

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday May 11th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen, Mrs Batey, Gloster, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. Scott and Ms White
with twenty-nine members of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3395 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Fairbairn.

3396 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3397 Public Participation

The meeting was closed to take public comments. A parishioner, who had originally been invited to present an idea at the Annual Parish Meeting outlined a suggestion that the Lake could be divided into two areas by creating a bank across the water made up of spoil from road scrapings and soil removed from sugar beet at Newark's sugar factory. This could be undertaken at no cost to the Council, indeed there could be a monetary benefit to the parish as the company pays to responsibly dispose of vast quantities of soil. Trees could be planted which would ultimately create wind breaks thereby easing water erosion, and additional fishing points and wildlife habitat would be created. There could be different areas of water for different use, e.g. the boating could be restricted to just one area of the Lake. He was thanked for bringing the information to the committee; this issue was a scheduled agenda item for discussion during tonight's meeting.

One member of the public again raised a suggestion to form a Friends of Balderton Lake group, expressing disappointment that this issue was not a scheduled agenda item. The Chairman had advised those involved in advance why this had not been included on tonight's agenda.

One resident asked if a further safety survey would be undertaken to fully assess suitability of kayaking and canoeing on the Lake. They also outlined their work with the Police to help reduce anti-social behaviour and wildlife being harmed at Lakeside.

The Committee was asked to clarify the original intention of County Cllr Lee's grant to the Parish Council of £500 for a young persons' project at Lakeside.

3398 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 Minute 3376 Heron Way Car Park** Reports have been made by those who close off the car park at night for the Council, of difficulties experienced from fishermen wishing to use the car park beyond 9pm. Enquiries will be made with the Angling Club who it was

understood hold their own key for fishing match purposes. An exact time will not be specified on the notices to allow those deploying the barriers to use their judgement about the ideal closing time.

3399 Playing Field Flooding

The drain that runs from the field end of Macaulay Drive through to London Road, between several Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue properties, is badly silted up. It is considered that this could be causing the playing field's very slow drainage and long-standing flooding problem. The District Council which maintains that section of the drain has agreed to commission work to clear it. An updated quotation for the work has been requested from the County Council who will undertake the work as the previous one was no longer valid.

3400 Police Update

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues in the village. Young people have again been causing problems at the Dance Studio, necessitating further 999 calls. The police have confirmed that the site is on the Police watch list and is given priority in the event of an emergency call being made. Cllr Allen suggested that the two benches near to the Studio be relocated elsewhere on the field as these seem to attract young people who congregate on them. One of these is a memorial bench and was privately purchased so the family will be consulted before it is relocated. The Police had submitted details to extend their 'Operation CYPRESS' initiative to tackle both ASB and wildlife offences at the Lake. This includes improved signage, community participation events held jointly with the District Council, RSPCA etc., education plans, and increased patrols (both uniform and plain clothes). Members unanimously supported these proposals.

3401 Lake Bankway

Members gave initial discussion to the suggestion made at the public session to create a bank/walkway across the Lake, splitting the body of water into two. It was acknowledged that a lot more information and research is needed before any real consideration could be given to the proposal, but members were in principle, interested and asked that enquiries be made.

3402 Lakeside Cameras

Consideration was given to a resident's suggestion to install covert wildlife style cameras at Lakeside to try and identify those responsible for catapulting wildlife. Members expressed some hesitation that the cameras may not provide sufficiently high-quality footage for identification purposes, but the Police would be asked for their opinion. Consideration could be given to relocating the CCTV camera that is currently located at the top of Rowan Way near to Orchid Close and hopefully, Police Operation CYPRESS will have a positive impact on the situation at Lakeside in the interim.

3403 **Manners Road Green Areas**

Consideration was given to creating wildflower areas on certain grassed verges on the Manners Road estate, partly to discourage people from driving vehicles over them. On balance it was considered that the areas, which are under the County Council's management would benefit by the previously removed bollards being replaced. Alternatively, the Parish Council could install wooden posts at the edges of the grassed areas to prevent access. Enquiries will be made with the County Council.

3404 **Brisbane Court**

Members considered a request for cycle racks at Brisbane Court. The shopping precinct is privately owned but a request will be submitted via the local letting agents. It is understood that the District Council recently installed cycle racks in St Marks Precinct, Newark which is also privately owned.

3405 **Bottle Banks**

There are no bottle banks in Balderton, and a suggestion has been made that some could be located on the Lidl car park. Members considered that this site could be problematic when the banks are full as people tend to leave bags of bottles there which could attract unwanted attention and anti-social behaviour. The banks are also noisy when emptied and the car park backs onto a residential area. An alternative site is the new Welcome Break garage which is being built near to the A1 roundabout, and County Cllr Lee had advised that he has asked the authority for any suitable locations in the village. The District Council may be giving consideration to collecting glass for recycling in the future; the outcome of a government strategy is awaited.

3406 **Highway Issues**

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

- a) One of the bollards near to John Hunt School has been substantially damaged.
- b) Sykes Lane/Main Street junction area was flooded again today during heavy rainfall, despite previous reports that this problem area had been resolved.

3407 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) An invitation for a tour of Bantycok Quarry on Monday June 13th 2022. Cllrs Allen, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Lee and Mallard undertook to attend.
- b) The latest Police Stakeholder Update from Acting Inspector Matthew Ward. Members asked that he be invited to attend a meeting.
- c) The Cricket Club has agreed to purchase a larger net to help protect the Village Centre large glass windows which front the playing field during cricket matches

3408 **Future Agenda Items**

The proposal to create a Friends of Balderton Lake Group will be included on a future agenda.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm.