

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday January 15th 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

3179 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Roberts M.B.E. and Ms White

3180 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3181 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to meet a member of the public who expressed concern about the increased number of rats at Lakeside, believing the open style waste receptacles to be adding to the problem. He reported that although there have always been rats at Lakeside the problem has worsened considerably since the introduction of litter bins there – they feed and refuge in the bins. The problem is also exacerbated by the excessive feeding of wild fowl by visitors to the Lake – piles of bread are often left for birds which rats also feed on. The resident advised that he has tried to control the rats in his own garden by baiting stations but the situation has become un-manageable. Whilst acknowledging that there is no quick fix solution he asked the committee to try and address the issue.

He was thanked for his attendance, he left and the meeting resumed at 7.15pm.

3182 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

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

1. **Re Minute 3172.a Marquis Avenue** The County Council has advised that the grassed area of land in question is not actually owned by the authority and is therefore not under its jurisdiction; the land is unregistered but this does not necessarily mean it is not owned. Members decided on balance to install some simple wooden stakes to try and prevent vehicles driving over the grass.
2. **Re Minute 3176 Staple Lane Dyke Rubbish** Members were disappointed that the County Council does not consider the problem meets its criteria for intervention. The problem will be highlighted at the next meeting of the Councils' Flood Focus Group where County Council and Internal Drainage Board representatives will be present.

3183 **Lakeside Litter Bins**

Members gave consideration to a written request that the steel mesh style litter bins that have been in place for a few years now at Lakeside be removed because they exacerbate the rat problem by providing a feeding station environment through the edible waste that visitors leave there. Though mindful that the bins could be a contributory factor,

members considered that a wider approach is needed to educate visitors not to excessively feed the wildfowl because of attracting rats. Advice will be sought from the District Council's Environmental Health Department how to best approach this initiative; notices and a possible mail drop to local residents will be utilised.

3184 Playing Field Drainage

The ongoing problem of large areas of the playing field being under water was discussed by members. This problem began in November when the area started to experience unprecedented rainfall. Only one football pitch has been essentially playable since November and even that one could not be used during two weekends. Home football teams are understandably frustrated, and the stagnant water now has an unpleasant smell. The field has flooded in parts in the past but never to this extent and there are real concerns that there is an underlying drainage problem on top of any excessive rainfall. A local resident believed that a watercourse pipe may have been severed at the Warwick Road end of the field during works undertaken by Severn Trent many years ago. Field water run-off should flow into the watercourse that runs between Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue properties. Enquiries will be made with Severn Trent to check the area and the outcome will be brought back to the committee for further discussion.

3185 Highway Faults

The following fault/issues were raised and will be passed onto the relevant authorities:

- a) A large pothole on Rowan Way near to the junction with Oak Drive.
- b) A manhole cover has been broken on the pavement on Catkin Way..

Members expressed their concerns about the poor state in general of several roads in the village which need full resurfacing; these will be brought to the attention of County Councillors at the Full Council meeting.

3186 Correspondence and Information

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

- a) A request for permission to install a memorial bench at Lakeside. This was approved subject to a mutually approved site being agreed. Mr Brown was asked to determine an appropriate site.
- b) A temporary suspension of roadside parking will be implemented from 8am on Thursday 23rd to 1600 hours on Friday 24th January on Main Street between Church Lane and Queen Street for resurfacing work.

3187 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Mrs Lee reported an issue of anti-social behaviour and possible unauthorised business activity at a property in the Manners Road/Lowfield Lane area; it is understood that vehicles are being repaired and stored there. The Clerk will ask the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team to make contact with the complainant.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.50pm.