

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held virtually on Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT** Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen, (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Dikkez, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Rouse

with County Cllrs Girling, Walker and Wallace, District Cllr Lee, one member of the public, the Deputy Clerk and Clerk.

### 4217 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Green and Scott.

### 4218 **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.

### 4219 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to meet Sam Smith, prospective County Councillor who is seeking election next May to the Newark East Ward which incorporates part of Balderton. He was thanked for his attendance and the meeting re-opened.

### 4220 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, having been circulated previously were confirmed as a true record and signed.

### 4221 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

An update of ongoing matters from the minutes of the previous Council meeting and subsequent committee meetings was circulated and noted. Updates circulated prior to each committee meeting had been included with the minutes. The following issues were discussed from the update:

- a) Council
- b) Allotment Sub Committee
- c) Planning
- d) Amenities
- e) **1. Re Minute 3248.1 L.I.S. Funding** Members agreed to accept the grant of 50% towards a zip wire installation, with the intention of delivering the project in the latter part of 2021. Further discussion was considered necessary to determine exactly where the zip wire will be located on the playing field.
- 2. Re Minute 3249 Café** Reach formally vacated the building yesterday which has been checked and found to be in perfect order. The organisation has written thanking the Council for the practical and moral support, again expressing regret and sadness that their venture here could not continue.

**3. Re Minute 3250 Public Toilet** After lengthy discussion it was,

AGREED that the public toilet will be re-opened to the public in the New Year, from Mondays to Fridays (8am to lunchtime), and during scheduled football matches at the weekends. If vandalism should recur the toilet will be closed again.

Further discussion will be given at the next committee meeting to the possibility of issuing toilet door keys to those requesting a copy, for a paid deposit.

f) Finance & General Purposes (F&GP)

1. **Re Minute 7303.1 Play Area Gate** A third quotation will be requested from local firm Newgate in Newark.
2. **Re Minute 7304.4 Flowserve Sportsground** Following advice taken from the District Council, members agreed to support the current application for the site to be an Asset of Community Value rather than submitting an alternative application in the Council's name.

4222 The minutes of the following committees were then approved, confirmed as a true record and signed:

Allotment sub-committee

Planning

Amenities

Finance and General Purposes

4223 **Suthers School Pupils Road Crossing**

Members gave further discussion to concerns regarding inadequate safe crossing points for pupils walking or cycling from Balderton to the new Suthers School in Fernwood, across both Staple Lane in Balderton and Great North Road in Fernwood. Members agreed that action is needed and discussed initial options including writing to the County Council portfolio holder for highways issues John Cottee, and the School to encourage parents to get involved, sign petitions etc. Contact will be made with Fernwood Parish Council suggesting that both parishes work together on this issue to find a way forward.

4224 **Financial Statements**

The details as published and circulated were correct, there being a total payment requirement of £29705.29 for October 2020.

4225 **Reports from Representatives**

Cllr Walker advised that he had attended a British Gypsum Liaison Group meeting earlier today (Cllr Mayall was also present at the meeting) which had been very informative. The company has set 29,000 trees since 2017, with a further 7,000 planned. Ultimately, a very large green park area will be created there.

Cllr Wallace advised that final works to correct the long-standing flooding problem outside the Post Office on Main Street is scheduled for early January. A fracture in the main pipe was eventually identified as the problem.

Cllr Girling reported that the ordered CCTV camera for the playing field is also being expedited by the District Council. He also thanked the Parish Council for their work with the Reach organisation whilst running the Cafe, praising the authority for all they had done.

Cllr Lee reported that anti-social behaviour is again on the increase in Balderton, the focus mainly being the Hawton Lane shop area. He also advised that he has made Freedom of Information requests of the District Council relating to patrols and fixed penalty ticket statistics for the Lakeside area relating to Dog Order offences.

**4226 Highways Faults**

- a) There is a very large pothole in the middle of Grove Street, near to number 41.
- b) The road surface of Oak Drive is deteriorating considerably and needs resurfacing.
- c) The road surface of Wilfred Avenue by Ghent House is poor and breaking up in places.
- d) Various pavements in the village require sweeping of rotting leaves.

**4227 Clerk's Additional Information**

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

- a) Following liaison through the County Council's Principle Flood Risk Management Officer, Severn Trent has advised that they have no record of a watercourse within the playing field for which they have responsibility; this is contrary to a local resident's understanding. He did however suggest that old maps be researched on-line to ascertain if there are any records of historical watercourses on the field. He considers that areas of the playing field being under water last winter for so many weeks was purely down to unprecedented rainfall coupled with the water table being so high in this area of the country.
- b) Highways England is conducting a consultation regarding the two options for the Newark Northern Bypass; the closing date for any comments is February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021.
- c) A Christmas Card for the Council from local M.P. Robert Jenrick.

**4228 Future Agenda Items**

No items were raised.

Members expressed their appreciation to Council staff for their dedication and hard work during a challenging year for all concerned. Seasonal greetings were exchanged and the meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm.