

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – September 2025

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 25th September 2025 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Rackham (Chair) Cllr Richards (Vice Chair), Cllr Connolly, S Moore - Minutes

31: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Cllr Dawson - Accepted

32: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

Members agreed to remove this item from future agendas unless legally required.

33: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

Cllr Rackham declared an interest in Allotments

34: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public present

35: ALLOTMENTS:

35.1 To receive a report from AAHS, if available

Members noted the report

1. Avian Bird Flu

AAHS restrictions have been lifted. We are kept informed by any changes by emails from APHA

2. Allotment Hut

The hut is open on Sundays only due to time of year.

3. Meetings & Inspections

Inspections took place on the 7th of September 2 gardens were found to be unsatisfactory letters have been sent to the plot holders

4. Improvements

Nothing at the moment.

5. Waiting list

The waiting list keeps getting bigger due to people wanting to move to Amble and retire.

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.

7. Water

Water is now on until the end of October.

35.2 To receive an update on knotweed.

Members were informed the contractor was attending Gloster Hill the week commencing the 22nd of September and will attend the East Allotments the week commencing the 29th of September.

35.3 To discuss installing a bollard at the west allotments

Members agreed to install a bollard at the west allotments to prevent premature damage to the drive. Staff to request costs for a bollard and present at November's Amenities meeting.

37: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members noted the reports.

38: TOWN:

38.1 To receive an update on flower beds signage

Members were informed the new signage for the flower beds had arrived. Staff to request quotes for a metal backing plate and posts for the signage.

38.2 To discuss the noticeboard on Links Avenue

Members agreed to remove the noticeboard.

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

Ongoing. Staff to chase up.

39: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

39.1 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

Members were informed 67 of the 73 failed memorials have been laid down. Arrangements have been made for works to be carried out on three of the memorials by the respective deed holders.

Contractor to lay down a further two failed memorials.

Staff to contact resident regarding other memorial.

39.2 To receive an update on installation of memorials

Staff are in the process of gathering information from professional bodies for a possible cause the high number of unstable memorials. Once all information is available members shall be informed.

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

Staff to double check if the boundary fence still requires attention as it may have been repaired without Council's knowledge.

39.4 To receive a quote to refix memorial wall plaque

Members agreed to the cost of £45 to refix the memorial plaque which came loose from the memorial wall.

39.5 To receive an update on damaged tree

Members retrospectively approved the cost of £1050.00 to fell the damaged tree within the compound near the cemetery office due to health and safety.

East Cemetery

39.6 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

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

39.7 To receive a quote to repair wall

Members agreed to the cost of £280.00 to repair the damaged wall at the East Cemetery once confirmation has been received that it is lime mortar to be used. To be deferred to October's Full Council if not.

40: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

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

No updates available. Members agreed to defer to full council to discuss further options.

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

Members noted the meter readings. Staff to send Cllr Rackham a list of all meter readings taken since 1st of April 2025.

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

Members agreed to dispose of the cycle rack. Members agreed to add the issue of excessive weed killing in certain areas to the next SLA.

40.4 To receive an update on damaged surface repair

Members were informed NCC have completed filling the large gap in the surface at the entrance to the play area, and the smaller gaps around the wet pour play area surface are underway.

40.5 To receive a quote to repair park gates

No updates available, staff to chase up.

40.6 To receive a quote to repair grass matting

A date has been arranged with Members and Staff to attend a site visit at the Paddler's to relook at the areas requiring work. Members will discuss the outcome from the site visit on the 30th of October at November's Amenities meeting.

Philip Drive:

40.7 To receive a quote to repaint railings if available

No response from the owner of the overgrown land. Staff to raise a complaint with the company.

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

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

Members were informed the new plaque for the Radcliffe School Memorial had arrived. Staff to request quotes for a metal backing plate and posts for the plaque.

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

Members were informed the replacement seat will be installed on the 4th of October, and that the additional full size panel at the approach end will be installed early November, date to be confirmed once their program has been finalised and the permit has been approved.

41.3 To receive an update on the high street bus shelter

Members were informed the new panels will be installed on the 4th of October

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

Members noted the seat has now been installed.

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

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

41.6 To receive an update on Church Street bus shelter

Members were informed works are scheduled to begin on the 8th of October, weather permitting.

41.7 To discuss seat on Lindisfarne Road.

Staff to source a contractor to provide a quote to repair the seat. Staff to inspect and determine whether seat needs to be removed in the meantime.

41.8 To discuss damaged seat on Queen Street

Members agreed to dispose of the damaged seat which was removed.

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42: COMMUNICATIONS:

42.1 To note complaint

Members noted the complaint.

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.

Member noted the reports. Staff have asked NCC to tighten up the loose bar on the Parallel Bars that was noted on the Paddlers Park report

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

Members were reminded a date will be arranged to handover the plaque once the play equipment has arrived. To be added to October's Full Council.

44.3 To receive an update on seat being donated

Arrangements are still ongoing to donate a seat to Border Links for their allotment.

44.4 To note removal of an unused concrete seat base

Noted

44.5 To note new toddler swing has been installed

Noted

44.6 To note shutter safety repair has been carried out

Noted

44.7 To note order of rope climb

Noted

44.8 To note order of soil for West Cemetery

Members retrospectively approved the cost of £338.00 for 100 x 25L bags of topsoil to top up memorials due to health and safety.

44.9 To note seat relocated on Queen Street

Noted

44.10 To note cut back of brambles in the East Cemetery

Noted

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.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: To consider passing the following resolution: That under section 1(2) the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the agenda due to the confidential personnel interests.

PRIVATE

46: Agenda

46.1 To discuss SLA

Members deferred to Full Council to discuss further.