

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2025

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 29th May 2025 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Bewley (Chair) Cllr Parks (Vice Chair), Cllr Rackham, Cllr Dawson, Cllr Connolly, S Moore - Minutes

1: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Cllr Richards - Accepted

2: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None

3: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Rackham declared an interest as he was an allotment holder.

4: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public were present except for Mr Elliot (AAHS Secretary)

5: ALLOTMENTS:

5.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members noted the report

1. Avian Bird Flu

AAHS have confirmed the mandatory housing measures, which required poultry and captive birds to be kept indoors to prevent the spread of bird flu were lifted as of 00:01 on Thursday 15th of May 2025.

2. Allotment Hut

The hut is open on Saturdays and Sundays.

3. Meetings & Inspections

Inspections took place on the 30th of March.

4. Improvements

Three gardens which required some TLC have now been let out.

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 on until the end of the summer.

Mr Elliot confirmed the misuse of town bins near to the allotments are being addressed

Lack of gas bottle signage was raised, members agreed ATC will print copies and Mr Elliot will make them available in the allotment hut for tenants with gas bottles to collect.

Cllr Rackham took no part in the decision after declaring an interest.

Mr Elliot left

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2025

5.2 To receive an update on knotweed.

Members were informed that a further treatment had been applied to the knotweed. Further treatments will be applied every 2-3 months.

5.3 To receive an update from the A.G.M.

The AGM was not well attended. Issues raised at the AGM focused on the misunderstanding between rent increases and association fee increases. This was clarified with the tenants in attendance. Cllr Parks suggested including the possibility of an annual increase at the discretion of the committee.

7: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members noted both reports.

Staff to send members a copy of the Asset Zone List.

8: TOWN:

8.1 To receive an update on flower beds signage

Discussions with the contractor are ongoing. Staff to chase up.

Members discussed the possibility of having audio QR codes added to ATC's signage throughout the town, to be discussed further at the next Full Council meeting.

8.2 To receive an update on flower bed planting

Members were informed the flower bed to the right of the Radcliffe Memorial in the Memorial Gardens has been planted with 30 rose bushes at a cost of £417 plus VAT. The flower bed was planted to commemorate the Centenary of the Clock Tower.

Staff informed members former Mayor, Craig Weir has confirmed the flowers for the VE/VJ tiered flower bed to the right of the Radcliffe Memorial have been sourced and would not be possible to cancel at this stage.

Members discussed ideas to possibly commemorate VJ day, to be discussed further at the next Full Council meeting.

8.3 To note removal of Covid signage at Memorial Gardens

The removal of the Covid signage was noted. Staff informed members NCC had been asked if they could also remove a pole which was left in one of the beds.

9: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

9.1 To receive an update on all kerb and drive work

Members were informed all works were completed.

9.2 To receive an update on memorial safety inspection

Memorial safety inspections are currently being conducted. Staff have requested quotes to lay down any unstable memorials due to Health and Safety.

9.3 To receive an update on damaged fence.

No updates available. Staff to chase up.

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

Site visit –

It was noted all weeds had been strimmed and cleared in section A. There are however still some weeds in a few graves further along in the cemetery. Staff to contact NCC to check when these will be removed.

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2025

There were concerns over the number of memorials which had been laid down for health and safety after becoming unstable, to be investigated further. Members asked to be updated on the professional recommendations.

East Cemetery

9.4 To receive an update on memorial safety inspection

Memorial safety inspections are currently being conducted. Staff have requested quotes to lay down any unstable memorials due to Health and Safety.

9.5 To receive an update on gate handle repair

Members were made aware a contractor has been instructed to carry out a repair at the cost of £50. The town clerk authorised the maintenance works to be carried out under minor maintenance costs.

10: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

10.1 To receive an update on turf

Members were made aware replacement turf was laid on the 1st of May, NCC will continue to monitor and water during the warm weather until it starts to grow, members were asked to note it may not establish due to the area.

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

Staff have chased up, no updates available. To be added to the next Full Council for further discussion.

10.3 To receive an update on monthly meter readings for Water Feature

Members received both meter readings taken on 2nd April and 2nd May. It was noted water usage for a month is quite substantial, with a difference of 3639. An update to be given at Full Council following a further meter reading which will be taken on the 2nd of June.

10.4 To receive an update on equipment caps

Members were informed NCC have installed replacement missing/broken caps on the small multi-unit, the large multi-unit and the green activity board. Spare caps/covers were returned to staff.

Philip Drive:

10.5 To receive a quote to repaint railings.

Members agreed to wait until the obscured fence has been cleared before carrying out any repainting works. Once cleared staff to request an updated quote. Staff to chase up the owner of the overgrown land.

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

11.1 To receive an update on plaque for the Radcliffe School Memorial

Discussions with the contractor are ongoing. Staff to chase up.

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

Members were informed that the new seat bars have been installed.

11.3 To discuss options for bus shelter on Acklington Road

Members were informed the new bus shelter has now been ordered at a total cost of £5484.00 including the exceptional traffic management and permit costs. It is anticipated to be installed around the end of July.

It was noted that there is currently a seat within the shelter. Staff to contact the contractor to ask if they can remove and dispose of the seat when installing the shelter.

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2025

11.4 To receive an update on the ‘chatty bench’

Members discussed the possibility of installing the ‘chatty bench’ on the old railway line, to be discussed further at Full Council.

11.5 To receive an update on the 2025 seat replacement schedule

Members were informed NCC have started installing the new seats, along with replacement memorial and ATC plaques were required.

Seven seats to be disposed of and four seats for donation, if required there will be one spare, however storage of this would need to be organised.

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

No updates available. Staff to chase up.

11.7 To receive an update on installation of bus shelters on Percy Drive.

This issue is ongoing, and staff continue to chase for updates. This will also be raised at the next Locality meeting.

12: COMMUNICATIONS:

12.1 To note letter sent to Stone Mason

Members noted the letter.

12.2 To note complaint regarding the West Cemetery.

Members noted the complaint. Discussions are ongoing.

13: AGENDA ITEMS:

13.1 To discuss High Street Bus Shelter

Members agreed to replacing the panels within the shelter to clear polycarbonate panels due to the condition of the mesh panels currently installed. At a cost of £1098.66 + VAT 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 both reports

14.2 To note shutter servicing report

Members noted the report.

The report highlighted that the two doorway shutters currently have no fall-back protection.

Members agreed to the quote of £600 + VAT to fit new guides which would have lock housings at both the top and bottom to address the issue. To be ratified at Full Council.

14.3 To note Cllrs attendance to Barndale-by-the-Sea School

Noted

14.4 To note Fire Extinguisher testing has been carried out

Noted

14.5 To note fixed appliance testing has been carried out

Noted

14.6 To note ROSPA safety inspection

Noted

14.7 To note clock service

Noted

14.8 To receive an update on the King Edwin Primary School commemorative plaque

Members were informed the handover of the commemorative plaque will be arranged once the schools play equipment arrives.

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MAY 2025

14.9 To note Clock Tower drainage channel inspection

Noted

15: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 31st July 2025, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.

The next site visit prior to the meeting will be held at the East Allotments at 5.15pm.