

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday June 28th 2017 at 7.00pm

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

with Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

2253 **Committee Chairman**

Cllr Mrs Brooks was unanimously re-elected as Committee Chairman.

2254 **Committee Vice Chairman**

Cllr Allen was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman.

2255 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Major Mortimore, Page, Walker and Ms White.

2256 **Declarations of Interest**

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

2257 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

2258 **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 2251 Silver Birch Trees** Members were pleased to hear that the Police are making enquiries about the poisoned trees. Initial discussion was also given to managing the dead trees and future replanting options.

2259 **Heron Way Car Park**

Members gave initial consideration to a resident's request to remove the picnic benches located at Lakeside off Heron Way car park, believing them to be a magnet for anti-social behaviour. The resident had also asked if alterations be made to the car park to slow traffic down. Enquiries had been made with Mr Bailey, the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officer who had advised that a temporary CCTV camera could be requested for installation in the vicinity. This would enable the Council to assess if its

own moveable camera, currently located on Rowan Way/Orchid Close, should be relocated there. Members agreed to request the temporary camera along with installing strongly worded signs for the car park. Possible adjustments to the car park will also be explored, including installing strategically placed tree trunks. The option to consider removing the benches after these measures have been undertaken can then be explored if deemed necessary, though no reported problems or issues have been made by other residents or Councillors who walk the area very regularly.

2260 Gates to the Playing Field

Following a third instance of vandalism this summer to the electrically operated main entrance gate members agreed to leave it on manual operation. Keys to the padlock will be provided for those who require access.

2261 Street Play

Cllr Owen had previously outlined an initial proposal to organise a ‘Street Play’ event where a designated residential road is closed for a time to create a safe place for families to meet, children to play etc. This can be a regular event but of course requires Police and County Highways consultation and approval. Cllr Owen advised that he was unable to provide further details and information for this issue to be discussed as scheduled owing to work commitments at this time.

2262 Cricket Club Equipment Storage

Discussion was given to a request from the Cricket Club to create a compound area to install the existing sight screens and new wicket covers which the Club hopes to acquire this Summer. The sight screens were stored in a locked area behind the café building but this can no longer be used as there is insufficient room to manoeuvre the screens in and out. Members considered on balance that further funds could not be committed to the Club’s requirements at this time, but no objections were raised to them creating a compound area at their own expense subject to approving the design and exact location.

2263 Staple Lane/London Road Junction

Members discussed their concerns about the safety of the Staple Lane/London Road junction which seems even busier since the first section of the Southern Link Road has been opened. Though aware that this issue has been raised on several occasions previously with the County Highways Department, members considered that it must again be brought to the authority’s attention and some measures taken to slow down traffic approaching from the direction of the A1 roundabout. Cllr Walker will again be asked to take this issue up on the Council’s behalf. The issue of expediting completion of the Southern Link Road’s junction to the A1 overbridge will also be taken up again with Robert Jenrick M.P.

2264 **Green Area at Broome/Blackthorne Close**

Consideration was given to installing bollards around the edge of the green area to prevent unauthorised parking. Rather than install steel bollards, Mr Brown undertook to obtain prices for large timber posts which can be installed more easily and have a softer look. It may still be necessary to install one removable barrier by the electricity sub-station for Western Power to access.

2265 **Groundstaff's Quarterly Bonus**

Approval was given to the Groundsmen's quarterly bonus payment.

2266 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) Notice that Spring Drive from its junction with Main Street to Spring Drive will be closed from Monday July 17th to Friday August 18th for a new sewer installation.
- b) The District Council had sent out a questionnaire regarding Dog Control Orders as they are being reviewed ahead of changes scheduled for September when they will be replaced with Public Space Protection Orders. The questionnaire was completed and returned as the closing date for comments was before the scheduled committee meeting.
- c) Balderton has got through to the second round of the Best Kept Village competition.
- d) A request for the new bus shelter at the end of Wolfit Avenue to have a perch seat installed inside – this will be submitted to the County Council.
- e) A request for a litter bin near to the bus shelter on London Road outside Lidl – this will be submitted to the District Council.
- f) A group of Orchard School pupils have been carrying out supervised volunteer work for the Council at Lakeside and on the Playing Field. Members agreed that a card should be sent thanking them for their hard work along with some confectionary to the value of £20.

2267 **Future Agenda Items**

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.55pm.