

Dear Councillors Bracegirdle, Callingham, Elson, Fairbairn, Forde, Hall, Mallard, Marshall, Moore, Sellars and White,

You are summoned to attend the next meeting of the **Amenities Committee** to be held on **Wednesday 29th November 2023, commencing at 7pm**. This meeting will be held in the large hall of Balderton Village Centre.

Members of the public and press are entitled to be at the following meeting Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 Section 1 extended by the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100 unless precluded by the Parish Council by resolution during whole or part of the proceedings. Such entitlement does not however include the right to speak on any matter except at the beginning of the meeting (public open forum). As issues raised during the public session may not relate to items on the agenda no resolution for action can be taken.

Marion Fox Goddard, Balderton Parish Clerk, Thursday 23rd November 2023

AGENDA

- 1. Declarations of any intentions to record the meeting.
- 2. To receive apologies for absence.
- 3. Declarations of interest.
- 4. Public Open Forum (20 minutes) Balderton Parish Council is committed to community engagement and therefore warmly invites members of public to contribute during this part of the meeting.
- 5. To approve the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on October 18th 2023.
- 6. To note the clerk's update.
- 7. To receive an update on the safer streets 5 bid and what this includes.
- 8. Lake To consider/note:
 - a. requests from Grove Angling Club;
 - b. the use of lasers to scare off cormorants;
 - c. the report from the Environment Agency, how we will address the duckweed and the other recommendations in the report;
 - d. the ongoing management of the lake and whether to seek quotes for advice on this;

- e. reviewing the lease and communications with lake users;
- f. spare soil stored at lakeside;
- g. quotes for replacement bin at the lake.
- 9. Allotments To discuss and agree way forward on:
 - a. proposal to join the Allotment Society;
 - b. disposal of green waste including an update regarding tidying up the allotments site;
 - c. a policy for offering reduced plot sizes;
 - d. improved signage;
 - e. reviewing the tenancy agreement;
 - f. the suggestion to add a bike rack at the allotments.

10. Events

- a. To consider what to do for D-Day 80;
- b. To discuss the Macmillan Coffee Morning on December 14th help on the day/contributions;
- c. To agree a date for the Fete Working Group meeting.
- 11. Balderton Village Centre/playing field
 - a. To consider a regular user request for a projector and amplification/sound system;
 - b. To note new litter posters have been put up and consider a suggestion for posters to ask people not to pick flowers;
 - c. To agree members of the Village Centre Sub Committee and set a first meeting date;
 - d. To note the Legionella Risk Assessment has been received and recommended action being taken.
- 12. To receive an update on the church wall and agree a way forward.
- 13. To receive an update on defibrillator at Chuter Ede School.
- 14. To receive an update on the planter for local school and decide how to proceed regarding the request for funding for a planter (£341.25 plus VAT).
- 15. To consider a proposal to amend the phone/broadband contract.
- 16. To consider the proposal for a book swap at Balderton Village Centre.
- 17. Items of correspondence and information
 - a. Reminder to councillors to let Cllr Forde know suggested areas for WISE officers (litter).
- 18. Items for consideration on future agendas.



Balderton Parish Council Amenities Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday October 18th 2023 at 7pm

Attendees:

Balderton Parish Councillors: Vanessa Bracegirdle, Mandie Elson (Chairman), Simon Forde, Leigh Marshall and Debbie Moore (Vice Chairman)

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

Public: 4 residents joined the meeting

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1. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Buxton, Callingham, Fairbairn, Hall, Mallard, Sellars, and White

3. Declarations of interest

Simon Forde - District Councillor

4. Public Open Forum

Four residents attended the meeting; Three to discuss item 6 and one to discuss item 7.

5. Clerk's update

The report was noted.

6. Decision regarding a request from resident to put nets on goals for personal use Due to byelaws, permission needs to be sought from the parish council. The committee unanimously agreed to allow 2 residents to erect their nets (when practising) for a three month trial period after which a decision can be made whether to extend this. Should any other requests be received, these will need to be considered by the Amenities Committee on a case by case basis

7. Discussion regarding an artificial cricket wicket

A representative from Balderton Cricket Club explained that they had applied to WREN for a grant (still awaiting decision) for an artificial wicket as discussed with the council previously. The clerk asked for the following to be sent to the council so all councillors are aware of the proposal:

- WREN application
- Specification for the artificial wicket

Map with proposed location.

Clerk and Balderton Cricket Club will liaise regarding this issue so necessary arrangements and agreements can be worked on and taken to full council.

8. Recommendation to Full Council on the dog waste bins replacements

Following the last meeting, quotes are being prepared to take to the next full council. We have a spare bin for Staple Lane and permission to site the bin will be sought from the relevant authority. The committee unanimously agreed to recommend to full council that the bins are replaced when needed and budgetary provision be made each year.

9. Consideration regarding whether to request/install signage Rowan Way/Heron Way: After debating the pros and cons of signage and discussion on whether signs would change parking on Heron Way, the committee agreed to suggest to council that leaving a note on windscreens to notify drivers of the car park and putting improved signage in the parish council noticeboard would be the best first step to take, with this being revisited in future should the problem persist.

10. Recommendation for the Jubilee Clock

The committee unanimously agreed to recommend to Full Council that this project is shelved (due to the installer informing the council that the planned location is not suitable) and to divert grant money received to another project such as the millennium clock.

11.Recommendation regarding the possible replacement Millennium ClockThe committee agreed to recommend to full council to consult with residents on this.

12. Consideration how to minimise attracting vermin to homes near the lake

The committee agreed to place signs in the noticeboard (with rats on).

13. Date for the 2024 summer fete - proposed weekend 13/14 July 2024

The clerk had sent an electronic poll to all councillors to gauge when most would be available. It was noted that the Sunday would be better. Clerk will take a proposal regarding whether a committee, subcommittee or working group is appropriate for this project.

14. Damage to trees next to the moonstone at Balderton Lake

The committee noted the report on the vandalism.

15. Memorial tree for Tom Scott

The committee unanimously agreed to plant a Silver birch tree at the Lakeside

16. Decision on whether to issue keys to Balderton Village Centre to regular users of the building

The committee unanimously agreed to issue keys and alarm fobs to regular users.

At 9pm the committee unanimously agreed to extend the meeting to ensure all agenda items were considered.

17. Consideration of buying bulbs to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Coronation Street playing field and 130 year anniversary of Balderton Parish Council (both in 2024).

It was agreed that Cllr Elson and the head groundsman will get quotes so this can be taken to Full Council for consideration.

18. Delegation of decisions regarding dogs being allowed in the centre to a case by case basis and Terms and Conditions for use of the hall.

The committee agreed to delegate such decisions to the clerk and noted that she will make recommendations on the terms and conditions at a later date.

19. Discussion on the idea having A4 lockable frames for litter posters

The committee agreed to improve signage in the noticeboard and on Balderton Parish Council bins around the lake (laminated signs). All councillors to send details of litter hotspots to Cllr Forde so he can see if N&SDC can get WISE officers to do patrols. Councillors noted that N&SDC are redesigning their litter posters so these may be able to be used in future. (Lockable frames were not opted for). A policy on litter could be considered in future.

20. Items of correspondence and information

- a. Grove Angling Club will be doing the mapping of the lake on 30/31 October. Netting will be done on 26 February 2024.
- b. An email had been received about pond weed in the lake. The head groundsman detailed that this normally naturally disperses but confirmed that he will monitor this.
- Emails regarding fencing around Heron Way carpark repairs Ground staff have started to replace this and aim to get it finished by early November (weather dependent).

21. Items for consideration on future agendas.

a. Request for funding for specific planter from local school for commemoration of King Charles' coronation – Clerk to look at original decision and take to Full Council for a decision.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Future parish council meetings - open to the public

Full Council Meeting: Wednesday 8th November, 7pm Planning Committee Meeting: Thursday 26th October, 7pm Amenities Committee Meeting: Wednesday 29th November, 7pm

	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. The and 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 over 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.
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 are due to be planted by the grounds staff.
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 have been temporarily taken down. New chains are on order.

Lake - Issues to consider

A number of issues have arisen regarding the lake since the last meeting. Councillors are asked to consider/note the following:

- a. Requests from Grove Angling Club:
 - i. Signage in the water near the moonstone
 - ii. Increasing members from 100 to 150 (to bring more funds, police the water and introduce more feed in the lake wish is much needed) and removing the restriction of members living within a 10 mile radius.
- b. Use of lasers to move on cormorants

The council has been informed that lasers are being used to move off cormorants. This has been raised with the angling club and they have said that the issues with the floods on the River Trent have led to these birds coming to the lake. One person was seen pointing the laser at birds in flight which we believe is illegal.

- c. Report from the Environment Agency this includes recommendations which the committee may wish to consider now or wait until a broader report has been received.
- d. Whether advice should be taken (a report commissioned) for the long term management of the lake.
- e. The lease could do with a review as it hasn't been looked at for some time. It is also recommended that we review communications with the angling club. Members are asked to decide whether they are in agreement.
- f. Soil has been left near the lake for use around the lake. We are reviewing where this is stored/how to process this.
- g. Since the last meeting the mesh bin near Orchid Close was vandalised beyond repair. As this is one of the most used bins we have moved the bin from the point temporarily. We had got quotes to replace this one but I recommend we wait to buy it with all the bins being bought with Safer Streets 5 funding.

Marion Fox Goddard
Parish Clerk
17/11/23

Allotments - Issues to consider

1. Allotment Society Membership

- a. Committee members are asked to consider joining the <u>Allotment Society</u>. This would cost the council £55 plus VAT per year and would give us to access to template tenancy agreements and 'initial' legal advice if needed.
- b. They are currently testing a new website which will restrict much of the information which is freely available at present to members only.



Join Us

The National Allotment Society is a not-for-profit organisation, which exists to support the needs of all allotment holders across the UK. Through our membership programme we raise funds to ensure the future of allotment gardening is protected.

We campaign against government legislation which threatens allotments, engage with local authorities to ensure they meet their statutory obligations and offer free legal advice to allotment holders as and when they need it. On a day to day basis we are there to help educate plot holders with growing advice, support schools into allotment growing and be the voice of allotmenteers up and down the country.

We cannot do this without your support, so please become a member today, make us a donation or remember us in your will.



c. Local Authority Membership

Local Authority membership gives the council access to initial legal advice from in-house lawyer and feedback from members is that this is the most valued part of council membership offer.

- Access to initial legal advice on a range of issues e.g. tenancy agreements, leases, land disputes, rent rises, health and safety, environmental, contract and company law and data protection.
- Template documents
- Support to develop sites or move to devolved management
- Magazine and e-news

2. Waste review

a. The allotment site is currently used for council waste from the allotments and other waste from other parish council sites.

Below are images of waste/items near the entrance of the allotment site.



Image 1: Items picked up at the lake and other BPC sites across the parish and periodically disposed of.



Image 2: Bonfire waste. Green waste not suitable for the compost pile.



Grass cuttings



Image 4: Building supplies – used for projects across our site/stored at the allotments

b. Current arrangements

- i. Collection of waste for later disposal Images 1 and 2 show the waste that we currently have at the allotment. This is unsightly and despite these being for council waste, they are added to by others creating more waste for the ground staff to deal with.
- ii. Bonfire waste is usually burnt annually and scrap items are collected every now and then when they have built up.
- iii. We currently have 2.5 allotments which we are preparing to re-let. They haven't been re-let yet due to the condition/amount of waste let on them. During w/c 20 November, skips were hired to tackle this. Skips are £235 (8 yard) per skip. One allotment had more that one skip's worth of waste. The terms and conditions do not make clear that tenants when vacating their plot need to leave it as found (i.e. with waste removed) or clearance may be chargeable.
- c. Alternative options for green waste usually disposed of by bonfire (not suitable for compost heap)
 - i. Smaller bonfires three times a year?
 - ii. Shredder estimated cost at least £3000 (these machines can cost over £15,000) where possible leaving shredded waste to mulch down in the area they have been cut. Smaller bonfire once or twice a year for waste that cannot be left. (Head Groundsman will give update on sourcing a shredder during the meeting).
 - iii. Third party collector 2 quotes received. HIAB collection (Lorry with grabber). First quote £350 per load, second quote £150 per load.
- iv. Green waste could be taken to MEC at Swinderby. This would be £25 per load. (Estimated travelling time 25 minutes each way). The amount of waste we create makes this option prohibitive as we would lose many man hours travelling back and forth.

d. Additional suggestions/ideas for discussion

- i. Waste/storage area to be sectioned off so not visible. Possibly with bays made from pallets.
- ii. Improved signage to be bought for the allotments making it clear that allotment holder waste must be disposed of by allotment holders (taken away from the site/burnt?). To also include key messages such as conservation of water etc.

- iii. Improved allotment holder agreement (based on allotment society one). (Possible bond to be paid by allotment holders which could be paid back at the end of tenancies subject to waste/structures being removed etc.)
- iv. Fly-tipped waste (trolleys), old dog bins collection to be arranged from Coronation Street rather than leaving at allotments. Where owner can be found grounds/office staff to arrange to get this collected.

3. Allotment Division

For many years we have halved allotments as they become vacant and prepared for re letting. The idea of quartering them has been put forward. The ground staff have marked out quarters on allotment 15 which is currently being cleared prior to being let.

Concerns have been raised regarding dividing all allotments into four for two reasons:

- a. Allotment holders often wish to add items such as a shed/greenhouse/water butt on a quarter plot, this would leave less space for growing plants in the ground.
- b. On certain plots, there are mature fruit bushes; allotment 15 is one of these. If the plot were to be quartered these would need to be removed to allow space for anything else.





The 2 images above show allotment 15. The red and white tape show the quarter marking. The top left quarter has a significant amount of raspberry canes. If that quarter is to be let as a quarter, the majority of that plot would have to be raspberry canes unless removed. It is suggested the division of plots takes into account mature plants/trees. In this case it is suggested the back half of the allotment is let to one tenant. The front 2 quarters could be offered to 2 new tenants..

I have gathered feedback from other parish councils and some do provide small plots and this can work.

The Amenities Committee are asked to consider whether divisions of plots should be done on a case by case basis.¹ Based on the plots that are currently being prepared to re-let there will be 6 quarter plots and 2 half plots.

4. Pricing/bonds

Prices for allotments have been set as £35 full allotment, £20 half allotment. £15 quarter allotment. The allotments will make a loss this year due to the amount of work required to clear allotments that have become vacant. Once we have year end figures it is recommended that we review the allotment charges including benchmarking with other local allotment providers. It is also recommended that a bond is collected. If allotment holders leave their plot in a clear state this would be returned at the end of the tenancy once the key has been returned.

5. Decisions required

- i. Whether to join the Allotment Society.
- ii. How to proceed with the current green waste and how to deal with waste in the future. (2c)
- iii. Whether to section off waste (see 4 di)
- iv. Whether to invest in improved signage.
- v. How to proceed regarding the division of allotments.
- vi. Whether to review the allotment holder agreement and if so whether to do this before new allotments are let.
- vii. Whether to invest in a bike rack for the allotment site.

Marion Fox Goddard
Parish Clerk
20/11/23

¹ The clerk and head grounds man with look at the site and decide whether quarters are sensible or whether halves, quarters, a combination of the two are more achievable.

Events

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 2:23 pm, Notts ALC < Office@Nottsalc.org.uk > wrote:

TO ALL MEMBERS

Please see below from Bruno Peeks, Pageantmaster regarding the above:

"As you are aware, we are organising D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024, throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, UK Overseas Territories and at the site of the British Normandy Memorial, overlooking Gold Beach in Normandy, France, one of the five Beaches landed on 80 years ago on 6th June next year, in celebration and commemoration of this important occasion, as well as using the event to enable communities and individuals to pay their 'tribute' to those that gave so much during this campaign to help unsure the freedom we all enjoy today, with the flames from the Beacons representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war all those years ago.

We feel sure you will agree with me when we say that individuals and communities of all sizes were deeply affected in many and various ways during WWII, so with this in mind, we would like to encourage your Town or Parish Council to take part in D-Day 80 on 6th June next year, as we would like to achieve the lighting of at least **80 Beacons** per County, within England and Wales, as part of this 80th Anniversary event, so would be extremely grateful if you would be kind enough to discuss your possible involvement with your Council members at your earliest convenience please, with the view to ensuring we achieve the lighting of this number if Beacons in your County at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024.

Those taking part will be sent the Certificate of Grateful Recognition found on page **46** of the Guide, enabling them to frame and display it as a lasting reminder of this moment in history commemorated/celebrated. The Guide, message from the Prime Minister encouraging local communities to take part in lighting Beacons and the logo for your use, are available to download from the D-Day 80 website - www.d-day80beacons.co.uk.

From pages **24** through to **28**, you will see there are various types of Beacons that can be used on 6th June, which could be lit on town and village greens, local farms and country estates, or other locations of your choice that night, so we do hope that your Town and Parish Council will take part, and look forward to hearing from you in due course".

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Regards

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited





Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.



Place: Balderton Village Centre, Coronation Street

Date: December 14th 2023

Time: 10am to noon



Get information about:

- Benefits/ welfare
- Food banks
- Managing household bills
- Cooking on a budget
- Debt advice
- Health and well-being.

Contact: office@baldertonvillagecentre.gov.uk or 01636 703626









As you come into the meeting, there will be a list for councillors to add whether they will be able to help/bake - please complete this.

Set up time 9am (Regular booking in at 1pm so we need to clear up before then)

Organisations who have invited to give advice: Talking Therapies, Benefits Team, Connect Service, Water (Severn Trent), Your Health, Food Bank, Libraries, Green Dr, CVS, 21 Plus, Disabilities advice



Newark & District

Reg. Charity No. 1147496

19th November 2023

Attn. Mrs. M. Fox Goddard – Clerk Balderton Parish Council Balderton Village Centre Coronation Street Newark Notts NG24 3BD

Dear Marion,

Re: u3a meetings at Balderton Village Centre

As you are aware, the Newark and District u3a holds various functions at the Balderton Village Centre, including our monthly meetings, and these are always hugely enjoyable. The facilities within the Centre are generally extremely good, however there is a problem which I would be grateful if you would pass on to the Parish Council.

Each month the meetings involve the use of a projector and screen for our slide shows and for the Guest Speaker's presentation. We also need to use a sound amplification system for microphones, playing music and similar.

Although you do provide a screen at the hall, nonetheless we need to carry our own projector and the full music and amplification kit each time we meet there. All of these items are fairly weighty and our members are not getting any younger!

My request is that Balderton Parish Council may consider whether these items could be provided at the hall, as other venues within the area, including YMCA Activity Village, The Salvation Army and Coddington Village Hall, already have these installed for hirers.

Whilst writing, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our Group and look forward to meeting up again for our December "Christmas Special" meeting.

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

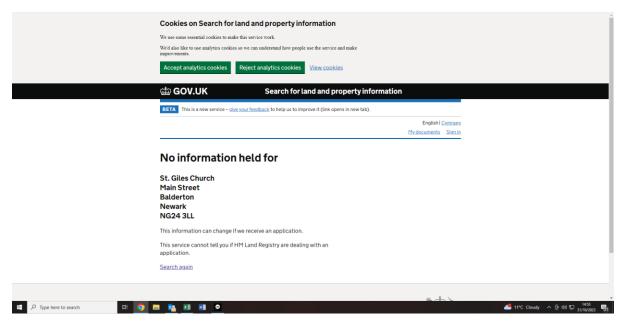
Chairman -

Newark & District u3a

Report regarding St. Giles church wall

1. Ownership

A Land Registry search for the church has confirmed that it is not registered. See below:



The churchwarden said:

"I spoke with the other warden who has checked the deeds and due to how old the deeds were there is no guidance as to who owns the wall.

The only presumption made is that the wall is clearly older than the bungalow property next to it, so must have been built prior to the property and therefore is owned by the Church grounds.

Unfortunately, that's the best guidance I can give."

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Amenities Committee consider the recommended next steps which are to:

- 1. Request a meeting with N&SDC to seek advice on what is required with it being in a conservation area and asking if they have any other advice/knowledge of any funding.
- 2. A survey to access what work is required.
- 3. Get 3 quotes from contractor experienced in to submit to a future meeting.
- 4. Contact the Parochial Council/St Giles regarding options for funding this work.
- 5. Start looking for funding opportunities.

Sue Lalyk Deputy Clerk 20/11/23

Note: Staff/councillors are due to attend a Managing Closed Burial Grounds course at the beginning of next month. Advice will be sought regarding the wall.

Background

- 1. 26/6/23 Amenities Committee agenda item:
 - 8. To consider the purchase of commemorative items for the village Primary school pupils and large planter(s) for seasonal plants total estimated cost £1000.
- 2. 26/6/23 Amenities Committee minute

3506 Coronation Commemorative Items

Discussion was given to purchasing Coronation commemorative items for village Primary School pupils. After some debate members considered that the offer to purchase a large flower planter for each school would be preferable. These would prove longer lasting items for both current and future attendees to enjoy, and the children can get involved learning about planting and tending the flowers.

3. Following contact from the parish council, one of the local schools has suggested a planter shown below



The school representative has said that the school would purchase 2 smaller ones and create a honeycomb planter in school to reflect the school's take care values and bee emblem.

4. At full council on November 8th it was agreed to wait for a full update from Cllr Sellars before deciding on this.

Decision required

Following and update from Cllr Sellars, the committee is asked to consider how to proceed with this request.

Phone and Broadband Contract Review

It has been established that savings can be made on our telephony and broadband contract whilst introducing mobile phones to assist staff deliver their roles.

At present we have no emergency phone number, no phones for attendants who have to be contactable by hirers and a landline for ground staff who are out for the majority of the day.

We have two BT contracts:

- One for phone lines £244.33 plus VAT per guarter
- One for cloud voice and broadband £193.23 plus VAT per quarter

Total cost £437.56 plus VAT per quarter.

Proposal

- Move to one contract to include:
 - a. Landline for office and 3 handsets (office/remote access also included)
 - b. Broadband
 - c. 3 mobile phones.

Total cost £366.33 plus VAT per quarter. (Verbal quote received – awaiting written quote at the time of the agenda pack being prepared).

- 2. No longer have landline in grounds staff office.
- 3. Three mobile phones to be used for:
 - a. 1 for the attendants.
 - b. 1 for the head groundsman.
 - c. 1 for emergency² calls.

4. Enter a 5 year contract with our current supplier for this. This will avoid early cancellation charges for the 2 contacts that we have, whilst also delivering a saving of £284.92 per year.

² This could be held by flood officer if/when floods are forecast. Remainder of time to be held by staff for emergency calls only (fire/something that has to be dealt with immediately by Balderton Parish Council. This shouldn't be called very often at all but is a way for BPC to be contacted if there is an emergency).