



Balderton Parish Council Full Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 7pm

Attendees:

Balderton Parish Councillors: Vanessa Bracegirdle, Ronalie Bright, Jane Buxton (Chair), Karen Callingham, Martyn Cox, Mandie Elson, Roy Fairbairn, Jean Hall (Vice Chair, Left at 8.30pm), Debbie Moore, Joy Sellars, Dean Scott

County/District Councillors: Emma Oldham

Nottinghamshire Police: Mark Dickson

Parish Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

Public: 17 residents joined the meeting

Meeting agenda pack with reports can be found on our website: <https://www.baldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

19. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

20. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillors: Simon Forde, Mac Mallard, Leigh Marshall

District/County Councillors: Keith Girling (County), John Lee (County/District), Sam Smith

21. Declarations of interest

Jean Hall – District Councillor. Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Jean Hall, Joys Sellars – item 33b regarding Lake Covenant.

22. Public forum

Residents raised concerns regarding the alcohol licence being approved for Balderton Post Office. The clerk read out the reasons that N&SDC (the licensing authority did not accept Balderton Parish Council's representation (objections)) and explained that the decision was not in the parish council's power to make. Cllr Hall offered to find out how an appeal could be made so this could be passed to the residents.

Residents raised concerns regarding the planning application for Land to the Rear of Lowfield Cottages, Bowbridge Lane (see item 29d) Their concerns included contaminated land, flooding, and the effect on wildlife.

(Raised after item 29: a resident raised concerns about flooding on Main Street (in particular, from Sibcy Lane to Tesco), Balderton stating that he had been in correspondence with NCC for 2 years. Cllr Hall offered to flag this with the county councillors again. Cllr Buxton explained that although Balderton Parish Council is not responsible for this issue, the council is trying to raise the profile of it by keeping it on the parish council agenda for when county councillors are giving reports. The council agreed that the clerk should write to Nottinghamshire County Council about this issue.

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23. Approval of the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting January 24th, 2024

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

24. Reports from County and District councillors/Discussion

District/County Councillor Lee – Had sent in a written report (included in the agenda pack)

County Councillor Girling – (Clerk read out) Had put in a request for N&SDC to street clean Milton Street. This has been done.

Councillor Smith – (Clerk read out) - Potholes on Main Street have now been repaired; resurfacing of Coddington Road will be done in March; the gullies on London Road, outside Highfields School, were cleansed in January but that hasn't resolved the surface water flooding. Evidence of last week's situation is with the NCC's Highways and Drainage team for further investigation; update on the drains/flooding of the Balderton playing field/Macaulay Avenue, Baines Avenue/Warwick Avenue area - Cllr Smith has asked NSDC and NCC's Drainage Supervisor for an update; speeding cars on Coddington Road – a request has been submitted to move the 30mph signs which are near Hollowdyke Lane further down Coddington Road before the bridge so that drivers slow down before entering Main Street.

District Councillor Oldham – Encouraged everyone to attend the N&SDC planning meeting when the applications will be discussed. Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) officers have been working to tackle ASB at Grove Street play park. Is trying to help tackle littering in Balderton working with BPC – a district wide bin audit is being done. There are plans for social housing on land off Wolfit Avenue and Nightingale Close. Will be able to submit a Community Chest application on behalf of Balderton soon. Public Space Protection Orders are being reviewed with better dispersal maps and control of dogs – residents are encouraged to respond to consultation on this. There is a call for sites for Biodiversity Net Gain. April 8th there is a meeting at Ghent House for residents to talk to N&SDC councillors regarding any issues they would like to raise. N&SDC are identifying sites for No Mow May. N&SDC do use environmentally friendly pesticides. Cllr Oldham would appreciate suggestions.

District Councillor Hall – Has been working with Cllr Forde on district council projects such as play pitches and recreation provision, code of conduct training, an Air and Space Institute tour, Safer Streets and trying to arrange a meeting with Balderton Primary Care Trust.

25. Nottinghamshire Police's Girls and Women Empowerment network (GWEN) project

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Dickson gave an overview of the project which is in place to reduce violence against women and girls; this is a priority for Nottinghamshire Police and nationally. The project wants to get qualitative information about what is going on in communities and wants behaviour that could lead to more serious crimes reported. To help focus, the police are reaching out to local groups to ask them to invite GWEN representatives to their meetings so they can listen to what people are concerned about. Cllr Callingham has Mark's contact details so if anyone has any ideas of which groups would like to be visited, they should contact her.

Cllr Buxton brought forward item 29 to before item 26.

29. Consideration of Planning Applications

- a. [23/02178/HOUSE](#) – 7 Sheridan Close, Balderton – The council had no comments.
- b. [23/02142/HOUSE](#) - 5 Wordsworth Drive, Balderton – The council had no comments.
- c. [24/00207/FUL](#) - 23 Tennyson Road, Balderton – The council had no comments.
- e. [24/00227/HOUSE](#) – 192 London Road, Balderton – The council unanimously objected to this application as there was no bat survey accompanying the application.

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- d. [24/00282/FULM](#) - Land to the Rear of Lowfield Cottages Bowbridge Lane Balderton – The council unanimously objected to this application for the following reasons: flooding, contamination, the combination of flooding and contamination, the impact on wildlife, a previous application for housing on the site was refused and was unsuccessful at appeal. The council appreciates the need for more sites for Gypsy and Travellers but believe it is unfair to allocate this site for any type of accommodation. This objection is in no way related to who the proposed development is for; the council is of the belief that it is not suitable for any development.

Cllr Buxton brought forward item 33b to before item 26.

33. Correspondence

- b. Emails regarding covenant on Balderton Lake and angling rights – The clerk explained that she had received two enquiries about the covenant but had been unable to find any electronic records regarding this. She suggested to the council that quotes should be obtained for the following legal work:
- i. Obtain the covenant and work out which properties on the Barratt's Estate that the covenant relates to.
 - ii. Once i. has been delivered and we know the details of the covenant and how many properties it relates to produce a new lease between Balderton Parish Council and Grove Angling Club.

The council agreed to obtain quotes from solicitors to complete this work. (1 Abstention, 6 For, 0 Against, 4 did not vote due to their conflict of interest).

The meeting was closed for a 5-minute break and then reopened

26. Parish Councillor Reports

Councillor Fairbairn – had been meeting new allotment tenants at the allotment site.

Cllr Sellars – had attend the CCLA investment session and looked at the disciplinary slides.

Councillor Moore – had attended the meeting with the cricket club regarding nets/windows and looked at the angling club's contractor netting the fish in the lake.

Cllr Buxton – had watched a disciplinary course, attended the CCLA presentation, met with the police/Operation Swift, met with Newark Town Council about their cemetery provision, met with the police commissioner regarding safer streets and attended the meeting regarding cricket nets and the fish netting.

Cllr Callingham – had attended the Newark Cemetery meeting, arranged the GWEN visit (see item 25) and been doing regular litter picks.

27. Clerk's report – noted with no queries.

Amenities Committee	The Amenities Committee Clerk's report contains update on work at the council's sites – see item 28a.
Administration/Management	BT – We are still awaiting new handsets and the mobile phones. These are due on March 7 th . We have collated which councillors will do the Civility and Respect training and are due to order this. The Internal Auditor is booked for an interim audit next month. The precept request has been sent to N&SDC.
Making Your Money Stretch Course	This was cancelled as no-one booked.
Balderton Post Office Licensing Application	Feedback was sent to N&SDC, but they were unable to accept the council's representation. (Full response is available in the agenda pack for this meeting)
Procurement since the last meeting	New printer in place and being tested. Table racks are in place (reduced price found following meeting so these were £1120 rather than £1320). Tree assessment has been commenced – awaiting report. Legionella plumbing work has been completed. The air conditioning in the main hall has been replaced. Allotment storage bay materials are on order.

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28. Minutes from committees/subcommittees

- a. Amenities Committee Minutes held on January 14th, 2024 – noted.
- b. Consideration of trialling hedging with a long-term plan of having hedging instead of fencing – The council agreed to trial this with native plants suitable for hedging. It was suggested that this should be done between pegs 16 and 17 at the lake for a trial. Cllr Elson will get costings and look for possible funding and the Clerk will ask the head groundsman to get costings.
- c. Locations for Safer Streets benches and bin at the Lake – The council agreed to place the new bin next to the dog bin at Catkin Way and replace the benches at the point and in the area near the pump pond. The clerk will try to get hold of the officer who works on designing out crime to see if placing a bench in one of the gaps (near peg 16) along the Sustrans side of the lake would be advisable.

30. Finance

- a. The council unanimously approved the following reports:
 - i. Income/expenditure for January bank balances.
 - ii. Expenditure transactions for January
- b. The council unanimously agreed for 4 more benches, litter picking equipment and new CCTV for Balderton Village Centre for the Safer Streets 5 project (funding from a grant rather than precept).
- c. The council unanimously agreed to purchase:

	Item	£ (excluding VAT)
i	Electrical Work	6,092.60
	a. 5-year electrical test dance school	
	b. Work identified in the last 5-year electrical test for Balderton Village Centre.	
	c. Upgrades for all internal and external lights at Balderton Village Centre to LED including the changing rooms (Community Infrastructure Levy)	
	d. Replacement heaters in the changing rooms	
iii	Church Wall Survey	4145.00
iv	Sewerage Tank and Pumping System	
	Work to get the system up and running again.	1650.00
	Work to be replace the faulty (water ingress) rotary isolators in the pumping chamber with IP67 32A plug/socket connector arrangement	375.00
	6 monthly servicing (the council may move to 12 monthly once there is confidence the system is working effectively again.	£350 per service

The meeting was closed during discussion on items 30ci and 30ciii as exempt information (commercially sensitive/personnel related) was discussed.

- c. ii – Shredder – the council noted the research that had been done so far by the grounds team and that the shredder will be significantly more expensive (up to £15,000) than originally budgeted for. The Head Groundsman will arrange demonstrations/trials of the products identified so a suggestion of which item would be best can be brought to a future meeting. Cllr Elson will contact an officer at NCC who has offered suggestions of where to get funding from in the past. If there are suitable grants and we are eligible to apply this will be done to minimise the cost to Balderton Parish Council.
- d. Fuel card provider change -The council unanimously agreed to the clerk arranging this.
- e. Investment Review - The council noted the clerk's report and unanimously agreed to invest £100,000 with CCLA in their Public Sector Deposit fund. This money will be taken from the 32-day deposit fund.
- f. Current accounts and Internal Controls changes - The council unanimously agreed to open an account with Unity Bank as suggested in the clerk's report regarding banking and internal controls. Cllrs Bracegirdle, Callingham, Cox, Elson, Moore, Scott and Sellars were agreed to be signatories and set up with internet access to approve transactions (2 councillors to approve each transaction). Cllrs Bracegirdle, Callingham, Elson, Moore, Sellars will be set

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up for internet access to the Lloyds account so dual authorisation for transactions can be set up for those accounts too. The administration assistant will also be added to the Lloyds and Unity accounts for setting up payments online and viewing statements.

- g. Skipton Building Society - The council unanimously agreed to add the clerk to the Skipton account for administration (withdrawals/changes to accounts to be signed by two councillors).
- h. Balderton Village Centre hire prices – These were unanimously approved.

31. Adoption of policies/documents

The council unanimously agreed to adopt the following policies:

- a. Village centre terms and conditions – These were unanimously agreed subject to the clerk checking the fire regulations for number of people to be allowed in the centre.
- b. Memorial benches and trees policy – This was unanimously agreed.
- c. Volunteer litter picking policy – This was unanimously agreed.

32. Sustrans Rangers Village Trail UK Shared Prosperity Fund Application

The council unanimously agreed that it does not wish to be considered for the installation and maintenance of the trail items due to the limited funding available and foreseen issues regarding them not being on parish council land.

33. Correspondence

- a. Email regarding double yellow lines request for Hawton Lane, Centenary Close – noted.
- c. Meeting to discuss Newark Town Fund – it was noted that the Chair and Clerk will attend a meeting regarding this.
- d. Newark and Sherwood District Council – Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Banks – Call for Sites Expressions of Interest – The following sites were noted: Allotments, Balderton-Lake, Cemetery, Coronation Street Playing Field, Mallard Green, St Giles Churchyard. Councillors to send further suggestions to the clerk by March 4th so a response can be sent to N&SDC.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm

Future parish council meetings – open to the public

- Amenities Committee Meeting: Wednesday 13th March, 7pm
- Planning Committee Meeting: Monday 19th March, 7pm
- Full Council Meeting: Wednesday 27th March, 7pm

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