



Balderton Parish Council Amenities Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 14th February 2024 at 7pm

Attendees:

Balderton Parish Councillors: Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Simon Forde, Leigh Marshall (arrived during item 20), Debbie Moore (Vice-chair) and Joy Sellars

Staff: Marion Fox Goddard (Parish Clerk), Jim Brown (Head Groundsman)

Public: 2 Balderton residents

14. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

15. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Elson, Fairbairn, and Hall.

16. Declarations of interest

Simon Forde – District Councillor.

17. Public Open Forum

The chairman of Grove Angling Club spoke about the history of the barriers (item 24) and let the committee know the club supports the removal of them. He also let the committee know that netting will be carried out on February 26th to assess the fish stock.

Another resident suggested separating part of the lake giving the option of a shorter walk for walkers not able to walk the full distance of the lake.

18. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on January 10th, 2024

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and Councillor Moore duly signed them.

19. Clerk's update¹

The following report was noted.

	Item	Update
1	New dog bin Staple Lane	The new dog bin on Staple Lane has been installed. <i>Dog bin requests have been received following the council's social media update on them. To be added to March Amenities agenda for discussion.</i>

¹ Note: *Italics indicate where report has been updated (verbal during meeting) since agenda pack issued.*

	Item	Update
2	Millennium Clock	No update at this stage.
3	Fencing around Heron Way carpark	Work to replace this had been delayed due to rainfall and the holes being full of water. <i>Following recent rainfall, the water level has increased again. The head groundsman explained they will replace the fence from the left-hand side (near the dyke) and move around to where the temporary fencing is as the conditions improve. The suggestion of planting hedging where we have wooden fencing (across parish owned sites) was made to make a longer-term solution to fencing –indicative quotes will be sought for some areas during 2024/25 so the council can consider trialling this and this will be considered when budgeting for 2025/6 (and future years). Adding hedging to the edge of the Sustrans track was also suggested.</i>
4	Lake	The Environment Agency are due to start a monitoring programme with annual visits to monitor macrophytes and phytoplankton etc. and monthly visits for water samples. Draft lease is still being worked on for the angling club.
5	Allotments	Offers for 6 allotments have been made – Two new allotment holders have completed their paperwork and have been issued keys and we are awaiting completion and hand over of keys for the other four. Bonds will be earmarked in the council's accounts and held in the main bank account. We aim to have the remaining 5 allotments let by the end of this month. HI-AB waste removal <i>began</i> on 8/2/24. Waste storage bays are going to be built in February.
6	Safer Streets	<p>Our grounds team have installed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 new bins at Balderton Lake (replacing the open metal mesh bins) • 4 new benches in the play area of Coronation Street Park <p>At the time of writing this report, they are installing 2 replacement bins at the need the MUGAs on Coronation Street playing field and a new bin near the boot cleaner.</p> <p><i>The Lawful Development Certificate Application has been approved by planning at N&SDC and we have the youth pod on order. An upgrade of the CCTV at Balderton Village Centre is possible this financial year as the youth pod can be delivered.</i></p> <p>Lockable lifebuoys (3) and lifelines (3) for around Balderton Lake are on order and should be delivered and installed in March. We are liaising with the Fire Authority to ensure the details are registered with their control rooms.</p> <p>We have been able to buy litter picking equipment with the safer streets funding too and 4 additional benches; one will replace a bench at the lake that was beyond repair. We need to decide where the remainder will be sited – clerk to add to full council agenda. I am working closely with officers at N&SDC/Nottinghamshire Police to ensure this project is delivered effectively within the timescales set down by the funding provider.</p>
7	Bin at Cemetery	The bin at the cemetery has been moved and a key to the Belvoir Road gate provided to N&SDC's refuse team. Once the tree next to Ghent House has been pruned we will consider moving it back to its original location.
8	Church Wall	We have been advised by the diocese of an architect we need to liaise with. I have emailed him and am awaiting a response.
9	Memorial safety testing	I am working with the head groundsman to formalise the process for this. We will ensure that the website is up to date and communications are in place to ensure cemetery church yard users are aware before this is done.
10	Village Centre	Quotes for LED lights and required electrical work will be taken to the next full council for consideration. It has been established that the licence does not disallow bouncy castles and door security is not stipulated. Air conditioning units in the main hall have been replaced. The plumbing work recommended by the Legionella Risk

	Item	Update
		<p>Assessment has been completed and the water fountain replaced with a water bottle filler (changing room end).</p> <p>One of the pumps in the packaged underground sewerage pump system has failed and we are obtaining a quote to replace this. Cllr Fairbairn has suggested a service contract may be advisable so I will look into this. Table racks are due for delivery 9/2/24. The methodist church have taken the old black chairs that were not being used. The grounds team are rearranging the store cupboards to make the table/chair store easily accessible/safe for users to help themselves to tables and chairs. I have arranged for a PRS licence for Balderton Village Centre. This will not be backdated.</p>
11	Public Space Protection Orders	<p>Following feedback has been given to N&SDC since last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Check if Balderton Cemetery and St Giles Churchyard (maintained by Balderton Parish Council) have dogs on leads orders and if not request orders for these. b. Request an order for the play area at Stafford Avenue. c. Request an order for the small play area at Clipsham Close. <p>N&SDC have asked if the council wishes to keep the three dispersal orders in place (due to end in June for Coronation Park, Balderton Lakes and Lakeside Shopping). I have confirmed this would be preferable.</p>
12	Littering	<p>Following Cllr Forde contacting N&SDC officers regarding tackling littering in Balderton a meeting has been held with them to discuss this issue. Hotspots were shared so their new contractor, District, can focus on these areas. Regarding the council's request for weekly street cleaning in the conservation area, this can be requested as needed through the district council website. N&SDC are piloting a programme of school visits to promote anti-littering so there may be scope to visit other schools dependent on the outcomes of the pilot. We discussed the safer streets 5 water safety day due to be held in July and the possibility of a school visit on anti-littering as part of this will be investigated. N&SDC officers also suggested that Balderton Parish Council could consider local approaches which may build on the sense of pride in the community as a means to changing behaviour. A suggestion was also made to investigate the current arrangements for verge cutting in the parish to see if alternative arrangements may be beneficial.</p> <p><i>Our contact at Lincolnshire Coop has said that they will hold a community litter pick with Balderton Parish Council.</i></p>

20. Minutes from the Allotment Subcommittee held on February 6th and consideration of the recommendations.

The minutes were noted. Regarding the community plot, it was agreed to clear the shed and heaps there but the decision on whether to let the space to individuals was deferred as the potential for a community plot had been suggested at a health meeting that Cllrs Buxton and Mallard had attended. *Cllr Buxton to seek more details when they next meet (1/3/24) and feedback to the committee/clerk so we can work out how to proceed.*

21. Memorial benches

The Amenities Committee unanimously agreed to the proposal. The clerk will draft a policy for approval by Full Council.

22. Coronation street playing field

- a. Updates received regarding the drainage on the playing field

AMAC

There was discussion on the history of the drainage from the field with the suggestion of there being no drainage away from the field being questionable based on local knowledge

The committee agreed to recommend to Full Council that we should hire the Vertidrain. The head groundsman suggested it would be best to do this later in the year as the ground is currently too waterlogged to bring on heavy machinery.

It was agreed that indicative quotes should be sought from a drainage engineer to find a longer-term solution including the researching of possible grant funding.

- b. Proposal for protecting windows of the dance school and Balderton Village Centre from cricket ball damage – The committee unanimously agreed to the proposal.
- c. Request to hold Willie Hall Cup matches on the playing field - The committee unanimously agreed to the proposal. The clerk will talk to the bar provider regarding bar provision. Going forward such requests will be delegated to the clerk and head groundsman.

23. Mending Lines Storage

The committee agreed in principle for space in the container to be used for some Mending Lines equipment, subject to it fitting in/being suitable. A key will need to be provided for access for the Mending Lines organiser. The head groundsman will liaise with the organiser to see if this will work and if so, arrange implementation.

24. Barriers between the pump pond and the main lake

The committee unanimously agreed that the barriers should be removed. This will be done soon after the netting which is due to take place on February 26th. A decision regarding what to do with the silt was deferred to late summer. In the meantime, this will improve water flow and stop issues with wildlife getting trapped.

25. Correspondence

- a. Email regarding horse riding around the lake – The email was noted and the need for horse riders to dismount will be added to new signage planned for the Safer Streets 5 project. A note will be prepared for the grounds team to hand to mounted horse riders should they see them around the lake.
- b. Request for a new dog bin on Bullpit road next to the crossing – this bin has been replaced as part of the council's dog bin inspections/replacement process.
- c. Thank you email from Newark Academy for fruit trees funding – noted.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Future parish council meetings – open to the public

- Full Council Meeting: Wednesday 28th February, 7pm
- Amenities Committee Meeting: Wednesday 13th March, 7pm
- Planning Committee Meeting: Monday 18th March, 7pm

10/4/24
