

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 6.30pm

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

3219 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Mrs Lee, Lynch and Scott.

3220 **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.

3221 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

3222 **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 Y.M.C.A. Agreement** Members were advised that the license agreement is still being worked on by the solicitor who has recently requested further information from the organisation relating to the design and security of the launch dock and CCTV.

3223 **Café**

Members were advised that the café remains closed and has been since lockdown began in March. REACH is reviewing its risk assessments for the building in relation to staff and clients being on site safely, taking into account the current Covid restrictions for numbers and the associated new regulations of running a café. The organisation has suggested a meeting with Café Working Party members towards the end of this month, after a scheduled Charity Trustees meeting, to discuss different options and possible ways forward. Members welcomed this, agreeing that decisions need to be made soon remembering that the Café was built to facilitate a community facility for the village.

3224 **Café Fence**

Members approved expenditure to the value of £985 to install some additional palisade fencing at either side of the back of the café to help prevent access to an 'out of sight' area between the rear café wall and the storage room housed in the old cricket scoreboard building. The 'panic latch' included on one of the fencing panels will only need to be operational when the café building is in use and needs to be padlocked at all other times. This area has been the subject of both crime (criminal damage and a break-in) and anti-social behaviour over the Summer months.

**3225 Rats at Lakeside**

Members gave discussion to installing underground rat baiting boxes at Lakeside – an estimate had been obtained of £768 for two such boxes to be installed and emptied weekly over three months. On balance members did not feel that the cost could be presently justified as some people seem to still be deliberately leaving large amounts of corn etc. on the banks and fishing platforms rather than throwing bird food into the water. The piles of food are of course also attracting rats. An earlier programme of education through local leafleting and notices seemed to ease the situation so this will be refreshed, advising that such deliberate acts are considered littering and may be subject to a fixed penalty fine.

**3226 Lakeside Green Areas**

Initial discussion was given whether to continue maintaining two very small grassed areas at Lakeside which were recently advertised for sale by auction, along with certain parking areas off some of the estate's roads. Inconclusive enquiries were made through the auction house so further clarification will be sought through Land Registry as to whether the grassed areas were actually sold along with the parking areas to try and ascertain ownership. Mr Brown advised that the time to maintain the areas in question is minimal when staff are already mowing adjacent grass. Members considered that the maintenance should continue in the interim.

**3227 Heron Way Picnic Benches**

Consideration was given to a request to remove the picnic benches located near to Heron Way car park as local residents believe they attract anti-social behaviour from groups of rowdy people congregating there late at night, playing loud music, drinking alcohol etc. The picnic benches were provided for, and are also still used, by families for genuine reasons. In addition, the Autumn and Winter months will almost certainly see a reduction in this type of poor behaviour. Though sympathetic to this issue members considered on balance that the request could not be supported at this time.

**3228 Car Park Edging Logs**

Consideration was given to a written complaint from a resident about the logs which were utilised to create a designated parking area off Catkin Way for disabled fishermen. The large logs also prohibit motorcycles driving through the area. The resident claims that the logs provide somewhere for young people to sit who then display anti-social behaviour, thereby causing disruption in that area. He also complained that they were put there without local residential consultation. Members considered on balance that the logs do not create any real issues and should not be removed. The resident has already been advised to report any anti-social behaviour issues to the local police as they occur.

**3229 Notice Board**

Members approved a suggestion that the old notice board off Rowan Way, which is in need of some refurbishment, be relocated after being removed and improved to the Heron Way car park.

3230 **Memorial Benches**

Members approved two further requests for memorial benches at Lakeside and gave consideration to introducing an installation fee to cover the cost of the base materials, fixing mediums etc. All applicants are advised that they are responsible for the bench maintenance and that the Council reserves the right to remove any bench should it ever fall into disrepair. It was,

AGREED that a fee of £75 be charged to install each memorial bench.

3231 **Highway Faults**

The following faults or issues were raised for passing onto the relevant authorities:

- a) The road edgings on Staple Lane near to the junction with Jericho Road are in a poor condition – they have eroded in places and create a deep drop onto the soft verges.
- b) Public Footpath 1 which runs along the outside boundary of the playing field has some tree root damage from conifer trees in an Acacia Road garden, causing a trip hazard.

3232 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) The Council has suffered a spate of vandalism and criminal damage over the summer months, including repeated damage to the utility meter boxes housed on the side of the café building. To prevent this happening again a quotation of £400 was obtained from a local builder to make a bespoke metal, lockable cover for the boxes including installation. An alternative quotation has been requested from a local fabricator. Approval was given to this expenditure and the cheapest quotation will be selected.
- b) It is understood that recently appointed Beat Manager P.C. Whitehead is moving to Ollerton Police Station and that Balderton's P.C.S.O. has applied to join as a regular police officer. Members asked that a letter be drafted to Inspector Sutton expressing concern at the lack of continuity in local policing.
- c) Notice that the Parish Council Conference will be held remotely on October 14<sup>th</sup> 5pm-7pm, hosted by the District Council. Members wishing to attend should respond to the e-mail invitation provided to obtain log-in details for the conference.
- d) An e-mail from Andy Hardy, the District Council's Health Improvement & Community Relations Manager thanking the Council for allowing the Mobile Testing Unit for Covid-19 to be located for a week in August on the playing field car park.
- e) Confirmation that the Designated Public Place Orders have been reviewed by the District Council and will not now be revoked. Appreciation was extending to the District Councillors for their support fighting this issue.
- f) Cllr Allen asked that some Spring flowering bulbs be planted in the Village Centre baskets; this was supported.

3233 **Future Agenda Items**

No agenda items were put forward.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.05pm.