

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday March 29th 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Scott (Vice Chairman), Fletcher, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Page, Walker and Ms White

with Head Groundsman Mr Brown, Playing Field Attendants Ms Sims and Mr Henderson, two parishioners and the Clerk.

2226 **Apologies** were received from Cllr Owen.

2227 **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.

2228 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to hear two parishioners again express their concerns about Silver Birch trees at Lakeside. These had been cut back as requested to the rear of Grebe Close properties but the residents considered that they were still overhanging boundary fences, albeit at height. They also considered that the minutes of the September committee meeting were inaccurate, believing that the committee had agreed to remove the trees. They again asked the committee to remove the trees as they produce large amounts of seed debris which gets deposited in their garden and home.

They were thanked for their attendance and the meeting re-opened.

2229 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

A printed update of ongoing issues was circulated and noted; the update is published with the minutes. No issues were discussed from the update.

2230 **Playing Field Closing Times**

The meeting was closed to hear the Field Attendants who spoke about the problems and concerns they have about locking the field at 5pm, including having to repeatedly lock people on that refuse to leave. They requested that the dusk closure be re-instated on the grounds of safety and suggested that 'sunset' be used as the closing time description as this is a time that can be looked up readily easily by the public. They also asked that the weekend external field security be re-instated this summer to help minimise anti-social behaviour and to help them lock up more safely.

They were thanked for their attendance and information and the meeting re-opened. Members discussed the practice introduced in October 2016 to lock the field at 5pm during British Winter Time and at 9pm during British Summer Time. It was acknowledged that this has caused additional difficulties for staff and decided that the former practice of closing at dusk/sunset (9pm at the latest in mid-summer) be re-instated. The issue of employing external security patrols at weekends in the summer will be reviewed later if deemed necessary.

The Playing Field Attendants left the meeting.

2231 Lakeside Trees

Members gave further discussion to Lakeside residents' complaints that trees had not been removed as they believed had been agreed at the September 2016 committee meeting. It was re-iterated that the trees have been cut back as agreed during a site meeting held in November but the committee did not agree to remove the trees as alleged. The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) had visited the area and submitted a letter about the area of trees in question. Copies of the letter were circulated; the NWT was happy with the work that had been carried out and advised that removing further healthy trees could not be condoned.

2232 Playing Field Dog Attack

Complaints were considered relating to an unprovoked dog attack on another dog which took place on the playing field. The Police advised the Council that they have visited the attacking dog owners and warned them to keep it on a lead and muzzled when out in public. Members agreed that the owners must be instructed that the dog will only be allowed on the playing field if it is kept on a lead and muzzled at all times.

2233 Churchyard Trees

Members considered a complaint that the Churchyard trees which border Pinfold Lane are overgrown and encroach onto the pavement. Photographs of the trees in question were circulated and members did not consider them to be particularly overgrown. The Head Groundsman had also inspected the trees and advised that he did not believe that they require any cutting back at this time. All of the Churchyard trees will continue to be regularly monitored. If any work is deemed necessary in the future permission must be sought from the District Council as the trees are in the Conservation Area.

2234 Dog Waste Bin

Consideration was given for a request for a dog waste bin at the eastern end of Main Street. It is understood that the request was generated via Newark and Sherwood Homes (NASH). Members approved the request but further enquiries will be necessary to ascertain exactly where it can be installed as NASH had been advised that the District Council would install one so it may be on local authority land.

2235 **Village Centre Bar**

Initial consideration was given to extending the bar in the small hall to make it easier for the bar staff and visitors. The bar manager Mr Cox's opinion will be sought before possible options and costs can be obtained.

2236 **Quarterly Bonus**

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

2237 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) An invitation to enter in the Best Kept Village Competition which is run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England; the entry fee is £8.00. Members agreed to participate in the competition.
- b) An update from The Newark Academy that the Site Manager is getting quotes for requested remedial work to the trees which run along the boundary with the Council's playing field.
- c) A report from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust who recently carried out a site visit to the Lake following receipt of a complaint regarding vegetation clearance work that was being carried out there by Council groundstaff and a local tree contractor. The Trust's findings were favourable to the Council who considered the work was both appropriate and carried out to a high standard. Cllr Walker asked that it be recorded how impressed he was with the quality of work undertaken by the groundstaff at Lakeside. The Trust had also suggested some measures to try and increase nesting habitat and minimise algae control by introducing 'floating islands'. Though open to such suggestions, it was pointed out that previous attempts have been made to create 'islands' but these had sadly resulted in being vandalised and ultimately destroyed.
- d) Notice that the public meeting for the Y.M.C.A.'s proposals for supervised boating activity at the Lake has been arranged for Wednesday April 26th 2017 at 7pm in the Village Centre.
- e) The last remaining Indian Runner Duck at Lakeside had been shot dead this week – members were saddened to hear this and asked that all visitors to the Lakeside be particularly vigilant.
- f) The Heron Way car park has a number of potholes that need attention; Mr Brown undertook to see if these could be temporarily filled in as in interim measure whilst enquiries be made for a more permanent repair.

2238 **Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Page asked that discussion be given to proposing a speed limit of 20 mph along Main Street; this was referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.55pm.