

Site Visits to Allotments

Following a number of concerns raised by PGA, the Clerk arranged visits with site reps at each of the allotment sites (Redwell still to be arranged). The Clerk has also asked to receive copies of the minutes of meetings, these are included in outside bodies.

Edgewell Allotments

The main issue related to the boundary fence of plots with Milton Grove. This is a continuation of the dilapidated fencing on E30. The Clerk advised the site rep to take this matter to the committee who could then ask the Council to seek costs to repair. Overhanging trees on private residential land were raised and it was discussed the plot holder could remove overhanging branches, but PTC have no power to force the householder in this regard. Fly-tipping at the entrance was discussed and it was agreed this would be cleared.

Castledene Allotments

Reported dripping taps were investigated but found to be fine. The Clerk will arrange for the lower tap on path 2 to be looked at by a plumber. An allotment holder was disappointed that the Council had not agreed to add gravel to path 1 – the risk assessment and consideration behind this was explained.

Stonyflat Allotments

Concerns were raised about trees overhanging from Stanckley Road; the Clerk has contacted Karbon Homes. Concerns were raised about the Council's adherence to Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999. The Clerk has investigated, and this is something that NWL inspect on behalf of Defra. Although there are regulations that must be followed, it is not expected that our sites are in any breach, if they were, we would be advised and given time to remedy this. In view that a plumber is visiting Castledene, the Clerk will ask that all taps are checked to ensure they have double check valves.

Redwell Allotments

Although the Clerk has not met the site rep yet, the issues raised were in relation to hedging and trees. The hedge on path outside Redwell Allotment 1 is cut by NCC and the Clerk has confirmed that it would not be cut until late September. Trees are on land in front of Hillcrest have been noted as a problem; this has been raised with NCC trees officer.

In regards all sites, reps are looking at encouraging more use of water butts, as an alternative to taps.

Tenancy Agreement

The agreement, which is on the agenda, has been simplified as well as now including the rules on fires. The agreement was previously signed by PGA on behalf of the Council, the Clerk has advised that it should be signed by the Clerk.

Highfield Park Skate Park

The Zoom Meeting held on 14th July was excellent; Cllrs and users were inspired by Russ Heideman from CANVAS, and Russ was inspired by the enthusiasm of Cllrs and the community and especially those users present.

The fourth and final tweaks to the design were discussed and agreed. Russ was happy that those changes discussed could be incorporated by the Quantity Surveyor and that a new plan could be drawn up quite quickly. It was discussed that it would be preferred to hold back on

the launch of the new design until a new schedule of works could be calculated. We expect to bring both the final design and the new works schedule to the August Planning, Contract and Works Committee meeting.

Waterworld Play Area

Our solicitor confirmed on 24th June that he had heard from Northumberland County Council that they are in the process of dealing with the surrender of the lease by Active Northumberland.

At the time of writing, there was no further update.

Public Seats

The Clerk has advertised the tender opportunity for the repainting of town, memorial and play area seats.

Some seats require minor repairs. These have been agreed by delegated decision at a cost of £115. The seat on Station Bank requires new surfacing which is also being costed and expected to be agreed by delegated decision.

Seats at The Falcon require significant repair and are no longer considered accessible due to being incredibly low to the ground. With this in mind, the Clerk has been liaising with County Cllr Gordon Stewart about a replacement scheme, to include seating and a planter(s). As this is a large space there is an opportunity to make a big impression in this area.

Costs have been sought for a number of options, for the groundworks required to surfacing and annual planting. It is expected that a decision will be brought to the August Planning, Contract and Works Committee.

Seat at Western Gateway

Prudhoe Ground Force has repointed the stone seat at the Western Gateway; planting looks particularly good this year.

Bus Shelter on the Glade

In a conversation with NCC Streetworks on 27th May, clarification of the section 50 licence required by Northumberland County Council for work on the Highway was fully explained. This has delayed the installation of the new shelter. The conclusion was that it would be advantageous for the contractor to meet with Kevin Mavin (NCC) to agree whether or not a section 50 licence is required. The requirement for a licence depends on the depth of any opening up of the highway.

A further email has been sent asking for progress on the request for a site meeting.

Bus Shelters at Stonyflat Bank

Karbon Homes has commenced legal proceedings for the transfer of land, liaising with our solicitor. The Clerk has confirmed the undertakings and funds are now being held by our solicitor.

There is a need to establish the requirement for a section 50 licence at these sites also. The installation of shelters has been delayed by the land issue and the section 50 licence.

The Glade Working Group

The Clerk has written to NCC Officers, County Cllr Gordon Stewart and agreed members asking for suggested dates to meet. We are awaiting a response.

Tree Survey

Reports were received by the Cemetery Committee relating trees in Edgewell Old and Edgewell New; costs are being sought for the work recommended; endorsement is part of this agenda.

There are also reports relating to Highfield Park, The Glade, Station Roundabout and South Road Toilets (environs of). Recommendations for tree work in these areas will be brought to the Planning, Contract and Works Committee in August or September.

Bus Shelter Maintenance

All shelters were cleaned in June by CF Valeting as part of the routine quarterly clean. The team were also asked to clean West Mickley Play Area due to bird droppings on play equipment. They very kindly cleaned West Mickley Play Area and Riding Dene Play Area, free of charge.

A contractor is looking at the very smart facias on the stone shelters at Prudhoe Golf Club (travelling east) and Cottier Grange (travelling west) with a view to costing the same for the facias on Station Bank (entrance to Castle Road) and Waterworld (travelling east and west). Issues with the facias were noted on the 2020 inspections and need to be addressed.

Road Ends Toilets

A series of minor repairs have been fixed, relating to extractor fans, lights, and the hand dryer.

Litter Bins

New bins have been delivered and will replace the following over the next couple of weeks:

- ✓ B6395 Eastbound (Firestation)
- ✓ Kepwell Link Path (off Station Bank)
- ✓ Side entrance to Castle First School
- ✓ Castlefields Drive (old Lonnen)
- ✓ Edgewell Road/Highfield Lane (outside New Cemetery)
- ✓ Stony Flat Bank, Eastbound (after install of new bus shelter)