

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Balderton Village Centre on Wednesday June 26th 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead and Rouse with five members of the public, the Deputy Clerk and Clerk.

APOLOGIES none were received.

6183 Payments

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

6184 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. Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst and Mayall, as members of the Balderton British Legion declared a personal interest to minute reference 6189 Remembrance Sunday Road Closure. Cllr Allsopp declared a personal interest to minute reference 6198 – naming of residential development.

6185 Public Participation

No members of public present at the meeting wished to comment.

6186 Clerk/Chairman's Update

A printed update of ongoing matters was circulated and noted. The update is published with the minutes. No issues were discussed from the update.

6187 Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to written requests for financial assistance from:

- a) Citizen's Advice Sherwood & Newark
- b) REACH Learning Disability for café start up equipment

It was,

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £500 be paid the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Members did not consider that a grant could be paid to REACH at this time owing to the amount of money spent on the café kitchen alterations and rent free period offered.

6188 **Christmas Tree Garden**

Further discussion was given to the proposal to create a garden area to the front of the new Orchard School where a lit Christmas Tree could be installed. The land in question belongs to Notts County Council who has since advised that the land offer is 'off the table' because building work has now commenced on site. The possibility of locating a Christmas Tree elsewhere in the village was referred to the Amenities Committee.

6189 **Remembrance Day Parade**

Consideration was given to a letter received from the Balderton branch of the Royal British Legion asking the Parish Council to apply for the necessary road closures to enable the Parade to take place. This has historically been undertaken by the Legion itself although the Council has contributed to the road closure costs since the Police stopped manning the events. Cllr Mayall undertook to liaise with the local Branch about the request.

6190 **Flooding**

Members discussed the recent flooding issues experienced in the village during a spell of several days of heavy rainfall. At least fifty Aqua sacs were used from the village floodstore and the Council has been advised that it is financially responsible to replenish these (they cost £5 each); District Councillors present undertook to question this. Just one property, the Post Office on Main Street utilised the bags as the property was flooding at the back from the run off to the side of the property. Given the extent of the flooding in the village members considered that a special meeting should be called to address the flooding issues, inviting the County Council, Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board and any other appropriate organisations. This should be arranged and held as soon as possible. At the time of inviting Severn Trent to a meeting appreciation will be expressed for the personnel who carried out constant water pumping work in the Manners Road area for many days to clear the water away.

6191 **Lakeside CCTV**

Members approved the renewal of the 3G airtime and dome warranty for the monitored CCTV camera on Rowan Way at a cost of £1295 for two years.

6192 **Council Reserves**

Discussion was given to the pattern of reduction to Council reserves over recent years and to possible options of trying to reduce expenditure. Members were concerned about the continued erosion of reserves and agreed that that the trend should be addressed as a priority issue. A meeting of the Council Review Committee will be convened to consider what measures can be implemented.

6193 **Building Society Account**

The signatory arrangements were agreed to enable the Council to open a savings account at the Skipton Building Society to invest a sum of money to dilute the amount of Council money being held with just one establishment. Cllrs Allen, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst and Miss White will be the signatories on the account.

6194 **Facebook**

Consideration was given to the Council having its own Facebook page to use as a media noticeboard to help promote Council activities and facilities. Cllrs Allen, Rouse and Ms White undertook to liaise with Fernwood Parish Council to enquire how it manages its own Facebook account.

6195 **'New' Balderton**

Discussion was given to a request made at the Annual Parish Meeting that the Council works to remove the word 'New' before Balderton from all postal addresses as the village post is no longer split in this way. A letter will be sent to Royal Mail to enquire how this long term practice could be stopped.

6196 **Pavements**

Discussion was given to a further request made at the Annual Parish Meeting for the Council to campaign for pavement improvements; they should meet the needs of pedestrians primarily and vehicle driveways to properties secondarily. There are Disability Discrimination Act implications for pedestrians and wheelchair users as the camber of some of the driveways that cross pavements are quite severe. Members asked that this issue should be raised with Balderton's County Councillors at the Full Council meeting next week, and the authority asked to undertake a review.

6197 **Disabled Parking Wolfit Avenue**

Consideration was given to District Cllr Lee's suggestion that disabled parking bays be introduced in the vicinity of 86 Wolfit Avenue. Members required additional information before they could respond to this suggestion; Cllr Lee will be asked to provide this.

6198 **Residential Development Street Naming**

Members discussed the builder's suggestion that the residential development at the former Working Men's Club on Main Street be named either Malcom's Way or Parkers Court. The committee could not support these proposals and submitted alternatives of Jarvis Place/Way/Court or Almond Place/Way/Court.

6199 **Highways Faults**

No reports were made to submit to relevant authorities.

7200 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) An invitation to a presentation by Police Inspector Heather Sutton regarding neighbourhood policing at Castle House on Wednesday July 3rd at 6pm. As this clashes with the Full Council meeting no-one will be able to attend. Cllr Mayall undertook to request a further opportunity to meet the Police Inspector and learn about neighbourhood policing priorities.
- b) Kelham Bridge will be closed for 2 weeks from Monday August 5th 2019 (from 9am to 4.30pm daily) for bridge repairs.
- c) The latest newsletter from Police Inspector Heather Sutton including details of an increase in vehicle crime in Balderton; additional patrols were then carried out and a male has been arrested.

7201 **Future Agenda Items**

No items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 8.00pm.