

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday July 15th 2020 at 6.30pm

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

3208 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Green and Scott, and Head Groundsman Mr Brown.

3209 **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.

3210 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

3211 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

A printed update of ongoing issues was circulated and noted; the update is published with the minutes. The following issues were discussed from the update:

1. **Re Minute 3201.1 Rats at Lakeside** Cllr Mrs Brooks confirmed that there is an increase in rat activity and sightings.
2. **Re Minute 3206.b Village Centre Business Rates** Appreciation was extended to Cllr Ms White for liaising with the District Council Rates Department which resulted in the successful full rate relief being granted for the Village Centre.

3212 **Millennium Pillar Clock**

Members reviewed three different quotations to repair, improve and/or replace the Pillar Clock which was installed at the Lakeside Shopping Centre to mark the Millennium. The clock was paid for by funds raised by the Parish Council including a major raffle held in the village. Since 2016 over £2300 has been spent on repairs although the Clock has never been serviced or incurred any major costs since its installation. Opinion differed whether the expense could be justified in the current climate and discussion ranged from removal of the clock entirely to replacing it with a village clock on the playing field, possibly on the Café building. On balance members agreed that a letter be sent to Lidl in the interim asking if they would be prepared to fund the repairs and/or take over the ownership of the Clock as it is located on their land. The Clock's problems seem to have occurred since the new store was built; it was damaged during the construction works and the electricity supply to it was stopped on many occasions.

3213 **Cemetery Fees**

Members reviewed the fees and charges for the Cemetery and considered that it would be insensitive to apply any increases at this time. The situation will be reviewed again before the end of the financial year.

3214 **Wild Birds at Lakeside**

Members discussed how to deal with any sick or injured wild birds found at the Lake as the RSPCA will not currently attend to treat them. It is understood that local veterinary practices have indicated that they will treat such birds at no charge. Cllr Ms White and District Cllr Lee have kindly undertaken to deal with any such incidents so any reports should be forwarded to them. Members expressed their appreciation to the two Councillors for this.

3215 **Proposed Lake Group**

Members were advised that the District Council Community Safety Partnership Group has suggested that a Friends Group be created for Balderton Lake to support monitoring of the area, report appropriate issues to the Police and provide a general visual presence. There are already some local Facebook based groups who undertake a similar role by circulating reports, making people aware etc. and it may be possible to work with and/or alongside these established parties. The Group would not replace the need for everyone to take responsibility for reporting issues as they take place to the Police in line with the Report It campaign. It was agreed Cllrs Allen, Mrs Brooks and Ms White with the Clerk participate in a meeting with the District Council officers concerned to give initial discussion to the proposal.

3216 **Highway Faults**

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

- a) The poor state of the road surface on Bullpit Road by Brisbane Court.
- b) Manners Road estate has many potholes; the roads and pavements need resurfacing.
- c) A new front boundary wall is being built at 17 Manners Road, several feet higher than the original, this may contravene planning regulations.

3217 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) A letter from a resident praising the re-painting of the play area which is currently being undertaken by the groundsmen. The letter also mentions the need for Balderton's roads and gullies which need clearing; co-incidentally a programme of such work has very recently been undertaken by the County Council.
- b) Notice of two temporary road closures; Belvoir Road on July 16th and 17th, and Mount Road from July 27th to July 31st. Both closures are for electricity cable installation works.

3218 **Future Agenda Items**

No agenda items were put forward.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.10pm.