

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held virtually on Wednesday April 21st 2021 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ms White chairing the meeting, with fourteen residents, three non-resident members of public and the Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES were accepted from Parish Cllr Scott.

21/01 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 17th 2019 were taken as read and approved, having been previously approved and signed at a subsequent meeting of the Parish Council. The following items were discussed from the minutes:

- 1. Re Minute 19/05 Village Pavements** Mr Holland enquired what progress had been made following his request that pavements be made to suit the needs of pedestrians primarily and vehicular accesses secondarily. This issue had been raised with the County Council at the time but the authority's response was that it was not feasible to review all the areas at once, problem areas should be reported separately to allow the local Inspector to assess each case. Mr Holland was not satisfied with this response and went on to name Baines Avenue as an example of a more pedestrian friendly pavement area. The Chairman advised that this issue will be raised once again with the County Council.
- 2. Re Minute 19/05 'New' Balderton** Royal Mail has authorised that the prefix 'New' be removed from all Balderton addresses. Appreciation was extended to Mr Holland for his work relating to this issue.

21/02 **Balderton Parochial Charity**

Copies of the Charity's accounts for 2019/20 and 2020/21 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were duly noted. Cllr Mrs Brooks advised that very few applications for assistance had been received this past year and that if anyone knew of someone in need to please refer them to the Charity.

21/03 **Chairmen's Reports**

Cllr Ms White reported as Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and of the Council. She thanked her Vice Chairman Cllr Allen, the Committee Chairmen and all members for their commitment and continued hard work to try and make the village a better place to live. Appreciation was extended to the Deputy Clerk and Clerk, groundstaff and attendants who have worked hard through a particularly strange and difficult year owing to the pandemic. For the first time in history remote meetings were allowed by law and almost every Councillor had met this challenge successfully. As a direct result of the pandemic Council income has been substantially reduced which is a concern, but hopefully Village Centre lettings will resume and increase once the situation in general eases. It was particularly sad that REACH closed its doors to the Café in March last year, never to re-open, finally vacating the building in December. A planning application for a residential development is once again being considered for land around The Highfields School, despite similar applications having been turned down on appeal three times in recent years. The

application for 350 dwellings on the Flowserve site off Hawton Lane is currently being considered by the Appeals Inspector having been turned down by the District Council. Anti-social behaviour continues to be a problem in the playing field and Lakeside areas although law enforcement patrols have been increased recently. There is now a Police monitored CCTV camera on the playing field, but the need to report *all* incidents throughout the village must be promoted.

Cllr Mrs Brooks reported as Chairman of the Amenities Committee and asked that appreciation be recorded to the groundstaff for their hard work. A zip wire project has been agreed for the play area and the Council is grateful that 50% of the funding for this has been secured from the County Council. Flooding on the playing field was again a problem over the winter and enquiries are ongoing to try and ascertain if there is an underlying reason for this.

Cllr Mrs Hurst reported as Chairman of Planning Committee. It has been a busy year despite the pandemic, with many remote meetings held to consider applications.

21/04 **Questions Raised**

Mr Holland enquired about the Council's stance on allotment issues such as water usage, communal manure delivery/storage and car park usage at the site. Cllr Allen, as Chairman of the allotment sub-committee offered to try and address any particular concerns that Mr Holland may have by inviting him to submit them in writing via an e-mail and/or meet him on site at the next routine allotment inspections.

Mr Holland also asked why, according to signs at Lakeside, assistance dogs are excluded from the Dog Control Orders? He understood that this is not the case at Newark Cemetery. This issue will be discussed by the Council's Amenities Committee to seek an explanation for the discrepancy and/or seek a review of the decision relating to assistance dogs.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.10pm