

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – AMENITIES COMMITTEE – JULY 2025

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 31st July 2025 at 6.00pm

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

16: APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE:

Cllr Richards – Accepted

Cllr Dawson - Accepted

17: BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

None

18: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

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

19: PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

No members of the public

20: ALLOTMENTS:

20.1 To receive a report from AAHS.

Members noted the report

1. Avian Bird Flu

AAHS have confirmed all restrictions have been lifted, and that they 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

AAHS will inform Cllr Bewley once a date has been arranged.

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.

20.2 To receive an update on knotweed.

Staff informed members the next dose of weed killer to be applied to the knotweed will take place in the next few weeks.

20.3 To discuss installing a bollard at the west allotments

Members discussed the possibility of installing a bollard at the entrance to the East Allotments. Cllr Bewley will discuss further with AAHS and inform members of the outcome at the next Amenities meeting.

20.4 To receive an update on misuse of town bins at the East Allotments.

Staff contacted AAHS to inform allotment holders should they continue to discard allotment waste into the bins around the East Allotments there would be no other choice than to remove them as this was posing a health and safety risk to NCC

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operatives emptying the bins. AAHS added signage to the town bins around the East Allotments reminding tenants the bins are not for allotment waste. There have been no reports of misuse of the bins since.

22: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members noted the reports.

Staff will contact NCC to find out if the Zone cleaning schedule has begun again. Zone cleaning to be added to the next SLA.

Staff to add the step and slope leading to the telescope onto the monthly asset report as an area to be monitored.

23: TOWN:

23.1 To receive an update on flower beds signage

The contractor could not fully fulfil the order for the signage due to lack of communication from the 3rd party fabrication for the backing plate and posts.

Members agreed to purchase the Amble War Memorial Centenary sign and the V.E. / V.J. Commemoration sign at a cost of £36 each, staff to seek quotes for backing plates and posts for both.

23.2 To receive an update on flower bed planting

All planting was carried out on Thursday the 24th of July.

Members were informed the overall cost for the plants and delivery was £293. Staff to contact NCC to ask if they can continue to water the plants every few days due to the warm weather we are experiencing.

23.3 To discuss removal of an unused concrete seat base

Members agreed to the quote of £260 to remove an unused concrete pad on Philip Drive. The cost includes removal of the concrete pad, all hardcore, refill with topsoil and then grass seed the area.

23.4 To discuss the noticeboard on Links Avenue

Members discussed the condition of the notice board on Links Avenue. Staff to seek quotes to replace perspex and also quotes for a replacement. Quotes to be presented at September's Full Council.

Members agreed to discuss a risk assessment for opening noticeboards due to weather conditions at August's Full Council.

24: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

24.1 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

Members were informed 36 memorials which failed both the recent and previous safety inspections have now been laid down. Staff to contact known deed holders of a further 37 memorials which failed the recent safety inspection, should no response be forthcoming staff will arrange to have the memorials laid down for health and safety.

24.2 To receive an update on installation of memorials

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

24.3 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.

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24.4 To receive an update on the shutter safety repair

The contractor has ordered the parts for the job. Staff to inform members once a date has been arranged to begin works.

East Cemetery

24.5 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

Ongoing. Staff to inform members once works are completed.

24.6 To receive an update on gate handle repair

Repair works have been carried out.

The following has been added at the chair's discretion

Site Visit -

It appears someone has reversed into the wall at the car park side of the cemetery, this has caused a slight bow in the wall and dislodged a stone and some mortar.

Staff to seek quotes to carry out a repair.

Staff to ask NCC if they could remove the build-up of litter from the top left corner of the cemetery.

Staff to ask the contractor to tidy up the brambles as the area is slightly overgrown.

Staff to confirm with NCC if the wildflower area is normally cut this time of year.

25: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

25.1 To receive an update on turf

The turf has established well.

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

No updates available. Staff to chase up.

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

Members noted the meter readings.

25.4 To discuss works required as highlighted in ROSPA report

Members agreed to remove the cycle rack. Staff to contact National Landscapes to possibly donate the cycle rack on the condition it remains within the Amble area, if not the cycle rack will be disposed of.

Staff to arrange a site meeting with a contractor to discuss matting under a number of the area's gym equipment.

Staff to seek quotes to alleviate the trip hazard around the seat base within the park.

Relevelling of ground around the Caterpillar, Ball game, Talk tubes and around the seat base within the play area to be discussed at the next SLA meeting.

25.5 To discuss damaged surface

Staff to seek quotes to repair the surface in front of the parks gate.

The following has been added at the chair's discretion

Site Visit –

Staff to contact NCC to remove weeds within the area, and to also make them aware of the damaged rail near to the sea wall.

Staff to seek quotes to repair the play area gates

Cracks appearing at the steps and sloped area leading to the telescope were noted to monitor. Staff to add to the monthly asset reports.

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Philip Drive:

25.6 To receive a quote to repaint railings if available

No response from the owner of the overgrown land. Staff to continue to chase up.

25.7 To discuss works required as highlighted in ROSPA report

NCC have informed staff they have filled the gaps highlighted on the ROSPA report.

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

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

The contractor could not fully fulfil the order for the signage due to lack of communication from the 3rd party fabrication for the backing plate and posts. Members agreed to purchase the Radcliffe School Memorial sign at a cost of £52, staff to seek quotes for backing plate and posts.

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

Members were informed the new bus shelter was installed on Thursday the 31st of July. Staff to inspect installation.

26.3 To receive an update on the high street bus shelter

The contractor has informed staff replacing the old panels is due to take place early September.

26.4 To receive an update on the 'chatty bench'

The 'chatty bench' has now been installed, and the old bench has been disposed of.

26.5 To receive an update on the 2025 seat replacement schedule

All new seats and replacement plaques have now been installed.

26.6 To receive an update on the reinstatement of seat and trees along Percy Drive/ Hauxley Grange

Members were asked to note the base for the new seat had been installed however it was designed for flowers either side of the seat. Staff informed Persimmons this was not agreed, and the areas have now been filled.

No further updates available regarding the installation of the seat or planting of trees that were agreed to during a site visit on the 5th of February. To be discussed at August's Full Council.

26.7 To receive an update on installation of bus shelters on Percy Drive

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

26.8 To discuss church street bus shelter

Members discussed the safety concerns if Council wait for grant approval to carry out the repair to the bus shelter roof. Members agreed the repair needs to be carried out sooner rather than later. Approval to carry out the repair now will be sought at August's Full Council.

27: COMMUNICATIONS:

27.1 To note complaint

Members noted the complaint.

28: AGENDA ITEMS:

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

No quotes available. Staff to chase up.

28.2 To discuss approving minutes at the following amenities meeting

Members agreed to approving minutes at the following amenities meetings going forward. A draft copy will be uploaded to the website pending approval.

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28.3 To discuss picture to be added to a memorial

Members agreed to the size of the picture to be added to a memorial.

29: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members noted the reports.

29.2 To note ROSPA safety inspection

Members agreed to look to restrain the picnic tables next year as no immediate attention was required. Staff to add to March 2026 Amenities Meeting.

Members agreed to replace the older red and black toddler swing. Staff to order.

Staff to continue to monitor the weekly playground reports from NCC. Staff to seek a quote to replace the rope on the junior multi play unit. Quotes to be presented at August's Full Council.

Members were informed the following issues highlighted in the ROSPA report have been carried out

Phillip Drive Play Area -

Weeds have been cleared, gaps filled, and bars straightened.

Paddlers Play Area -

3x caps replaced on caterpillar

Caps replaced on toddler multi-unit

Bolts cut down on seat

Bents bars have been straightened

Bolts altered on junior swings

Play panel has been cleaned and oiled.

29.3 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.

29.4 To receive an update on seats being donated

Members were informed two seats have now been donated to Amble Youth Project and are in the process of making arrangements to donate a seat to Border Links for their allotment.

29.5 To note staff course, completed

Noted.

30: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting date will be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 25th September 2025, in the Town Council Office, Top Floor, Fourways 2, Amble NE65 0DT.