

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday January 25th 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Hurst (Chairman), Mrs Lee (Vice Chairman), Allen, Mrs Batey, Fairbairn, Gloster, Green, Lynch, Mallard, Newstead, Mrs Newstead, Roberts M.B.E and Ms White

with County Cllr Girling, thirty-nine members of the public, Police representatives P.C.S.O. Katie Hewerdine and PC Tom Mead, the Clerk and Clerical Assistant.

The Chairman advised all present that the meeting was being recorded.

4448 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Brooks, County Cllrs Lee and Smith

4449 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs 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.

4450 Public Participation

The meeting was closed to take public comments relating to scheduled agenda items.

PCSO Katie Hewerdine addressed the Councillors and reported that while there has been a decrease in anti-social behaviour she was looking at the longer-term scenario. Having engaged with young people they told her that what they would really like is a skate park, a graffiti wall and another youth club, and ideally they would like these to be at Coronation Street playing field. Members agreed to give these issues initial future consideration, and County Councillor Girling indicated that the County Council could help contribute to fund these facilities.

Several members of the public then spoke in the allocated time allowed for this section about the petition, urging the Council to stop the YMCA's kayaking agreement for the Lake, giving their reasons why they consider it will harm the environment and wildlife. One resident challenged Cllr White's right to vote on this subject because her employer rents an office in the YMCA building. Cllr Ms White confirmed that professional advice had been sought and there was no requirement for her to declare an interest.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their comments and the re-opened the meeting.

4451 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday December 14th 2022, having been circulated previously were approved, confirmed as a true record and signed.

4452 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

A printed update of ongoing issues was circulated and noted; the update is published with the minutes. No issues were discussed from the update.

- a) Full Council
- b) Amenities

4453 **Committees**

The minutes of the following committees was confirmed as a true record and signed:
Amenities of January 11th 2023

4454 **Petition to Stop the YMCA on Balderton Lake**

The Chairman read out a resume of the petition signatories; namely that of the claimed 3750 signatures there were actually 3524, and 1110 of these were authenticated as Balderton electors. A claim that the Council had ignored a previous petition in 2018 was refuted – an on-line petition at the time had never been served on the Parish Council. The Council's original decision to allow the YMCA to undertake supervised kayaking and canoeing was made, in principle, back in 2017 and the Chairman asked the members if they wished to re-visit that decision. A vote was taken and it was,

AGREED with ten votes for and three abstentions that the decision should remain.

The meeting was suspended while several members of the public left.
During this time County Cllr Lee joined the meeting.
After a few moments the Chairman re-opened the meeting.

4455 **Precept 2023/24**

It was unanimously,

AGREED that the precept be set at £351,558 for the 2023/24 financial year, a rise of 48pence per month for a band D property.

4456 **Councillors' 'Surgeries'**

Cllr Mrs Lee outlined her suggestion that Councillor 'surgeries' be held for residents to engage with members and be able to ask questions outside of formal meetings. Members initially considered this to generally be a good idea but the mechanics of how and where would need to be determined, taking into account safeguarding issues. PCSO Katie Hewerdine suggested that some could be held jointly with Newark Police as she is looking to re-introduce surgeries locally; members considered this option worth exploring.

4457 **Casual Vacancy**

Members discussed the option to co-opt a Councillor for the current vacancy on the North Ward; there is no necessity to do so because there are less than six months to go before the local elections on May 4th 2023. At least two people have expressed an interest in standing for co-option and it was,

AGREED that the procedure to co-opt be undertaken at the next Full Council meeting on March 8th 2023. Notices to this effect will be displayed in the notice boards and on the web-site.

4458 **Financial Statements**

The details as published and circulated were correct, there being total payment requirements of £33,742.24 for November 2022 and £25,443.29 for December 2022. A new 32 days' notice deposit account has been set up with the Council's bank to maximise a return for some of the Council's reserves following the recent increase in interest rates.

4459 **Reports from Representatives**

Cllr Ms White reported that a Day of Action was being planned for Balderton in March. This will involve a graffiti wall, litter picking, planting etc. and provides an opportunity for community groups to participate in the activity.

The District Council is offering a community grant opportunity that could be utilised to repair the Millennium Clock. Members considered that a grant application should be submitted for this.

A survey is currently being undertaken to assess rate-payers appetite for a kerbside glass recycling service; 90% of responses to date have been in favour.

County Cllr Lee reported that the authority is looking to introduce a 30mph speed limit for the remaining section of London Road between Sainsburys and the A1 roundabout.

County Cllr Girling advised that the authority has launched a draft ecology strategy and members are urged to participate and comment on this. Plans for the King's Coronation in May are progressing and any road closure applications for street parties will be considered as favourably as possible. Training is available for any Councillors considering getting involved in 'Surgeries' for safeguarding purposes. He also stressed the need for people to continue to use their local libraries.

Cllr Mrs Brooks joined the meeting at 7:45pm

4460 **Highways Faults**

The following faults/issues were raised for passing onto the relevant authority:

- a) Lansbury Road to Mount Road is full of pot holes. County Cllr Lee reported that this stretch of road has been put forward as one of his Ward priorities for resurfacing but any potholes should continue to be reported as this will help support the likelihood of the resurfacing project being selected.
- b) The street lights on Hawton Lane from the bridge down to Bowbridge Road are still not working; this was reported two weeks ago to the County Council but will be expedited.

4461 Clerk's Additional Information

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

- a) A small tree on Simpson Close will be removed due to it causing damage to the road.
- b) The 'Friends of Balderton' group had undertaken a community litter pick in the village on Sunday January 15th 2023; appreciation was extended to all those involved.
- c) A member of the Rotary Club in Long Bennington has offered to give a presentation to the Council regarding the condition Poliomyelitis. Members agreed to invite the representative to a future Council meeting.
- d) Fernwood Parish Council continues to push for Hollowdyke Lane to be open as a vehicular route from Main Street which this Council has long objected to, believing that it would have a dangerous and considerable impact on Main Street traffic. Other neighbouring parishes including Coddington and Barnby-in-the-Willows have also expressed their concerns about this possibility. Members were encouraged to be aware of this in case a formal application for consideration is ever submitted.
- e) Staple Lane will be subject to temporary traffic signals from Thursday February 9th to Tuesday February 28th 2023, from 8am to 5pm to allow civil engineering survey works to be undertaken.
- f) The latest newsletter from the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour team.

4462 Future Agenda Items

No future items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.00 pm.