

Amenities Committee Agenda Report – 25th September 2025

Prepared by Suzanne Moore

51: ALLOTMENTS:

51.1 To receive a report from AAHS, if available

Members are asked to note the report

51.2 To receive an update on knotweed.

The contractor has treated the knotweed at Gloster Hill and the East Allotments. Further treatment will possibly be required next year depending on the weather.

51.3 To discuss installing a bollard at the west allotments

After discussion at the recent SLA meeting, it was agreed investigation was needed on whether the ground at the top of the west allotment is suitable for a drop bollard to be installed to prevent premature damage to the drive. Members to discuss who shall carry out the investigation.

53: ASSETS REPORTS:

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

Members are asked to note both reports.

54: TOWN:

54.1 To receive an update on flower beds signage

Staff have requested quotes to have backing plates produced for the signage including square posts to install them, however no responses.

54.2 To receive a quote to repair the coal trucks

The three coal trucks have now emptied of soil ready be repaired.

Staff have received a quote of £3,594 plus VAT to remove wood, shotblast the frames, replace wood with steel plates and paint. Staff have also received a quote of £398 plus VAT to uninstall the coal trucks from their bases and transport to and from the contractor and then reinstall once work has been carried out. Members are asked to discuss.

55: CEMETERIES:

West Cemetery

55.1 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

All memorials which were highlighted on the memorial safety report have now been laid down or repaired apart from one which is in the process of a deeds transfer so works can be carried out.

A contractor laid the remaining two memorials fails in October at a cost of £80

55.2 To receive an update on installation of memorials

After extensive investigation staff have determined that the high number of memorial fails within the West Cemetery predate 2005: First British Standard (BS 8415) when it made the use of approved fixing systems compulsory for new headstones.

Going forward should any memorial become unstable that was installed from 2005 onwards, an investigation will need to be carried out into how the memorial was originally installed.

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

Staff are still to check if the boundary fence between the cemetery office and the west allotments still requires attention as it may have been repaired without Council's knowledge.

Amenities Committee Agenda Report – 25th September 2025

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55.4 To receive an update on damaged tree

The contractor has informed staff the work to the damaged tree will be carried out November/December due to prior commitments.

East Cemetery

55.5 To receive an update on unstable memorial programme

Two of the three memorial fails have now been laid down. The third memorial fail however is unable to be laid as it is unable to be removed from the two trees it has fallen between. A refund is to be issued from the contractor for the third memorial work. Members to discuss whether to leave the memorial as it is or cut down the trees supporting it so that the memorial can be laid flat.

55.6 To receive an update on wall repair

Members agreed in Octobers Full Council to an additional £20 for the use of lime mortar to repair the wall. Total cost for the repair is now £300. Contractor has been informed.

56: PLAY AREAS:

Paddler's Park

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

No updates available. Staff will arrange for a contractor to come out and discuss options with members.

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

Recent meter reading from October was 4500 and from November was 4620.

56.3 To receive a quote to repair park gates

Staff have received a quote of £782 plus VAT to remove, repair and refix the gates which were highlighted on the recent ROSPA safety report.

56.4 To discuss repairs to grass matting

Members to discuss the outcome from the site meeting

Philip Drive:

56.5 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. A formal complaint is to be sent to the owner.

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

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

Staff have requested quotes to have backing plates produced for the signage including square posts to install them, however no responses.

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

The correct size seating bar has now been installed.

The additional full side end to the approach side of the bus shelter has now been installed.

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

Issue is ongoing, and staff continue to chase for updates.

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

Amenities Committee Agenda Report – 25th September 2025

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57.4 To receive an update on Church Street bus shelter

As of the 19th of November, the contractor was yet to be on site due to existing workload and inclement weather. In a telephone conversation with the clerk the contractor suggested an alternative scope of works. In light of those discussions' councillors have requested an updated quotation to include the use of specific materials and have requested further clarify on guttering. The traffic management barriers are to remain place until a way forward can be agreed.

58: COMMUNICATIONS:

None

59: AGENDA ITEMS:

59.1 To receive an update on bus shelter improvement fund

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

59.2 To discuss memorial request

Members are asked to agree one headstone to be installed between two grave plots. The resident requesting the work is the deed holder to both plots.

59.3 To discuss additional bin request

A resident has requested an additional bin to be installed at Hauxley Grange off Percy Drive. NCC have stated they would be ok with this if council agree however it must not go beyond a certain point. Members are asked to note the attached map; the highlighted red line is where the bin cannot go beyond. Members are asked to discuss.

59.4 To discuss over hanging branches over a memorial in the West Cemetery.

A resident is concerned of overhanging branches of a family members headstone. Members are asked to discuss whether or not to cut back the overhanging branches at a cost of £280

Members are asked to be mindful this could set a precedent.

60: INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

Members are asked to note both reports. NCC have confirmed they have tightened the loose bars on the parallel bar equipment. Members are asked to note the gates in the report which are not closing correctly.

60.2 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.

60.3 To note seat being donated has been carried out

The seat has now been delivered to Border Links for their allotment

60.4 To note installation of climb rope

The new climb rope has been installed; the climb rope has been disposed of.

60.5 To note removal of noticeboard on Links Avenue

The damaged noticeboard has been removed and disposed of.

60.6 To note refix of memorial wall plaque

The memorial wall plaque has now been refixed to the wall.

60.7 To note fountain maintenance and water switch off

The fountain maintenance was carried out at the end of October at a cost of £118.80 including VAT. The water has now also been switched off until next year.

Amenities Committee Agenda Report – 25th September 2025

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60.8 To note water switch off at Paddlers Park

The water has now been switched off until next year.

60.9 To note Clock Tower drainage channel inspection report

Members are asked to note the drainage channel inspection report that was carried out on the 7th of November at a cost of £36 including VAT.

60.10 To note replacement panel work has been carried out to the high street bus shelter

The new replacement panel work was carried out on the 4th of October.

60.11 To note seat on Lindisfarne Road has been replaced

The damaged seat has now been replaced. The old seat will be disposed of.

60.12 To note damaged surface repair at Paddlers Park

The damaged surface at Paddlers Park has now all been repaired.

61: DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

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