

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday March 22nd 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen (Chairman) Mrs Brooks (Vice Chairman), Mrs Buxton, Fairbairn, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, and Roberts M.B.E.

with six members of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown, the Clerk and Clerical Assistant.

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

3487 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gloster, Green, Lynch and Ms White.

3488 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3489 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments regarding scheduled agenda items:

One resident expressed opinion that the Millennium Clock should be repaired rather than removed, reminding that it is the only tangible reminder in Balderton of the Millennium.

One resident responded that a rumour is circulating that Lidl would be prepared to take on ownership of the clock if it were to be repaired.

Two residents referred to the Lake bank erosion issue; any works should take place before the nesting season begins which is imminent, and a suggestion was made that timber pilings be used for a softer barrier option.

The public were thanked for their comments and the meeting re-opened.

3490 **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 from the update:

1. **Re Minute 3483 Skateboard Ramp** The police had attended the last meeting of the Full Council to further outline their proposal for a skateboard ramp on the playing field. Some early concerns were expressed whether the playing field is the ideal location for a ramp because the field is locked at dusk and young people will probably want to use it in the winter evenings. PCSO Katie Hewardine will be invited back to discuss funding options

further and explore alternative locations.

2. **Re Minute 3477.2 Littering** The District Council's 'Day of Action' will take place tomorrow, Thursday March 23rd 2023. Litter pickers were encouraged to report names and addresses found any waste to try and help identify those responsible.

3491 **Millennium Tower Clock**

Members again discussed the option to either repair or remove the Millennium Tower Clock. The District Council has awarded a grant of £500 towards the repair. The 'rumour' that Lidl is prepared to take on future responsibility for the clock was disputed as the company took an exceptionally long time to respond that they were not prepared to contribute to the clock's repair costs, and if they were to take it on that would not necessarily guarantee its future. It was suggested that a plaque could be placed on the clock stating that it was repaired in 2023 to commemorate the King's Coronation. After lengthy discussion it was,

AGREED with nine votes for and one abstention, that the Millennium Tower Clock be repaired.

3492 **Lake Erosion Measures**

Discussion was given to feedback from the Environment Agency regarding possible erosion measures for the Orchid Close platform area of the Lake. Some concerns were expressed that the suggested use of large boulders and/or a concrete wall is both harsh, and expensive. The suggestion made during the public session for timber pilings to be driven into the Lake bed was considered a preferred option and approval was given for the Head Groundsman to liaise with the resident concerned and explore this proposal further. Any necessary intermediate improvements to the wire mesh near to the bird feeding area will be undertaken in the interim.

3493 **Boot Scraper For Field**

Consideration was given to a request from dog walkers for a boot scraper to be installed on the edge of the playing field near to the car park. Members agreed to the purchase of a heavy-duty boot scraper unit that can be fixed into the ground at an approximate purchase cost of £150.

3494 **Request To Re-align A Boundary Fence**

Members gave consideration to a written request from a property holder adjacent to the playing field for the boundary fence to be re-aligned behind the machinery store, offering to meet the Council's reasonable costs. This adjustment would allow them to store wheelie bins there and install a new gate. If this small piece of land was to change hands it would still require formal valuation by the District Valuer and is likely to be extremely expensive. The Council has in the past refused similar requests to sell off land at Lakeside to residents. It was,

AGREED with nine votes for and one abstention that the Council should not sell off any of the playing field land.

3495 **Attendants Annual Leave**

Due to the two playing field attendants working alternate weeks, they tend to book any holidays during their respective week off and this has resulted in staff accumulating untaken annual leave for 2022/23. Members agreed that payment in lieu for any untaken annual leave should be made.

4896 **Highway Issues**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities. No new issues were reported.

3497 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) The 'Friends of Balderton' group had undertaken another village litter pick on Sunday 19th March 2023 and photographs of the event were circulated. Appreciation was expressed to the group and all volunteers involved.
- b) Grange Lane, Cotham from Cotham Thorns to junction of Station Road will be closed from 7.30am to 5pm from Monday 13th March 2023 until Friday 24th March for Severn Trent Water maintenance.
- c) Great North Road will have a lane closure from 9am to 3.30pm on Wednesday 29th March till Friday 31st March 2023 for tarmac work.
- d) Grange Lane will have temporary traffic signals on Monday 27th March from 9.30am to 2pm to install data collection loop detectors.
- e) Grange Lane from its junction with Staple Lane will have temporary traffic signals from 8am to 5pm from Wednesday 29th March 2023 – 31st March 2023 for Severn Trent Water maintenance.
- f) The Grove Angling Club forwarded a copy of a letter sent from the Chairman to one of the members with a final warning due to breeching Club rules.
- g) Nottinghamshire County Council Rights of Way Department has extended the temporary closure of Public Footpath no 11 which runs through the former Flowserve factory site for another 12 months until February 29th 2024. Enquiries will be made with County Cllr Lee for justification relating to this extension.
- h) Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has asked for permission to run further pop-up information stand sessions by the Lake on Heron Way car park on April 29th and 30th April, and May 1st, 7th and 8th May 2023, all from 10am to 4pm. Similar sessions were held last year with no reported problems. No objections were raised to the request.

3498 **Future Agenda Items**

No future items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm.