

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday January 26th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen, (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Gloster, Green, Lynch, Mrs Lee, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Scott

with County Cllr Lee, fourteen members of the public, the Clerk and Clerical Assistant.

4333 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Hurst, and County Cllrs Girling and Smith.

4334 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Mrs Brooks and Ms White, as serving members of Newark & Sherwood District Council declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the District Council.

4335 **Public Participation**

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Janet Richardson M.B.E. had been expected to attend the meeting but was not present, so the business proceeded to the public session to take any comments. The meeting was closed and a number of people raised their concerns about the Council's agreement with the Y.M.C.A. to allow an amount of supervised canoeing and kayaking on the Lake. The Council was criticised for a perceived lack of communication, a public meeting about this issue was requested along with a community action plan for the Lake. The Chairman re-opened the meeting, thanked the public for their interest, and advised that any specific questions raised at the open session would be addressed individually.

4336 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on December 15th 2021, having been circulated previously were confirmed as a true record and signed.

4337 **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

- 1. Re Minute 4326.a1 Priory Close Grassed Area** County Cllr Lee advised that one option being considered is for a tree planting scheme for that green belt and for others on the Manners Road estate vicinity, to provide a natural barrier to prevent vehicles being driven over open grassed areas. He is liaising with Highways Manager Mr Sean Brown regarding this issue.
- 2. Re Minute 4326.a2 Public Footpath No. 1** County Cllr Smith had advised in writing prior to the meeting that the County Council does not have the statutory right to close a public footpath overnight, but the District Council does, on the grounds of

public safety to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime. Members agreed to refer this issue to the F&GP committee for discussion.

3. **Re Minute 4330.1 Cycle Track Markings** Though pleased to hear that the cycle track will be re-marked early in the new financial year, members sought assurance that the markings will make its safe use clearly understood by cyclists and pedestrians alike in line with the new Highway Code.

b) Planning

c) Amenities

1. **Re Minute 3365 Headstone Size** Further clarification had been sought from the stonemasons regarding the need for a base plinth for the headstones. On balance members agreed to allow the slightly wider width size of 34” for a base plinth, but this will only apply to the Cemetery extension area; the maximum width of 30” will still apply for the original Cemetery area.

d) Finance & General Purposes (F&GP)

1. **Re Minute 7407 Double Parking on Side Roads** County Cllr Lee advised that he is scheduled to meet with the Highways Area Manager regarding installing double yellow lines in places, and whilst issuing fixed penalty notices to offending car owners is an option, it is a last resort as it does not address the bigger problem. The government is looking into the whole issue of double parking and associated problems.
2. **Re Minute 7408 Police Incident on the Playing Field** The Police have asked the Council to consider installing an additional CCTV camera to cover the side of the dance studio area. This was referred to the Amenities Committee for discussion.

4338 **Committees**

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

Planning 15.12.21 & 12.01.22

Amenities

Finance and General Purposes

4339 **Precept 2022/23**

It was unanimously,

AGREED that the precept be set at £334,817 for the 22/23 financial year.

4340 **Financial Statements**

The details as published and circulated were correct, there being total payment requirements of £21090.24 for November and £24730 for December 2021.

4341 **Reports from Representatives**

County Cllr Lee reported that he is seeking speed measuring equipment for Main Street, near to the Library area. He will be donating £1500 for outdoor adult gym equipment for the playing field and £500 for a young person’s nature trail type project for the Lakeside. As District Cllr for Balderton North he reported that a pathway clean was requested for a very muddy section of pavement at the junction of Main Street and Spring Lane, and the pathways near to Kennedy walk have been resurfaced. He also advised that 41 fixed penalty tickets have been issued in Balderton by the Community Protection Officers over a period of 29 hours of patrols; these have mainly been for littering and dog fouling incidents.

Cllr Ms White informed that the Community Protection Officers have been asked to patrol the playing field at school leaving time whenever possible.

Cllr Mallard reported that the number of dog fouling incidents seem to once again be on the increase. The Community Protection Officer team will be asked to issue fixed penalty tickets whenever possible.

4342 **Highways Faults**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities:

1. The road surface is badly broken up on Main Street near to the railway bridge.

4343 **Clerk's Additional Information**

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

- a) An e-mail from County Cllr Lee asking that the Council allow the Village Centre car park to be used by parents at John Hunt School start and finish times to try and ease congestion on London Road. Members supported the proposal although this offer has been made before but no parents regularly made use of the car park.
- b) An option to apply for funding from the District Council's Parish & Town Council Initiative Fund where the current theme is 'Greener', to replace the litter baskets around the Lake for more rigid, closed-in containers. Members asked that this suggestion be discussed by the Amenities Committee before any bid is submitted.
- c) A suggestion to apply for the funding available from Severn Trent for an electric vehicle charging point somewhere in the village as there is currently no such facility. One option could be in the Lidl car park which is open 6 days a week until 10pm, and 5pm on Sundays. Enquiries will be made with the store to see if they would consider this suggestion.
- d) An application to extend the time limit for mineral operation until December 2022 and amend the restoration scheme at Bantycok Quarry off Staple Lane. This will be circulated to members of the Planning Committee for any comments.

4344 **Future Agenda Items**

The issue of the Heron Way car park barriers not being deployed overnight will be discussed at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

4345 **Co-Option**

Members met with Mrs Tracey Batey who had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor for the Balderton South Ward vacancy. Mrs Batey had submitted a written application and this had been circulated to members for their perusal prior to the meeting. No other nominations had been received. A show of hands vote was taken and it was,

AGREED unanimously, that Mrs Tracey Batey be co-opted onto the Council and she signed her of Acceptance of Office Declaration.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm