

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Mandie Elson (Chairman), Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Roy Fairbairn, Simon Forde, Leigh Marshall and Joy Sellars.

With two members of the public and the Deputy Clerk

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

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect in memory of former Balderton Parish Councillor Mr Tom Scott who had passed away recently.

3540 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mac Mallard, Jean Hall and Ronnie White. Cllr Debbie Moore had advised she would be slightly late joining the meeting.

3541 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Forde, as a serving member of Newark & Sherwood District Council, declared a personal interest to any District Council issue.

3542 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments on scheduled agenda items. One resident asked about the weed on the Lake especially in the pump pond area. The public were thanked for their comments and the meeting was re-opened.

3543 **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 3530.3 Coronation Planters for Schools** Cllr Sellars advised that Newark Academy and Chuter Ede would prefer fruit trees and John Hunt would like a planter. Enquiries are still being made with The Orchard School.
2. **Re Minute 3530.4 Skatepark** Cllr Buxton advised that enquiries are still ongoing.

3544 **Lakeside Working Party Update**

Councillors have had several meetings to discuss issues at Balderton Lake including bank

erosion, curly weed and duck weed. The curly weed has now settled and is not harmful but the duck weed remains in the pump pond area as the water is stagnant, although it does provide food for the swans. Cllr Callingham advised that last week she attended a three hour free consultation with the East Midlands Environmental Consultants recommended by Notts Wildlife Trust. A land management plan is required to look at carrying out work over a ten-twelve year period. Notts Wildlife Trust can quote to provide this and we will also be looking to contact two other similar organisations for comparison. Cllr Elson is already looking into funding options and Severn Trent Water Authority could be a possibility. Cllr Forde suggested that updates should be included on the website to advise what work will be carried out.

**3545 Churchyard Committee**

Councillors decided to form a new Churchyard Committee to take forward current boundary wall issues. The following Councillors have agreed to join the committee: Cllrs Bracegirdle, Callingham, Forde, Hall and Moore.

**3546 Dog Waste Bins**

A list of all dog bins in Balderton and an assessment of their condition was provided by the Head Groundsman. Councillors agreed that they would change the existing policy and repair or replace any bins as necessary. Cllr Forde suggested that we apply for funding and set up a program for replacements. It was agreed that a dog bin should also be installed on Staple Lane near to the Bilton Close junction as requested by a resident. Enquiries will also be made with District Councillor Jean Hall to see if District Council are able to assist in any way.

**3547 Barriers at Heron Way Car Park**

The gentleman from the security company who deploys the barriers at Heron Way car park had called the previous day to request that our notices be changed to closure at dusk. He advised that it was working very well and he had only encountered a few problems. It was agreed that we should continue with their services.

**3548 Council Review Committee Update**

Cllr Elson advised that interviews for the position of Balderton Parish Council Clerk would be carried out the following day and there would be an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup> to select a suitable candidate.

**3549 Village Centre Hirer Request**

A Village Centre hirer had asked if she would be allowed to bring her dog to her wedding reception next year. After a discussion it was decided to check if it was a support dog and if any others would be attending. This should be referred to the next Amenities meeting for a decision and consideration should also be given to amending the booking form rules.

3550 **Installing a Post box at Mount Road Cemetery**

Consideration was given to installing a 'post box to heaven' in Balderton cemetery. Cllr Fairbairn suggested that these were more appropriate for larger crematoriums and was concerned about vandalism. It was agreed with one vote for and seven against that this should not be installed.

3551 **Balderton Summer Fete**

Councillors would like to reintroduce holding a summer fete next year especially as it would mark 130 years since Parish Councils were first established. It was agreed to set up a new committee to look at organising this and apply for funding so that the event is cost neutral. The following Councillors have agreed to join the committee: Cllrs Bracegirdle, Buxton, Callingham, Elson, Hall, Moore and Sellars.

3552 **Memorial Tree In Memory of the Late Councillor Tom Scott**

Cllr Sellars knows Tom Scott's daughter who thought the idea of a tree was very thoughtful. It was agreed that a tree and plaque should be purchased. The Head Groundsman should be consulted as to the type of tree and where it should be planted. Councillors would also like to consider planting some fruit trees in the future.

Two members of the public left the meeting and Cllr Moore joined the meeting at 7.05pm. *8 mins*

3553 **Purchase of a Shredder**

Cllr Fairbairn explained the benefits of purchasing a tractor driven shredder to be used alongside the chipper. This would shred the smaller branches and leaves which could be reused as mulch on the site from which they were removed. This would also alleviate the problem of bonfires at the allotments. The Head Groundsman should be consulted regarding a suitable shredder and price so that we can then apply to Nottinghamshire County Council for funding.

3554 **Highway Issues**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: No new issues were raised. It was decided to remove this regular agenda item from the Amenities committee and just include it on the Full Council.

3555 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) A roadworks bulletin advising of work on Wilfred Avenue 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September.
- b) Two quotes to repair the public toilet, one suggesting that we consider a stainless steel

*JAS*  
*4/10/23*

anti vandal one. A claim will now be submitted to the insurance company, although we do have an excess of £250.

- c) An email regarding the cricket club's request for an artificial cricket strip next to our existing cricket square. The Head Groundsman will be consulted and the cricket club invited to the next Amenities meeting to discuss.
- d) An email from The Grove Angling Club asking for permission to net the whole of Balderton Lake to check fish stock and use a specialised remote boat to map the lake for underwater features. It was agreed that these are both allowed.

3556 **Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Marshall asked to include purchasing several A4 lockable frames to display litter posters around the village.

Cllr Fairbairn suggested we write to Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the length of time that Staple Lane will be closed for work on the Southern Link Road. This will be put to our County Councillors at the next Full Council meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.50pm.

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## **Clerk's/Chairman's Comments, Updates and Progress September 2023**

### **Amenities Committee Meeting July 2023**

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| Re Min 3530.2 Coronation Planters | Cllr Sellars to update on liaison undertaken with the village schools.  |
| Re Min 3530.4 Skatepark           | Cllr Buxton to update regarding any site visits or contact made with other local Parish Councils who have such a facility.  |
| Re Min 3531 Lake Bank Erosion     | This issue is a scheduled agenda item for discussion.   |
| Re Min 3532 Allotments            | Notices have gone out to allotment holders advising new fees are now due. An allotment sub-committee meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm. |
| Re Min 3535 Dog Bins              | This issue is a scheduled agenda item for discussion.   |
| Re Min 3539.3 Dance Studio        | An air conditioning system was installed in the dance studio during the summer holidays. We are still awaiting relevant certificates.   |

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