

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday May 19th 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Hurst, Mallard, Mayall B.E.M., Roberts M.B.E., Scott and Ms White

with Cllr Rouse, one member of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3292 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Mrs Lee, Lynch Mrs Newstead and Newstead.

3293 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst and Ms White, as serving members of Newark & Sherwood District Council, declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the District Council.

3294 Public Participation

The meeting was closed to take public comments. A resident asked if consideration could be given to installing outdoor adult gym equipment on the playing field, ideally next to the tree areas but away from the children's play equipment and Multi Use Games Areas.

The meeting re-opened and the resident was thanked for their comments. This issue was scheduled for discussion as a later agenda item.

3295 Clerk/Chairman's Update

A printed update of ongoing issues was circulated and noted; the update is published with the minutes. The following issues were discussed from the update:

- 1. Re Minute 3288 Cemetery** It was considered necessary to arrange a separate meeting of the Cemetery Sub Committee to discuss the issue of unauthorised memorials on graves. Members were mindful that this emotive issue would need to be sensitively handled.
- 2. Re Minute 3289.a Priory Close Grass** The Highways Inspector has decided to seek the opinion of the new County Councillor for that ward Cllr Lee, to determine whether action is considered appropriate to prevent vehicular access over this area. This will be highlighted at the Full Council meeting with Cllr Lee.

3296 Playing Field Flooding

Since the last meeting, the County Council's Drainage Manager for this area has been contacted. He has undertaken to look into this issue later in the summer. Severn Trent Water has also

provided plans showing where their pipes are located, along with other known watercourses in this vicinity.

3297 Outdoor Gym Equipment

Members gave discussion to a request for adult, outside gym equipment to be installed on the playing field. Examples of some equipment had been circulated prior to the meeting. On balance members considered that this would be a worthwhile project to pursue. Different pieces could be installed incrementally at sites on the field depending on the equipment's popularity and usage, though grant funding would need to be secured. Enquiries will be made with other Parish Councils who have such equipment to ascertain real costs, usage, funding sources, options etc.

The resident left the meeting.

3298 Dog Control Orders

Members discussed the issue of assistance dogs being exempt from Dog Control Orders (this agenda item was a referral from the Annual Parish Meeting). A resident has questioned the rationale behind this regulation and asked why this exemption does not apply to Newark Cemetery? Members agreed to make enquiries about this claim and ensure that the whole issue is fairly applied across all areas, though they were mindful that the District Council is the authority ultimately responsible for making and enforcing the Orders.

3299 Bar Store

Alternative quotations had been requested to compare with the one supplied by the company that currently maintains the Village Centre air condition/heating units. Just one of the two alternatives has been received which is several hundred pounds more expensive than the original quotation. Given the current low number of event bookings, and therefore reduced income generated from hiring the Village Centre, the Clerk was asked to liaise with the bar manager to explore whether there is a more cost-effective option for keeping the stock cool.

3300 Highway Faults

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities:

- a) Coddington Road is in a very poor condition, considered dangerous in places. Although numerous potholes have been marked with yellow paint in readiness for minor repairs, the road is considered to be in need of completely resurfacing. Half of the road is located within the Coddington County Ward so a joint approach may be necessary. This will be highlighted at next week's Full Council meeting where Balderton's County Councillors are expected to be present.

3301 **Correspondence and Information**

The following item of information/correspondence has been received and was noted:

- a) The Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee Chairman had taken part in an informal meeting with representatives of Newark Town FC. The Club is losing its long-term ground at the former Flowserve factory in the village and the meeting was to hear what the Club needs to go forward and see whether the Parish Council could help in any way. The Council may be in a position to offer some support, even if it is only to offer some training sessions. The Club is also in discussion with the District Council to try and secure a new local base.

3302 **Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Mrs Brooks asked members to give early consideration to marking the Queen's Jubilee next year, possibly with a tree planting scheme.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.20pm.