



MA

Balderton Parish Council Amenities Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 29th November 2023 at 7pm

Attendees:

Balderton Parish Councillors: Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Mandie Elson (Chairman), Roy Fairbairn, Jean Hall, Mac Mallard and Debbie Moore (Vice Chairman), Joy Sellars

Staff: Marion Fox Goddard (Parish Clerk), Jim Brown (Head Groundsman)

Public: 4 members of Grove Anglian Club, 1 member of Balderton Cricket Club and 1 PhD researcher

1. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Forde and Marshall.

3. Declarations of interest

Roy Fairbairn – Allotment holder, Jean Hall – District Councillor.

4. Public Open Forum

Members of Grove Angling Club raised queries regarding:

- Anti-poaching signage that they had asked parish council staff to put up (see item 8a).
- Maintenance near fishing pegs (Jim explained this has been done twice this year and more will be done in the new year; anglers were requested to report issues/rather than tackle themselves).
- AE fishery advice regarding curly pond weed.
- Concern regarding how long the parish council has taken to deal with the duckweed.

These concerns were noted and the members of the club were asked to email the clerk regarding any issues that need to be addressed. (Also see item 8)

A PhD student explained that she was attending the meeting to research the needs of the community and to aid her evaluation of the YMCA.

A member of Balderton Cricket Club explained the basis on which they had sent an application for funding to Skanska/National Highways:

- For an artificial wicket to go on the end of the wicket closest to the village hall.
- Funding to go to the parish council; wicket to be owned, insured and maintained (minimal) by Balderton Parish Council.
- Balderton Cricket Club will project manage the installation.
- Balderton Cricket Club will seek funding for a replacement at the end of the new wicket's life.

Once funding has been agreed, Balderton Parish Council and Balderton Cricket Club will meet to discuss the details of how this will work.

A resident raised concerns regarding flooding on London Road near Highfields school, frustrated that this has been raised with councillors and the issue not resolved. It was explained that this is not in Balderton Parish Council's jurisdiction although the clerk has written to the local county councillor to see if there are any further updates. The local county and district councillors attend the Balderton Parish Council's Full Council meeting, the next one being on December 13th, it is hoped the county/district councillor for the area will be able to provide an update then.

5. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on October 18th 2023

The minutes were unanimously¹ approved as an accurate record and Councillor Elson duly signed them.

6. Clerk's update

The following report was noted. (Note: *Italics indicate where report has been updated since agenda pack issued*).

Item	Update
1 Artificial Cricket Wicket	Following the last meeting we have received a copy of the quote that Balderton Cricket Club have obtained and their application to National Highways for funding. The proposal is for the council to buy and own the wicket. Once we know whether the funding bid has been successful, this item will be brought to either the Amenities Committee/Full Council so the council can discuss the finer details of this project.
2 Replacement dog bins	Full council agreed to replace dog bins when needed and to make budgetary provision for this each year. Replacement bins have been ordered for those needing replacement this year. An application has been sent to Via for the new bin on Staple Lane –this has been agreed in principle but we need to wait for final sign off before installation.
3 Signage regarding parking on Heron Way	Full Council opted to post notices in the noticeboard to encourage drivers to park in Heron Way carpark. This is now in the noticeboard. We will also raise the issue of cars parked on the bend of Rowan Way with the angling club.
4 Jubilee Clock	Full Council agreed to shelve this project, divert grant money received to another project such as the millennium clock.
5 Millennium Clock	Councillors have begun to look for funding options. Approval being sought from land owner before this is moved forward.
6 Lake	Litter and vermin posters are in place.
7 Memorial Tree	A Silver birch has been planted at the lakeside in memory of Tom Scott.
8 Regular user keys/fobs	The alarm company due in to program alarm fobs. Once done keys/fobs will be issued.

¹ Unanimous decision of the councillors who had attended the last meeting.

	Item	Update
9	Bulbs for Coronation Street playing field.	500 crocuses have been delivered from the Long Bennington Rotary (polio campaign). 200 Daffodils, 200 Bluebells and 200 Aconites has also been ordered and <i>the planting will co-ordinated and done by parish councillors.</i>
10	Fencing around Heron Way carpark	Work to replace this has been delayed due to rainfall and the holes being full of water. Once it is dry enough the grounds staff will complete this work.
11	Woodland Trust Saplings	We have taken receipt of Woodland Trust saplings. The grounds staff plant these temporarily near Balderton Village Centre to bring them on for planting elsewhere on parish council land. More trees will be ordered as they are offered.
12	Coronation Street Park Cradle swings	Due to wear on the chains, these <i>were</i> temporarily taken down. <i>New chains have now been installed.</i>

7. An update on the safer streets bid

The clerk and Cllr Buxton outlined what is included in the bid² and a suggestion of suitable bins and life buoy containers handed around. The clerk is working on the project delivery team with the target of installing bins, youth shelters and life buoy boxes by the end of this financial year.

8. Balderton Lake

a. The Grove Angling Club had requested:

- i. Signage in the water near the moonstone – the head groundsman explained that the signage will not be put in the water but will be close by.
- ii. Increasing membership numbers and removing the restriction of members living within a 10 mile radius – a decision on this was deferred (see item 8e)

b. Cormorants being deterred from settling at the lake through the use of lasers – Councillors asked members of Grove Angling Club not to do this or to use any other means to deter wildlife.

c. Report from the Environment Agency –the committee unanimously agreed to consider this report once a broader report has been received (See 8d).

d. Long term management of the lake – The committee unanimously agreed to seek costings for commissioning a report for the long term management of the lake.

e. Grove Angling Club lease – It was unanimously agreed to review this including making provision for regular communications between Balderton Parish Council and the angling club.

f. Soil has been left near the lake for use around the lake – It was noted that staff are reviewing where this is stored/how to process this.

g. Bin replacement required near the point following vandalism - It was unanimously agreed to use Safer Streets 5 funding to replace this so all bins can be replaced together.

9. Allotments

The following actions were unanimously agreed upon:

- a. to join the Allotment Society;

² Bins and improved signage for lakeside and Coronation Street Park. Improved CCTV at Balderton playing field and review of CCTV at Lakeside Shopping Centre. CCTV and lighting at Heron Way car park. Lifebuoys with lockable boxes around the lake. Youth shelter at Coronation Street playing field. Water safety day and neighbourhood watch scheme for Balderton.

~~MMW~~ 10/11/24

The clerk had contacted the headmaster and the school is looking at getting power back to the building the defibrillator used to be powered from. For now, the defibrillator has been taken off the network. Once the school has power again, we will get this up and running and back on the network.

14. Planter for local school

It was unanimously agreed £250 (each) can be sent to the three schools that have come back with what they would like to buy with the funding offered to commemorate the coronation. Proof of purchase will be requested. Cllr Sellars will contact the schools.

15. Phone and Broadband contract

The committee unanimously agreed to amend the phone/broadband contract with the current supplier as the proposal supplied in the agenda pack: 5 year contract avoiding early cancellation charges for the 2 contracts that we have, whilst also delivering a saving of £284.92 per year. This will include 1 landline, 3 mobile phones and superfast broadband.

16. Book Swap at Balderton Village Centre

It was unanimously agreed to set this up on a small bookshelf in reception.

17. Items of correspondence and information

- a. Reminder to councillors to let Cllr Forde know suggested areas for WISE officers (litter). Cllr Callingham has provided details. Other councillors encouraged to do so.

18. Items for consideration on future agendas - None

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.