

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday March 9th 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Hurst (Chairman), Mrs Lee (Vice Chairman), Allen, Mrs Brooks, Fairbairn, Gloster, Green, Lynch, Mallard, Newstead, Mrs Newstead and Ms White

with County Cllrs Girling and Smith, nine members of the public, Home-Start Family Support Co-ordinator Kay Davidge, Police representatives Sgt. Adam Wells and P.C Anthea Brotheridge, the Clerk and Clerical Assistant.

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

4463 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts M.B.E and County Cllr Lee.

4464 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst, and Ms White, as serving members of Newark & Sherwood District Council declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the District Council. Cllr Mrs Brooks also declared a personal interest to minute reference 4471 - grant application for Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark.

4465 **Home-Start Newark**

The meeting was closed for members to receive a presentation by Kay Davidge, Family Support Co-ordinator for Home-Start Newark who outlined the organisation's services, providing support to local parents covering a wide range of options.

County Cllr Smith had joined the meeting during this item. Mrs Davidge was thanked for her attendance and information about the very worth-while services provided by the organisation and she left the meeting at approximately 7pm.

4466 **Young Persons' Activities**

P.C Anthea Brotheridge and Sgt. Adam Wells of Newark Police gave further information and rationale regarding PCSO's Hewerdine's previous suggestion for a skateboard ramp on the Coronation Street playing field, with a target demographic of 10-15 year olds. The Police consider that the field is suitable because although adjacent residents may have some concerns about noise from the facility it can be recessed into the ground which minimises noise, it can be within a perimeter fence that can be locked off if necessary, it is a designated area where a Dispersal Order can be readily created if ever needed and there is already CCTV on the site. They advised that Collingham's skateboard ramp project has eased anti-social behaviour issues there because the young people who use it have been tasked to help safeguard and 'own' it. The police officers were thanked for their attendance and the meeting resumed. Cllr Allen, the Amenities Chairman responded that the Committee would need to consider any such proposal in various stages; confirming a need, liaison with youth services, preferred location, local consultation, design, funding options etc.

4467 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments relating to scheduled agenda items. No members of the public wished to speak and the Chairman re-opened the meeting.

4468 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday January 25th 2023, having been circulated previously were approved, confirmed as a true record and signed.

4469 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

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

a) Full Council

1. **Re Minute 4456 Councillors' Surgeries** Councillor Mallard reported that the initial joint surgeries with the Police had been successful, were appreciated by those residents who attended and the Library had proved an ideal venue.
2. **Re Minute 4461d Poliomyelitis** County Councillor Keith Girling confirmed that a representative from Long Bennington Rotary Club would be attending the next Council meeting to give a presentation about this subject.

b) Amenities

1. **Re 3477.1 Dance Studio Gated Fence** Some social media criticism aimed at the Council for installing the fence had quickly been responded to by parents pointing out the need to try and safeguard children who attend the Studio from unwanted attention and anti-social behaviour (ASB) from those who try to frighten the younger users.
2. **Re 3477 Millennium Tower Clock** Following notification that the District Council has awarded a grant of £500 towards the clock's refurbishment, this issue will again be discussed at the next Amenities Committee meeting.
3. **Re Minute 3485b London Road Speed Restriction** Appreciation will be extended to County Cllr Lee for pursuing 30mph for this remaining stretch of London Road

4470 **Committee(s)**

The minutes of the following committees was confirmed as a true record and signed:
Amenities of February 22nd 2023

4471 **Grant Application**

Members gave consideration to a written request from Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark for a grant towards the running costs to contribute to essential resources for supporting the volunteers. It was unanimously,

AGREED that in pursuance of the powers conferred by Sections 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council approve the payment of £1000 to Citizen's Advice Sherwood & Newark, this being expenditure incurred in the interest of the parish or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

4472 **Council Standing Orders & Financial Regulations.**

Necessary amendments are required to both of these documents following the Council's disbanding of the F&GP committee, and global changes made to threshold amounts for contracts and public works. It was unanimously,

AGREED that the amendments be approved as recommended and the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be adopted.

4473 **Financial Statements**

The details as published and circulated were correct, there being a total payment requirement of £27,223.07 for January 2023.

Cllr Green suggested that alternative fuel card companies be explored for the Council to consider using because as prices can vary considerably between these companies. Their prices regularly ebb and flow so the Council could benefit financially from holding more than one account.

4474 **Reports from Representatives**

Cllr Ms Brooks reported that a lot of litter had been cleared away from around the Chuter Ede School area.

Cllr Ms White reported on the District Council's Day of Action to tackle littering, graffiti removal etc. in Balderton on Thursday March 23rd 2023. The activity will be co-ordinated from the Village Centre and any volunteers should report there at 9am.

Arrangements are being finalised for Robert Jenrick M.P. to plant a Beech Tree in the village which has originated from the Royal Balmoral Estate.

Cllr Mrs Hurst reported that the District Council's kerbside glass collection service is progressing. Residents can opt in or out of this additional service and the collection will take place every eight weeks or so.

County Cllr Girling reported that the authority has purchased a new road surface repair machine. A celebratory event for Veterans will take place at Thorsby Hall on Saturday May 6th 2023 to mark the King's Coronation.

County Cllr Smith reported that the funded portacabins at Chuter Ede School, though no longer needed for extra classroom space, will stay on site and be utilised for extra curricula activities.

4475 **Highways Faults**

The following faults/issues were raised for passing onto the relevant authority:

- a) The site entrance to the Welcome Break service station is considered to pose a safety concern owing to the number of Suthers School pupils both walking and cycling across two-way traffic at busy times. This will be raised with county Cllr Lee.
- b) Fly tipping of litter on the A1 roundabout; this problem seems to be a recurring issue on the site.

4476 **Clerk's Additional Information**

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

- a) The latest crime and ASB figures from the Police for Balderton, Fernwood and Middlebeck.
- b) Details of the road closure for resurfacing works to Coddington Road from Monday March 20th to March 28th 2023. Members expressed their appreciation to County Cllr Smith for securing this long-awaited and much needed road surface replacement work.
- c) An update from Yvonne Swinton, the District Council's Community Protection Manager that NSL, the parking enforcement company, has been notified of the hazardous parking locations within the village for the wardens to target accordingly.
- d) Notice from Cllr Mrs Batey that she has decided to resign from the Parish Council, which members were saddened to hear about. This creates a vacancy on the Balderton South Ward but as it is now so close to the local elections which will take place on May 4th 2023 this vacancy will not be filled.
- e) The Internal Auditor has recommended that Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be reviewed bi-annually. He also recommended that the wording be amended in the 'Terms of Reference for Council Committees' document from yearly to annually; members approved this and the document will be duly amended.

4477 **Future Agenda Items**

No future items were raised.

4478 **Co-Option**

Members met Mrs Jane Buxton who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor for the Balderton North Ward vacancy. Mrs Buxton had submitted a written statement which had been previously circulated to members for their perusal prior to the meeting. No other nominations had been received or were put forward at the meeting. A paper vote was taken with nine votes for and three against. Mrs Buxton was therefore duly co-opted and members welcomed her onto the Council.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.05 pm.