

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday February 19th 2020 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Hurst, Lynch, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E., Scott and Ms White with two members of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3188 **Apologies**
Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Green and Mrs Lee.

3189 **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 Allen declared a personal interest to minute reference 3193 – football pitch weather interruptions.

3190 **Public Participation**
The meeting was closed to meet members of the public who expressed concern about anti-social behavioural issues resulting from a vehicle repair business that is being run from a property in the vicinity of Manners Road/Lowfield Lane. They reported that there are untaxed and uninsured vehicles being used, parked all over the road and pavement, creating an eyesore in a residential area and extra traffic etc.

Though sympathetic to the situation the Chairman advised that this is not something that is under the Parish Council's jurisdiction, although a report had been forwarded about this activity to the District Council last month from this committee. The Clerk was asked to make contact with the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team to expedite an update for the residents. The residents were thanked for their attendance, they left and the meeting resumed at 7.15pm.

3191 **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 3182.a Marquis Avenue** The installed wooden stakes appear to be working to prevent vehicles driving over the grassed area, churning it up.

3192 **Local Improvement Scheme**

Members gave consideration to submitting a bid to the County Council's Local Improvement Scheme for funding towards a zip wire for the playing field. The Scheme provides grants of up to 50% and an estimate has been obtained for a 20-metre-long wire for £10,450 + V.A.T. A sum of £10,000 has been earmarked for play equipment upgrades/improvements during this financial year. Another project which had been muted was to provide a small skateboard ramp but this had been rejected on the grounds of prohibitive costs and because the Y.M.C.A. is installing a large scale one at the sports village. Members agreed that a bid for a zip wire should be submitted; this will require the signed support of Cllr Wallace, County Councillor member for this Ward.

3193 **Football**

A written request was discussed from one of the home football teams for the Council to consider a refund for the season's pitch fees as it hasn't always been possible to play matches on the playing field owing to the flooding situation. Mr Brown informed that the Newark League has, to date, always managed to re-arrange for matches to be played elsewhere at no extra cost to the teams concerned. Though sympathetic to the inconvenience of teams being moved, members did not consider that a refund should be offered as the weather conditions are beyond the Council's control. The Council will also be accommodating additional matches later than usual at the end of the season and absorbing the preparation and staffing costs that are associated with this. A letter of appreciation will be sent to the League Fixtures Secretary. A clause regarding non-refunds for adverse weather conditions should be included in the contract that home teams sign when applying for a seasonal pitch.

3194 **Café Working Party**

Cllr Allen, Chairman of the Café Working Party reported that members met yesterday with REACH personnel for an update regarding how the café business is progressing; this is essentially going well albeit slowly but they are hopeful that business will improve. The organisation would like to re-introduce a summer fete for the village to be held on the playing field – members welcomed this news. The date of Sunday July 26th 2020 has been scheduled for this. Anyone willing to be involved in the arranging and/or taking part on the day should come forward as soon as possible. Cllr Rouse, a member of the original village fete committee had undertaken to provide REACH with as much background information as possible.

3195 **Highway Faults**

No new faults or issues were raised for passing onto the relevant authorities.

3196 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) An invitation to attend a community event at Fernwood Village Hall on Monday February 24th between 4pm and 8pm where British Gypsum will be on hand to answer any questions about blasting operations in the area.
- b) The District Council's Licensing Committee will shortly be considering consultation responses from last summer regarding revoking Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs) which are being replaced by Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). This Council responded at the time that it wished to keep a live Order for Balderton. The District Council officers now advise that it considers there is insufficient evidence to support a PSPO for Balderton but the Public Protection Team will monitor the situation. Cllr Ms White, as a District member of the Licensing Committee undertook to support this Council's wish to have an Order in place, advising that there are other parishes who also wish to retain their Orders.
- c) A Pinfold Lane resident has submitted a letter claiming that that tree roots from the Churchyard have damaged his barn floors. The claim has been submitted to the Council's insurance company for its consideration.
- d) The Grove Angling Club have asked for seven new Council signs to be installed around the Lake advising that it is private fishing only. It is estimated that these will cost in the region of £140; members supported this request in principle. The Club has also asked that consideration be given to fence off an area close to the 'Moonstone' where young people congregate out of sight and fish illegally. Members considered that this request should be deferred until the Y.M.C.A. has installed the launch dock and associated works which are in that vicinity.

3197 **Future Agenda Items**

No agenda items were put forward.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.00pm.