

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday June 17th 2020 at 6.30pm

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

3198 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Green, Mayall B.E.M. and Scott.

3199 **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.

3200 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

3201 **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 3183 Rats at Lakeside** The reported sightings of rats has decreased since this was last discussed in February this year.
2. **Re Minute 3184 Field Drainage** The County Council's Principle Flood Risk Management Officer's reply will be expedited; he had undertaken to make enquiries with Severn Trent Water about a possible blocked watercourse on the playing field.

3202 **Football**

Two further written requests were discussed from two home football teams for the Council to consider a refund for the season's pitch fees as it hasn't always been possible to play matches on the playing field owing to the winter floods and then all matches were cancelled owing to the Coronavirus situation. Mr Brown informed that the Newark League had managed to re-arrange for matches to be played elsewhere during the floods at no extra cost to the teams. However, members agreed that the impact from the Coronavirus pandemic should be considered separately and it was,

RECOMMENDED

that as a gesture of goodwill a reduction of 20% be offered against next season's fees to all home teams.

3203 Lakeside Public Toilet Request

Members gave consideration to a written request, previously circulated, for a public toilet at Lakeside because persons unknown are using certain open areas as a toilet. Though sympathetic to the request, members considered that the cost to install a toilet block was prohibitive and that even a porta-loo unit would be subject to misuse and out of keeping in the area. Once built, the YMCA's boat house will have a public toilet and this should be accessible for Lakeside visitors, and the organisation's CCTV cameras may help control such inappropriate behaviour. The originator will also be advised to report such incidents to the Police as those responsible are committing public order offences.

3204 Heron Way Car Park

Members gave consideration to a suggestion that removable bollards be installed across the entrance to Heron Way car park to help deter anti-social behaviour. People meet there in cars often driving in and out at speed, playing loud music, drinking alcohol etc. Previous consideration had been given to installing a barrier style gate but members considered at the time that the cost was prohibitive. Removable bollards can be purchased for approximately £60 each and it is estimated that just three units will be needed. Local residents have offered to manage the bollards, remove them in the morning and replace them at dusk etc. On balance members agreed to try this measure as a relatively cost-effective solution to a long-standing problem. Appropriate arrangements will have to be agreed in advance with the volunteer residents to ensure the car park is available for genuine visitors, fishermen etc. and the situation will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

3205 Highway Faults

No new faults or issues were raised for passing onto the relevant authorities.

3206 Correspondence and Information

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

- a) REACH hopes to hold a smaller version of the Summer Fete on the Playing Field on Bank Holiday, Monday 31st August. The original event scheduled for July was cancelled owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- b) The District Council has notified that the Parish Council, as a precepting authority, no longer qualifies for small business rate relief on the Village Centre. Usually village halls are managed by a village committee with Parish Councillor representatives but Balderton Parish Council has always managed its own building. Cllr Ms White had undertaken to raise this issue with the Business Rates Manager and is seeking a meeting with him.

3207 Future Agenda Items

No agenda items were put forward.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.05pm.