

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 11:00 am.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

M Cholerton

M Peden

W Rogers

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

EWG14/16 ENHANCED SERVICES

The Members and Town Clerk undertook an inspection of the bay with a view to prioritising works for the Enhanced Service arrangements with Neighbourhood Services which were due to start early in March.

The public seats around the headland at the Church Point required staining/painting as required and it was noted that the safety rails required repair in places and were in need of painting and this would be referred to the County Council.

Some work was required to replace and re-fix some of the litter bins along the promenade. Some damaged older ones would be removed.

Despite noting the good work to clear sand from the promenade following the surge tide there was a priority need to undertake more detailed sand clearance ahead of the holiday season. It was noted how well the sand distribution trial in the middle of the bay had worked preventing significant problems there and behind the wave wall. Further work would be necessary at the East end to reduce levels of sand below the promenade and clear the ramp for pedestrians. In the longer term the possibility of providing a level surface for elderly and disabled pedestrians would be investigated.

The promenade rails generally required repainting as did the puffin bollards. Repair and replacement work was required in Atlee playground and the Town Clerk was requested to arrange the replacement basket swing and obtain a quotation for the installation of a wet pour surface under the spire net. Outside of the park windblown sand was mounded against the fence and along the slope to the promenade. It was felt this should be removed and redistributed to close the gap with the sand dune.

A drainage problem on the slope in front of Bay View West would be referred to the County Council for a solution.

The planted areas at the Horseshoe Steps required old/dead plants to be cut back and some weeding. Similarly at the end of the promenade in front of Beach Terrace the shrubs needed to be cut back and beds weeded.

The Town Clerk would compile a list of the priorities incorporating the town centre matters and local services requiring attention ahead of the summer season and arrange to meet the Neighbourhood Services Manager to agree a timetable of works.

EWG15/16 ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES

At the Church Point headland it was noted that most of the picnic tables were in poor condition and required replacement as they were well used during the summer season. This would be arranged under the repair and maintenance budget.

The pedestrian access to the headland from the car park remained in poor condition and it was felt that a small environmental scheme should be investigated to improve conditions providing level access and improving the grass areas that were not mown on either side perhaps with sequence wild flower planting. The Town Clerk would discuss with Neighbourhood Services.

The unkempt banks in front of the new housing at Windsor needed attention and Neighbourhood Services would be contacted about having the area cut and seeded with wildflowers to provide summer colour.