

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Monday March 5th 2018 at 12 noon. This had been re-convened from the meeting scheduled for Wednesday February 28th 2018 which was cancelled owing to extreme weather conditions.

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Hurst, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Page, Scott, Walker and Watt

with two parishioners, the Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3021 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Owen and Ms White.

3022 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst and Walker, as serving members of Newark & Sherwood District Council, declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the District Council. Cllr Walker, as a serving member of Nottinghamshire County Council, declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the County Council. Cllr Allen declared a personal interest to minute reference 3026 - playing field locking procedures. Cllr Mrs Hurst declared a personal interest to minute reference 3025 – former scoreboard building refurbishment. Cllrs Mrs Newstead and Newstead, and Mr Brown declared a personal interest to minute reference 3017 - fishing tender for the Lake.

3023 **Public Participation**

Members of the public present did not wish to raise any issues or make comments.

3024 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

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

- 1. Re Minute 2243 YMCA** The organisation has drawn up draft proposals of the days and times for paddle boating on the Lake; a meeting with representatives will be arranged to discuss this.

3025 **Former Scorebox Building**

Members reviewed three written quotations to undertake refurbishment work to the old score box building behind the café. It was,

RECOMMENDED that Boundary Builders of Balderton's quotation of £1763 + V.A.T. be selected as the preferred option on this occasion.

3026 Playing Field Locking Procedures

Following an incident where someone was discovered locked onto the playing field, the daily procedures for staff locking the playing field were confirmed. Members were satisfied that the procedures in place are both reasonable and appropriate.

3027 Fishing Tender

Members gave further consideration to the preferred process of going out to tender for fishing rights at the Lake. The current lease with The Grove Angling Club expires in October 2018. Initial issues were identified for inclusion in the tender brief and members considered that a meeting of the Lakeside Working Party should be convened to discuss this issue further and produce a draft tender document. Any Councillors who are not on the Working Party are more than welcome to participate in the discussions.

3028 Café

Members approved the purchase of a large generic 'Café' sign for installing to the front apex of the new building at an approximate cost of £195. Three bench seats for permanent siting under then veranda were also approved for purchase; the size/style to be determined by the amount of available space (which will affect the price). A further 'café' sign with directional arrow will be commissioned for the Village Centre, visible from the car park.

3029 Best Kept Village Sign

Discussion was given where to install the 'Best Kept Village' sign which is on loan for a year. Permission will be sought from the County Council to both sight and install it on the Council's behalf near to the 'Gateway' sign on the village border near Highfields School on London Road. If this is not granted the sign will be installed on the playing field by the groundstaff. Permission will also be sought from the County Council for a permanently installed sign adjacent to the Gateway sign stating that Balderton won its category in the Best Kept Village Competition 2017.

3030 Playing Field Facilities

Discussion was given how to seek public opinion as to what additional facilities visitors would like to see on the playing field. One option is to include the question on the Council's web-site or by social media. The option to create a Council Facebook account is scheduled for discussion at next week's F&GP committee agenda.

3031 **Hedgehogs**

Discussion was given to increase hedgehog habitats on Council land. Mr Brown had created a suitable template hedgehog 'house' from old pallet wood which was on display at the meeting. There are a number of natural hedgehog nests on the playing field but members asked that a few further wooden houses be made to increase the hedgehog population in Council areas, possibly including Lakeside.

3032 **Burials**

Discussion was given as to whether there should be a maximum number of cremated remains allowed for interment in a full depth grave plot. After sympathetic consideration members concluded that it may be insensitive to impose such a restriction, but families must be made aware at the time of enquiry that maximum memorial size restrictions apply irrespective of the number of remains in a plot and these will not be extended to accommodate further names or details.

3033 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) Notice of road closures on; Barnby Road level crossing overnight on March 10th/11th, Main Street from London Road to Wesley Close on Sunday March 18th from 8am to 6pm, and Spring Lane from 8am to 5pm on Sunday March 25th 2018.
- b) An invitation to again participate in the Best Kept Village Competition run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Members agreed to join this and pay the entry fee of £8.00
- c) Members were advised that Newark Tennis Club has informally approached the Council to explore the feasibility of tennis courts being sited on the playing field. The Club is in the process of exploring different options and will submit any feasible proposals in writing for formal consideration.
- d) The Cricket Club has advised that the project to create a sight screen and wicket cover compound area on the playing field is scheduled to commence on Monday March 12th 2018.

3034 **Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Mrs Brooks asked that the need for an extra member of staff in the Council Office be discussed by the Council Review Committee.

The meeting closed at approximately 1.00pm.