

Amenities Committee Agenda Report – 25th September 2025

Prepared by Suzanne Moore

35: ALLOTMENTS:

35.1 To receive a report from AAHS, if available

Members are asked to note the report

35.2 To receive an update on knotweed.

The contractor is to treat the knotweed at Gloster Hill the week commencing the 22nd of September, Staff to check when the next treatment is due to be applied to the knotweed at the East Allotments.

35.3 To discuss installing a bollard at the west allotments

The drive at the West Allotments has recently been renewed. Members are asked to discuss installing a bollard like the ones at the east allotments to prevent vehicle access to reduce any premature damage to the drive.

37: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members are asked to note both reports.

38: TOWN:

38.1 To receive an update on flower beds signage

Members are asked to note both signs have now arrived. Staff to seek quotes to have backing plates produced for the signage including square posts to install them.

38.2 To discuss the noticeboard on Links Avenue

Members are asked to discuss either replacing or removing the noticeboard altogether on Links Avenue due to the condition of the Perspex which has discoloured, making it hard to see any paperwork within the noticeboard.

Staff have received a quote of £3,757.20 for a new A0 double door noticeboard, and a quote of £2,209.20 for a new A2 single door noticeboard.

38.3 To receive a quote to repair the coal trucks, if available

Staff are still awaiting quotes to repair the coal trucks.

39: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

39.1 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

Following the recent memorial safety inspection, 73 unstable headstones were identified, of which 67 memorials have been laid down so far, with a further 3 likely to be laid down.

39.2 To receive an update on installation of memorials

Staff are investigating a possible cause for the high number of unstable memorials. Staff will update members once professional advice has been sought.

39.3 To receive a quote to repair a damaged fence, if available

Staff have requested quotes to reinstate the fence which has fallen over between the compound and the West Allotments.

39.4 To receive a quote to refix memorial wall plaque

Staff have received a quote of £45 to refix a memorial plaque which has come loose from the memorial wall. Members to discuss.

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39.5 To receive an update on damaged tree

Members agreed to a quote of £1050.00 prior to the meeting due to health and safety, to fell the damaged tree within the compound near the cemetery office. The contractor has been instructed to carry out the works as soon as possible. Members are asked to retrospectively approve the cost.

East Cemetery

39.6 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

A contractor has been instructed to lay down three failed memorials. Staff will update members once the work has been carried out.

39.7 To receive a quote to repair wall

Staff are still awaiting quotes to repair the wall.

40: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

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

Previously members have asked for a new water meter closer to the water feature. Meetings with a contractor did take place and there was some discussion regarding the suitability of what is currently in place. The contractor was due to contact the council with possible alternative solutions however this has gone on for some time now and no information has been forthcoming despite requests from staff. Members are asked to consider alternative options.

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

Members to note the recent meter readings taken on the 1st of August was 4312 and on the 1st of September was 4422. It appears the usage between August and September is quite normal. Previous investigations ascertained there was not a leak within the system, but concerns were raised following the substantial usage between April 0388 and May 4027 however staff have realised this coincided with the Easter Holidays. NCC will continue to carry out monthly meter readings.

40.3 To receive an update on works required as highlighted in ROSPA report

It was agreed in the last SLA meeting should the cycle rack not have been donated by September's amenities meeting, members are to discuss whether to dispose of it. Staff have been advised the reason the ground around the Caterpillar, seat, ball tube etc is constantly needing relevelled is due to excessive weed killing in the areas. Members to discuss the issue going forward.

40.4 To receive an update on damaged surface repair

In the spirit of partnership NCC agreed at the last SLA meeting to repair the surface at the park entrance gate with del-set. Staff are awaiting an update.

40.5 To receive a quote to repair park gates

Staff are still awaiting quotes to repair the park gates which were highlighted on the recent ROSPA report.

40.6 To receive a quote to repair grass matting

Staff have received a quote of £11,210.56 to repair the grass matting that was highlighted on the recent ROSPA report. Members are asked to discuss.

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Philip Drive:

40.7 To receive a quote to repaint railings if available

Staff have chased up the owner responsible for the overgrown land to request this be cut back so our contractor can gain access to repaint all the fencing. Still no response.

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

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

Members are asked to note the sign has now arrived. Staff to seek quotes to have a backing plate produced for the signage including square posts to install it.

41.2 To receive an update on the bus shelter on Acklington Road

As agreed at September's Full Council staff have informed the contractor to carry out works to add a full side end to the approach side of the bus shelter.

Members to note when installing the new bus shelter the wrong seat was installed, the company are aware, staff will update members once the issue has been rectified.

41.3 To receive an update on the high street bus shelter

The contractor informed staff replacing the old panels was due to take place early September. Staff have requested an update.

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

Members are asked to note the seat has now been installed, however there doesn't appear to have been any trees planted yet.

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

Staff contacted the Highways Infrastructure Manager on the 23rd of July for an update.

In the planning conditions Persimmons have to install shelters on Percy Drive which then would become the responsibility of ATC. Persimmons are disputing NCC have completed a technical sign off however ATC have been made aware NCC are not in a position to technically sign off bus shelters so they are not included in NCC's technical schedules but that does not mean they are not required. This issue is ongoing, and staff continue to chase for updates.

This will continue to be raised at Locality meetings until resolved.

41.6 To receive an update on Church Street bus shelter

As agreed at September's Full Council staff have contacted the contractor to begin works to repair the bus shelter roof. Staff will update members once a response has been received.

41.7 To discuss seat on Lindisfarne Road.

Staff have been informed the seat would be unable to be bolted back down as it is. Staff have been advised the seat would need heating up to be able to bend the leg back into place, if an attempt was made to refix without bending the leg back into place it would potentially cause damage to the paving slabs. A contractor will need to be sourced to carry out this work. Members to discuss.

41.8 To discuss damaged seat on Queen Street

Members are asked to discuss whether to repair or dispose the damaged seat which was removed from outside Lawrences.

42: COMMUNICATIONS:

42.1 To note complaint

Members to be updated at meeting.

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43: AGENDA ITEMS:

43.1 To receive an update on bus shelter improvement fund

Ongoing. Staff will inform members once an update is available.

44: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members are asked to note both reports.

To note highlighted issue regarding a loose bar on the Balance Bars. Staff have contacted NCC to see if this can be tightened up.

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

A date will be arranged to handover the plaque once the play equipment has arrived.

44.3 To receive an update on seat being donated

As previously agreed, staff are trying to make arrangements to donate a seat to Border Links for their allotment

44.4 To note removal of an unused concrete seat base

Works now completed

44.5 To note new toddler swing has been installed

The new toddler swing has been installed; the old swing has been disposed of.

44.6 To note shutter safety repair has been carried out

The safety repair was carried out on the 10th of September.

44.7 To note order of rope climb

As agreed at September's Full Council the rope climb has been ordered, NCC to install once received.

44.8 To note order of soil for West Cemetery

Due to the extent of the holes needing filled within the West Cemetery, members agreed prior to the meeting due to health and safety to order 100 x 25L bags of topsoil at a cost of £338.00. Members are asked to retrospectively approve cost.

44.9 To note seat relocated on Queen Street

The seat from the top of queen street has now been relocated at the bottom of queen street, to replace the damage seat which was removed.

44.10 To note cut back of brambles in the East Cemetery

Staff have contacted the contractor to cut back the bramble bushes within the east cemetery.

45: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 27th November 2025, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.