May. Staff to contact members nearer the time to arrange someone to meet the contractor onsite for the test to be carried out.

89.5 To note fixed appliance test date

Members noted the test date had been brought forward to the 9th of April. Staff to contact members nearer the time to arrange someone to meet the contractor onsite for the test to be carried out.

89.6 To note PAT testing has been carried out

Members noted PAT testing had been carried out on the 5th of March.

89.7 To note letter sent to stone masons.

Members noted staff wrote to all stone masons to remind them of the policies regarding maximum sizes of memorials, after it was noted, some may not be adhering to size regulations for the West Cemetery.

89.8 To note staff course, completed.

Noted.

89.9 To note installation of Memorial Plaque

Members noted the memorial plaque had been installed on the seat just past the shore base was installed on the 4th of February.

90: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 29th May 2025, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.