

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday January 19th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Gloster, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch and Roberts M.B.E. with one member of the public and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES no apologies were received.

7398 **Payments**

All payments were approved and authorised; a list of these is published with the minutes.

7399 **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. Cllr Mrs Lee declared a personal interest to minute reference 7404 – Village Centre Hire Rates.

7400 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments but the resident present did not wish to speak.

7401 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

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

- 1. Re Minute 7343 Street Naming** The outcome is still unknown regarding the request made to the District Council to review the decision not to allow the suggested name of 'Jarvis' for the residential development being built next to The Grove Garage on London Rd. District Cllrs continue to expedite this issue on behalf of the Council.
- 2. Re Minute 7380 Christmas Decorated Properties Competition** The winners had been judged to be the children's nursery business on Bullpit Road and a residential dwelling on Goldsmith Road.
- 3. Re Minute 7393 Casual Vacancy** Members noted that the Council can now co-opt to fill the second vacancy on the South Ward.

7402 **Grant Application**

Members gave consideration to a written application for financial assistance from locally based Warriors FC for funding towards the cost of levelling their football pitches. A vote

was taken with 7 votes for and 2 against, that a grant could not be justified on this occasion.

7403 Council Office Ventilation

Members gave consideration to installing a heat recovery ventilation system to provide tempered fresh air into the Council Office. Three quotations had been requested, two of which had been received and circulated. Members asked that a decision be deferred to allow the third quotation to be reviewed alongside the others. Cllr Gloster undertook to make enquiries with a potential fourth company who may also be able to provide an alternative quotation.

7404 Village Centre Hire Rates

Members discussed the week-day hire rates for regular user groups, in particular to the Newark Dementia Carers Group who rent the room essentially on Monday and Thursday afternoons at the same price as offered for the former café building when it stood empty. On balance members saw no need to alter the current pricing structure.

7405 Virtual/Hybrid Meetings

Consideration was given to writing to the M.P. to seek legislation enabling the use of virtual and hybrid council meetings, as allowed temporarily for a year under the Covid Lockdown regulations. The benefits of remote and/or hybrid meetings were acknowledged for a number of reasons, and although members prefer face to face meetings they considered on balance that a letter should be sent to the M.P.

7406 Precept 2022/23

Members gave further, final consideration to budgetary requirements for the next financial year. Committee ‘running cost’ estimates had been adjusted slightly to allow for additional administration salary costs and this amendment was approved. After lengthy discussion it was,

RECOMMENDED with eight votes for and one abstention, that the precept for 2022/23 be set at £334,817 an increase of approximately 5.1%. This gives a ‘Band D’ property an approximate annual parish rate of £108.85 and equates to a 41 pence per month increase.

7407 Highways Faults

Members were invited to raise any issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: No new problem sites were highlighted but the generally poor state of the side streets off

London Road were discussed. Many of these roads are subject to double parking making it difficult for all traffic, but particularly emergency vehicles, to pass through safely. These roads also have many bad potholes. These issues will be raised with County Councillors at next week's Full Council meeting.

7408 **Police Update**

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village. A group of some 40-50 young people had congregated on the playing field today next to the Dance Studio, just after school finishing time. It is understood that a planned fight had been promoted via social media. The time coincided with parents bringing very young children to dance classes, causing distress for all. Two motorcycles were driven at speed all over the field at the same time and although the main gate was locked while the Police were called, the motorcycles managed to exit the field through the pedestrian gates. The Police did attend but some 40 minutes later when everyone had left. Members asked that the Newark Academy Principle be contacted about the incident (the majority of young people attending wearing that school uniform). Enquiries will also be made to ascertain if the gates can be adjusted to prevent motorcycles being lifted up and removed.

7409 **Correspondence/Information**

The following items of correspondence/information had been received for noting:

- a) Notice that Staple Lane will be subject to two-way temporary traffic signals for three days from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd February inclusive for a water pipe repair.
- b) The latest Stakeholder Update from Police Inspector Allardice.
- c) An invitation from the RCAN (Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire) for the Council to join at a cost of £95 per year. Members did not consider it necessary to join the organisation at this time.
- d) A meeting of the Jubilee Working Party will be held on Monday January 24th 2022 at 10.30am.
- e) Notice that County Cllr Lee will fund £1500 towards additional outdoor gym equipment and £500 to a community project for Lakeside, both within the current financial year.

7410 **Future Agenda Items**

No further agenda items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.25pm