



Balderton Parish Council Amenities Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7pm

Attendees:

Balderton Parish Councillors: Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Mandie Elson (Chair), Roy Fairbairn, Simon Forde, Debbie Moore from 8pm) (Vice Chair) and Joy Sellars

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

Public: 2 Balderton residents and 1 member of Balderton Cricket Club

1. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hall and Marshall. Councillors Mallard and White also sent apologies and have stepped down from this committee.

3. Declarations of interest

Roy Fairbairn – Allotment holder. Simon Forde – District Councillor.

4. Public Open Forum

A resident raised concerns regarding the flooding on the playing field and had brought another resident with experience of using a company using a Verti drain machine on pitches. A phone number and indicative price was given to the clerk. (See item 8).

5. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on November 29th, 2023

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and Councillor Elson duly signed them. Councillor Fairbairn raised a query regarding naming who objects to/supports decisions in minutes and was referred to standing orders¹ on how to request this.

6. Clerk's update

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

	Item	Update
1	Artificial Cricket Wicket	Balderton Cricket Club have been informed that their application to National Highways for funding was not granted.

¹ Balderton Parish Council Standing Order 3s.

	Item	Update
2	Replacement dog bins	Replacement bins <i>have been installed. Via have approved the amended position for the new bin on Staple Lane so the grounds team can install this this month.</i>
3	Millennium Clock	Councillors have begun to look for funding options. Approval being sought from landowner before this is moved forward – no update at this stage.
4	Regular user keys/fobs	Issuing of keys/fobs to regular users now in place.
5	Bulbs for Coronation Street playing field.	Bulbs planted on the playing field by Councillor Elson and her partner in December.
6	Fencing around Heron Way carpark	Work to replace this has been delayed due to rainfall and the holes being full of water. this will be done as soon as the conditions are suited to getting the job done. <i>A temporary fence was installed w/c 1/1/24.</i>
7	Lake	Ground staff spent 7 days removing the pond weed from the pump pond last month. On December 13 th , a representative from the Environment Agency came to help and advised that he believed enough weed had been removed. Draft lease is being worked on for the angling club.
8	Allotments	We have joined the Allotment Society. One tenant has handed in their notice in December so this plot will be divided and let along with the other plots that have been prepared for letting. Target date for making offers to waiting list members end of January. Subject to full council approval of new agreement (24/1/24) – See item 9. Final clearance of site underway – HI-AB waste removal will be organised asap this month. Head grounds man is making plans for the waste storage bays.
9	Macmillan Coffee Morning	This went very well last month with £233 raised for the charity, numerous attendees and advice providers well received by residents. The stalls had kindly been organised by NCC's Early Help and Support in the Community Team.
10	Coronation commemoration with local schools	Agreed amount has been sent to Chuter Ede (fruit trees), John Hunt (planter) and Newark Academy (fruit trees). Cllr Elson is liaising with The Orchard School about what they would like to do.
11	Book swap and internal noticeboard – village centre	Now in place.
12	Safer Streets	See item 7
13	Flooding/ Weather	Following recent rainfall Aqua sacs have been given out to 1 resident of Balderton and 1 resident of Farndon from our store. We currently have approximately 500 Aqua sacs. Subject to meetings, I will try to extend office opening times should there be a risk of flooding. I will use our social media page to let residents know. Thank you for Cllr Elson for coming out to issue bags at night (2/1/24).
14	Budget/Precept	The deputy clerk is currently working on actual income/expenditure up to 31/12/23 and we will bring a proposed budget to full council in January. From the recent meetings held regarding the village centre, allotments and lake we will use the decisions you have made regarding these areas to draft a proposal for all members to scrutinise and feedback on.
15	Bin at Cemetery	<i>The bin lorry cannot get down the street to the side of Ghent House so the bin has been moved to outside the gate on Belvoir Road. We are working with N&SDC to find a solution.</i>
16	Church Wall	<i>A meeting was requested with N&SDC but we have been advised that this would be chargeable. The deputy clerk is seeking quotes from qualified surveyors to bring to Full Council for a decision.</i>

7. An update on the safer streets bid

Members had received the written report with a project update in the agenda pack.² Regarding the idea to have graffiti on the wooden side of the grounds team's workshop in the village centre carpark, the committee were happy with the idea subject to the proposed design being submitted to full council for approval before any work commences. It was agreed that any design should be in keeping with the community facility provision and consideration given to ensuring that it is not scary or offensive to members of the community using the site.

Cllr Forde asked what the new benches are made of. They are recycled plastic and full details are in the link in the electronic agenda pack.

8. Coronation Street Playing field flooding

The Head Groundsman gave a brief history of the pitch flooding adding that he has photos of current flooding; the ditches along the edge of pitches had been filled in many years ago by Severn Trent Water with blue pipes under the filled in area. It is thought that this runs into drains behind the houses on Baines Avenue. In recent years N&SDC have investigated and Via/NCC have done work to unblock part of the drains in the area but ran out of funding. The clerk has enquired about whether anymore work can be done and is awaiting feedback. It was agreed that we should wait to hear back but, in the meantime, explore the benefits of Verti Drain Aeration to see whether it could resolve the issue for now.

Cllr Forde asked members to forward details of areas in the parish that regularly flood so he could collate this.

9. Balderton Cricket Club – cricket nets

Prior to the meeting, the club had emailed the clerk with their concerns regarding the current arrangements, citing health and safety concerns and the inadequacy of the arrangement to protect the windows of Balderton Village Centre buildings. It was agreed that the clerk will arrange a meeting so the staff, councillors and cricket club representatives can look at the issue together with a view to hopefully finding a solution to all parties' satisfaction. A proposal with any costs will be brought to a future meeting.

10. Balderton Village Centre

- a. **Village Centre Sub Committee Meeting notes** - were noted. It was clarified that Cllr Buxton had attended the meeting/not Cllr Hall – the clerk will update the notes.
- b. **Recommendations from the village hall subcommittee that the Amenities Committee agreed to recommend to full council:**
 - i. Review hire rates and terms and conditions
 - ii. Upgrade to LED lighting this financial year if possible.
 - iii. Upgrade CCTV in 2024/25
 - iv. Invest in a sound system and mounted projector and screen in 2024/25
 - v. Security cover to be based on type of booking rather than booked for every large booking and bouncy castles be allowed in the hall.³
- c. **Roof** – it was noted that there is a leak in the village centre roof, and we are awaiting a quote to get this fixed.
- d. **Beat Surgeries** – the committee agreed having surgeries with the police and Newark and Sherwood District Council's antisocial behaviour team would be useful for the

² Available on council's website www.baldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk – council meetings heading.

³ Subject to licence requirements.

parish so the centre could be used for this. A member suggested it would be useful to have parish council representatives there too to keep everyone informed and service providers linked in as much as possible. The clerk will take this back to N&SDC to get these arranged.

11. Newark and Sherwood District Council's consultation regarding Public Space Protection Orders in the parish

It was agreed to feedback to N&SDC:

- 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.

A member suggested that a request should be submitted to N&SDC to ask for the streets to be swept regularly in Balderton's conservation area as the leaves often have dog excrement in them. The clerk will write to N&SDC to request this.

12. New Allotment Agreement including introduction of a bond

The committee agreed to recommend the agreement to full council for adoption with the following amendments⁴:

- a. Before clause 1, add a statement to make it clear that the agreement supersedes any previous agreement.
- b. Clause 3.4 change will to may
- c. Clause 4 for existing tenants: 'A £10 key deposit is payable for keys to the allotment; this will be returned to the tenant when the keys are returned to the parish council office'.
- d. Clause 4 for new tenants – as drafted.
- e. Clause 6.2 – words in brackets to be removed.
- f. 10.1.6 – to be removed.
- g. Schedule 1, point 7.1 - remove save rabbits and hens (no cockerels)

The updated agreement will be submitted to full council for a final decision on January 24th. It was agreed that the Responsible Financial Officer should investigate the best way to hold bonds, with a separate bank account to clearly separate these from council funds being suggested.

13. Events

It was recommended to the committee to postpone holding a fete in 2024 due to resources available and other projects that the council has already committed to. Smaller events such as coffee mornings/photograph exhibition could be organised as an alternative this year. The committee agree to recommend this to full council.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

 14/2/24

⁴ Proposed agreement can be found in the agenda for this meeting which is available on council's website www.baldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk – council meetings heading.



