

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday January 12th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Gloster, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Ms White with Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3359 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Scott

3360 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.

3361 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

3362 Clerk/Chairman's Update

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

- 1. Re Minute 3344 Children's Fitness Holiday Club** Members asked that enquiries be made with the company to ascertain if there would be any cost to the Council for this type of holiday club to take place on the playing field, and whether additional written details could be provided for members perusal.

3363 Playing Field Flooding

The County Council's Drainage Unit's CCTV camera had previously identified that the drain that runs from the field end of Macaulay Drive through to London Road between several Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue properties, is silted up. This could be causing the playing field's very slow drainage and long-standing flooding problem. The County Council is still currently quoting to undertake the work on behalf of the District Council who are responsible for that stretch of drain. This has again been recently expedited and the Drainage Manager has undertaken to keep the Council updated.

3364 **Police Update**

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village. Fernwood Parish Council's suggested joint meeting has now been arranged for this Council, the Police and Lynne Oxlade, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for this area. This will take place remotely via Zoom on Monday January 17th 2022 at 4pm; any members wishing to attend to notify the Clerk.

3365 **Headstone Request**

Consideration was given to a request from a local stonemasonry business to allow a headstone in the Cemetery where the base plinth is slightly wider than has traditionally been allowed in the past. The proposed stone will be installed in the new extension area which has a concrete raft for headstones to be fixed to, leaving members puzzled as to why the application also shows a concrete foundation raft. Further enquiries will be made with the stonemasons to clarify why this is needed before a decision is taken.

3366 **Playing Field Access and Benches**

Members gave consideration to an e-mail forwarded by County Cllr Smith, from Primary Integrated Community Services (a local NHS organisation) for additional benches and improved wheelchair user access at the playing field. One criticism is that the two smaller gates are not wheelchair friendly and to access the main gate, the path is very uneven which runs alongside the outside of the field. Tree root removal and resurfacing work has recently been undertaken to the path by the County's Rights of Way Department so this situation may have eased since the e-mail was drafted. The Parish Council selected the style of the existing gates to prevent motorcycles from accessing the field. Mr Brown undertook to carry out an audit of the number of benches, possible sites for additional wooden sleeper style units, costs etc. to bring back to the committee for consideration.

3367 **Highway Issues**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities:

1. The street lights on Grove Street appear dimmer at the beginning of the lighting up period, causing visibility issues for pedestrians, but they then appear to get brighter as the evening passes. Enquiries will be made with the County Council to ascertain if this is the case and if so, the reasoning behind it.
2. There are still a number of home-made signs installed on the grass verge opposite Sainsbury's on London Road. These have been reported previously but the District Council will be asked to arrange for their removal.
3. Members reported a general increase in the incidents of dog fouling in numerous areas of the village. The Community Protection Officers will be asked to increase patrols with a view to issuing Fixed Penalty Tickets to any offenders.

3368 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) An e-mail from local M.P. the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, suggesting a joint (virtual) meeting with other local councils to discuss plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Members concurred with this suggestion and a meeting of the Council's own Jubilee Working Party will be arranged imminently.
- b) Details of Severn Trent Water's community funding for projects to boost environmental sustainability, reduce carbon and help communities care for the environment. Cllr Ms White suggested that a bid could be submitted for water troughs at the allotments which would reduce the amount of water sometimes wasted by hosepipe users. Members considered this was a suitable project for a bid to be made to the organisation.
- c) An offer from volunteers to assist with the Balderton in Bloom 2022 entry, with particular interest in the community aspect and how the Lake could play a part. Members welcomed the volunteers' offer.

3369 **Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.20pm.