



# Balderton Parish Council Full Council Meeting

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm

### Attendees:

**Balderton Parish Councillors:** Vanessa Bracegirdle, Ronalie Bright, Jane Buxton (Chair), Karen Callingham, Martyn Cox, Mandie Elson, Roy Fairbairn, Simon Forde, Jean Hall, Debbie Moore (left after item 44), Joy Sellars

**County/District Councillors:** Keith Girling (County), John Lee (County/District), Emma Oldham (District) – left after item 39

**Parish Clerk:** Marion Fox Goddard

**Public:** 2 residents joined the meeting

Meeting agenda pack with reports can be found on our website: <https://www.baldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

### 34. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

### 35. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillors: Mac Mallard, Leigh Marshall, Dean Scott  
District/County Councillors: Sam Smith (county)

### 36. Declarations of interest

Simon Forde, Jean Hall – District Councillors.

### 37. Public forum

A resident raised concerns regarding:

- when the Vertidrain is going to be used on the playing field
- young people not leaving the field when the bell is rung by the attendants and climbing over the fence.

Balderton Parish Council is regularly in contact with the police and N&SDC's antisocial behaviour team to try to address such issues and the resident was encouraged to report it too.

### 38. Approval of the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record and Councillor Buxton duly signed them.

### 39. Reports from County and District councillors/Discussion

Cllr Buxton introduced this item, saying that she and Cllr Oldham have agreed to meet regarding communications and invited other members to join the meeting. Cllrs Bright, Callingham, Moore, Sellars and Lee said that they would like to be invited once a date has been arranged.

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*District Councillor Oldham* – N&SDC’s successful pop-up responsible dog ownership sessions which have been held at Devon Park will be brought to Balderton Lake soon. Has suggested 2 additional sites for No Mow May in Balderton – Lacey Green and Southfield (large patches of grass only/not pathways or outside people’s homes) and asked for the parish council’s feedback on this. The council agreed a trial would be a good idea. Cllr Oldham has asked Nottinghamshire County Council to not cut some verges in Balderton during May. *Diary Dates:* April 8<sup>th</sup> there is a meeting at Ghent House for residents to talk to N&SDC councillors regarding any issues they would like to raise. April 27<sup>th</sup> – Business Showcase and children’s activities in the Buttermarket in Newark.

*District/County Councillor Lee* – Full report can be found in the agenda pack for this meeting. Traffic speed analysis indicated that vehicles are close to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on Hawton Road so ‘30mph for a reason’ signs and other measures are being investigated. Has had assurances from the planning officer that the St Gobain application works cannot commence until the road is open. Balderton Parish Council’s pedestrian access request has been passed on to Fernwood Parish Council. Flooding issues on Main Street and London Road are now with the Environment Agency. Continues to do walkabout in Balderton.

*County Councillor Girling* – Has attended Southern Relief Road meetings and will attend the next one and will be following up on the actions.

*District Councillor Hall* – Attended Ghent House walkabout with Newark and Sherwood Homes. Has arranged a litter pick with Sustrans. Has contacted Cllr Lee regarding flooding on Main Street. Received reports regarding potholes so encouraged residents to use Nottinghamshire County Council’s [MyNotts](#) app. Attended open spaces strategy meeting. Got involved with graffiti project, with young people received in a great light. *Diary Date:* April 20<sup>th</sup>, 10am -1pm Community Garden event at the end of Lansbury Road.

*District Councillor Forde* – The footpath near the ‘medieval hedgerow’ at the back of Lacey Green has been cleared by N&SDC, residents have done a litter pick and N&SDC have collected fly tipping. NCC have cut back vegetation on Blind Lane. N&SDC have street cleaned round the churchyard walls.

**40. Parish Councillor Reports**

*Councillor Buxton* – had attended the Newark Health Group meeting and Rotary Awards for Courage with Cllr Mallard. Also attended the Southern Relief Road, and Newark Town Board meetings.

*Councillor Fairbairn* – has been meeting the new allotment holders and has attended Personnel and Policy meetings.

*Councillor Moore* – has attended Personnel and Policy meetings, attending Biodiversity Net Gain Training, attending N&SDC’s briefing on the new process for speaking at N&SDC’s planning committee and took part in The Big Sleep Out.

*Councillor Callingham* – has attended the Newark Town Masterplan meeting and regularly does litter picks.

*Councillor Sellars* – has attended the Newark Town Masterplan meeting and a Scribe online meeting.

*Councillor Bright* - joined the Sustrans litter pick and suggested letting local schools know next time.

**41. Clerk’s report** – noted with no queries. Councillors were asked to let Cllr Buxton know if they would like to join the Civility and Respect training.

Administration/Management	BT – We are experiencing problems with incoming calls on the new phone system. The Internal Auditor came in this month – see item 45c.
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Civility and Respect Training	Online training for the following courses has been ordered: Standards in public life Respectful & Positive Social Media for Councils and Councillors Leadership in Challenging Situations for Councils and Councillors Resilience and Emotional Intelligence.
Balderton Post Office Licensing Application	Cllr Hall has taken advice from N&SDC: there is no right to appeal the decision, but if there are issues relating to this premises regarding the sale of alcohol from this premises, these should be reported to both the police and licensing authority so the incidents will be investigated if they are against the Licensing objectives and if upheld actions will be taken to address these and in certain cases a licence can be revoked.
Procurement since the last meeting	Electrical work approved at the last meeting has been requested – awaiting date for delivery. Church Wall Survey – Structural engineer due to visit w/c 18/3/24 to undertake an initial inspection of the walls; they said they hope to have the report to us during April. Sewerage Pumping System repairs have been completed. New CCTV is being delivered w/c 18/3/24. Three new benches have been delivered and installed at the lake. The designing out crime officer has recommended that we do not put a bench behind peg 16 as this could cause disturbance to anglers. This will be taken back to the Amenities Committee for further discussion.
Bike Marking at Balderton Village Centre	Date – Saturday 30th March 2024, Time – 11am until 2pm. Local Nottinghamshire Police Officers will offer security advice, mark, and register bikes all free of charge on the National Bike Register Database.
Balderton Lake Covenant	Following the last meeting a local resident sent in a copy of the title register relating to this. I have made enquiries with Newark and Sherwood District Council as they are detailed as the Covenantee.
Newsletter	The newsletter <i>is ready for distribution</i> <sup>1</sup> .
Village Centre	The new pricing structure and terms and conditions are on the website and there is an article in the newsletter regarding this.

#### 42. Minutes from committees/subcommittees

- a. Personnel and Policy Committee Minutes - March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – noted.
- b. Planning Committee Minutes held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – noted.

#### 43. Discussion on votes on planning applications that are brought to Full Council

There was discussion regarding this. There will be no changes to the current system (small applications being brought to full council, separate planning committee for large applications). Councillors can add a motion as per standing orders, should they wish to propose a different approach.

#### 44. Consideration of Planning Applications

- a. [24/00456/FUL](#) - 2 Club Court, Balderton NG24 3LJ - Erection of a detached bungalow – no comment.
- b. [24/00452/FUL](#) – Coronation Street, Balderton, NG24 3BD, Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellings – no comment.
- c. [23/01913/FUL](#) - Land at The Scrapyard Bowbridge Lane Balderton, Battery Energy Storage System – Votes: Support 7, Object 1, Abstain 3.

#### 45. Finance

- a. The council unanimously approved the following reports:
  - i. Income/expenditure for February and bank balances.
  - ii. Expenditure transactions for February.

<sup>1</sup> *Italics* indicate where the report has been updated since the agenda pack was issued.

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- b. The council unanimously agreed the following procurement for Safer Streets 5 project – Signs for Balderton Lake and Neighbourhood Watch items.
- c. Interim Internal Auditor report – noted.
- d. Direct Debits – the council noted direct debits have/will be set up for Everflow (water), N&SDC Waste collections and PPL/PRS for music.
- e. Gas quotes – There was unanimously agreement to sign up for Eon's 3-year fixed price option subject to the termination clauses being fair in the contract (authority delegated to the clerk to liaise with Cllr Fairbairn on whether the wording is acceptable; a shorter term may be selected if the penalty for early exit is too high)
- f. Insurance renewal – the Council unanimously agreed to accept the quote for insurance without play equipment added – Total Cost £6655.66<sup>2</sup> The Engineering and Construction policy and Agricultural Vehicles policy were also unanimously agreed. Next year buildings should be revalued for the purpose get quote for a new insurance contract.
- g. Signatories for CCLA – It was unanimously agreed for Cllrs Bracebridge, Callingham, Cox, Elson and Sellars to be set up as signatories for this investment.
- h. Additional signatories for Skipton Building Society – it was agreed that Cllrs Bracegirdle and Elson will be added as signatories.

#### 46. Motion to change Balderton Parish Council's Accounting Package

Cllr Fairbairn outlined the reasons for his motion to change the council's accounting package to Scribe: used by many councils for accounting, we already use Scribe for Cemetery management, it has meaningful/bespoke reports for our sector, it is cloud based, its administration is easy to use, and support is easily accessible for this package. Cllr Fairbairn proposed that the Council move to Scribe accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Elson and unanimously agreed.

#### 47. Correspondence

- a. Email from NCC regarding Parish Council - Climate Change survey – Cllr Fairbairn offered to respond on behalf of Balderton Parish Council.

### EXEMPT ITEMS

*Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.*

The Council unanimously agreed to close the meeting to the press and public.

#### 48. Update regarding the potential handover of common land

The council agreed to do further research on access rights to the land. Cllrs Forde and Sellars will investigate this.

#### 49. Personnel considerations

The council agreed to use a third-party company to assist with the accounts and preparation of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24.

The council accepted the recommendations of the personnel committee and agreed on a further personnel issue which had come to light following the Personnel and Policy Committee meeting. (*The clerk left the meeting during this item*).

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

#### Future parish council meetings – open to the public

- Amenities Committee Meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm
- Full Council Meeting: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm

<sup>2</sup> This is slightly higher than the figure in the agenda pack as the quote has been adjusted to take off the Millenium Clock and add on the youth shelter.

*JAB*  
24.4.24