

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday November 30th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen (Chairman) Mrs Brooks (Vice Chairman), Mrs Batey, Gloster, Mrs Hurst, Green, Mrs Lee, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead and Roberts M.B.E.

with five members of the public, Police A/Inspector Ward, Community Protection Manager Yvonne Swinton and the Clerk.

The Chairman advised all present that the meeting was being recorded.

3451 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fairbairn, Lynch and Ms White.

3452 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3453 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments regarding scheduled agenda items: One resident commented about anti-social behaviour including littering issues at Lakeside. One resident commented about the showering facilities for sports teams asking whether there would be reduced costs to teams if showers are not provided? One resident asked what the public can do to help the police and other agencies fight anti-social behaviour?

They were thanked for their comments and the meeting resumed.

3454 **Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

The meeting was closed to meet with Acting Inspector Ward of Newark Police and the District Council Community Protection Manager Yvonne Swinton regarding anti-social behaviour and crime in Balderton. Inspector Ward re-iterated the need for all incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to be reported to the Police on either 101 or 999 as necessary. It is acknowledged that this process can, on occasions, be time consuming but it is essential to show a true picture of what is really happening within the community and for the agencies to respond and/or patrol it accordingly. They stated the Lake and Playing Field are their priority target areas within the village, and that this forms part of a 'triangle' with the YMCA/Newark Leisure Centre site; young people tend to circulate around this. Wildlife crime has been targeted recently, resulting in

catapult users at Lakeside being dealt with. Yvonne Swinton explained the role and duties of the Community Protection Officer (CPO) team who work closely with the Police, including their ability to issue fixed penalty tickets for littering, dog order offences, etc. The CPO team will be tasked with tackling littering issues in the village, particularly at the Lake. The 'Shop Watch' scheme where shops inform each other of problem gangs and/or shoplifters is being launched in Balderton shortly. The District Council's Environmental Department has a planned Week of Action starting on Monday December 5th to undertake extra litter picking, fly tipping incidents, graffiti removal etc.

The officers were thanked for their information and attendance, and the meeting was re-opened at approximately 7.20pm.

3455 Clerk/Chairman's Update

A printed update of ongoing issues was circulated and noted; the update is published with the minutes. No issues were discussed from the update.

3456 Playing Field Flooding

The de-silting work has now been undertaken to the drain that runs from the field end of Macaulay Drive through to London Road, between several Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue gardens. However, further work is considered necessary as the water is not flowing as quickly as expected and the District Council is still considering commissioning further work to investigate this. The Council's Environment Department has been expedited about this issue but no further response to date has been received. It is thought that this problem drain could be adding to the playing field's slow drainage and long-standing flooding problems.

3457 New Allotment Holders

Some new allotment holders, although always keen to take on a plot, do not always realise the extent of hard work and time needed to keep an allotment in good order. The possible need to alter the arrangements for new allotment holders, in terms of rent/issuing of agreements etc. was referred to the Allotment sub-committee for discussion.

3458 Changing Room Showers

Members reviewed the possibility of withdrawing showering facilities in the changing rooms, as part of the Renewable Energy Working Party's considerations. Certain football teams that use the Council's facilities require showers as part of their Leagues specifications, and one of the cricket teams has the same requirements. Members considered that there is no appetite to not provide showers but would rather increase costs if deemed necessary. Educating users to restrict the length of time spent in the showers, temperature review and flow restrictors are also being considered as prudent options.

3459 **Highway Issues**

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

- a) The light on the pedestrian refuge on London Road near to Sainsbury's is not working properly.
- b) The doors to the telecom control box on the corner of Hawton Lane and Lansbury Road are open, with wires exposed. This has already been reported to British Telecom but a further incident report will be submitted.
- c) Manners Road estate's surface water pumping system does not seem to cope during heavy rainfall; this issue needs highlighting with the County Councillor for that Ward.

3460 **Correspondence and Information**

The following items of information/correspondence have been received and were noted:

- a) The latest routine allotment inspections resulted in a number of letters being sent to allotment holders advising that weed and rubbish clearing work should be undertaken.
- b) Notice that Great North Road between Balderton and Fernwood will be subject to two-way traffic signal controls to install a right turn for the Welcome Break Services, from Monday December 5th to Wednesday December 21st 2022 and then from Thursday January 5th to Sunday 26th February 2023. The works will be restricted to between 9.30am to 3.30pm on weekdays and 8am to 6pm at weekends.
- c) Necessary work was undertaken recently to reduce the height of some trees on the playing field following a request from the Police as the canopy of the trees was impairing the CCTV camera's view and footage.
- d) Cllr Scott has resigned from the Council on ill health grounds. Members asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to him thanking him for his many years' service on the Council.
- e) The latest stakeholder update from Acting Police Inspector Ward.

3461 **Future Agenda Items**

The litter issues around the Lake will again be included on the next committee agenda.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.35pm.