

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday April 26th 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen (Chairman) Mrs Brooks (Vice Chairman), Mrs Buxton, Fairbairn, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E and Ms White

with sixteen members of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown, PC Bryn Hope & PC Anthea Brotheridge, the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Clerical Assistant.

The Chairman advised all present that the meeting was being recorded.

3499 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gloster and Lynch.

3500 **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 District Council issue. Cllrs Allen, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst, Green, Mrs Lee and Mallard, as dog owners who use the field, declared a personal interest to minute reference 3507.

3501 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments regarding scheduled agenda items: One resident congratulated Head Groundsman Mr Brown for his 40 years of service and thanked all the Councillors, Groundsmen and office staff for their hard work. The same resident also expressed a concern that all the recent littering was linked to the antisocial behaviour. One resident spoke against the 'Dogs on Leads' agenda item, suggesting that perhaps some improved signage about dog behaviour could be installed on the playing field.

The public were thanked for their comments and the meeting re-opened.

3502 **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 3477.2 Littering** Feedback and statistics were read out from the recent Day of Action provided by the District Council.
- 2. Re Minute 3491 Millennium Clock** The clock's repair work has been ordered and members re-iterated a previous suggestion that a plaque should be installed on the pillar to mark the King's Coronation.

3503 **Anti-Social Behaviour Heron Way Car Park**

The Chairman, with members support, altered the order of the published agenda to take this item next. The meeting was then again closed for the Police officers to address members. The local beat time do patrol the area whenever possible but very few reports of anti-social behaviour in that vicinity have been made to the Police so once again residents were urged to report all incidents as they occur. Local residents present at the meeting who deploy the car park bollards challenged this, stating that they regularly report situations. The Police officers undertook to liaise further with the residents after the meeting. The parishioners then again asked the Council to relocate the picnic benches sited next to the car park.

The Police Officers were thanked for their attendance and the meeting re-opened.

Members discussed the reported problems and gave consideration to the request to relocate/remove the picnic bench, acknowledging the need to safeguard the residents and to try and help the ongoing difficulties. It was considered prudent to get costs for a private security firm to deploy the barriers, ideally in time for the issue to be given further consideration at the Annual General Meeting on May 24th 2023.

3504 **Allotment Update**

Members were advised that two tenants have recently been issued with final warnings owing to unkempt and untended allotment plots. Cllr Fairbairn explained that problem plots are usually under the care of new tenants. He asked that new allotment holders be asked to pay two years rent up front when they take on an allotment and this will not be refundable in the event of notice being served for not progressing to cultivate the plot. Members supported this suggestion.

3505 **Variseeder**

Consideration was given to the purchase of a SISIS 'over-seeder' for the playing field and bowling green, at an estimated cost of £4898.00. Mr Brown explained that the current method of re-seeding any necessary areas only has a success rate of approximately 40%, outside contractors would no longer be needed to assist undertaking the work, and a good quality machine such as the SISIS model could last thirty years with minimal maintenance costs. This piece of specialist machinery has proved difficult to source for loaning locally and could, if purchased, be loaned out to other organisations to help recover some of the outlay. It was,

RECOMMENDED with eleven votes for and one against that a machine be purchased;
alternative prices will be obtained to ensure an optimum deal is achieved.

3506 **Coronation Commemorative Items**

Discussion was given to purchasing Coronation commemorative items for village Primary School pupils. After some debate members considered that the offer to purchase a large flower planter for each school would be preferable. These would prove longer lasting items for both

current and future attendees to enjoy, and the children can get involved learning about planting and tending the flowers.

3507 Request For ‘Dogs on Leads’ Policy

A written request from a resident was discussed to introduce a ‘Dogs on Leads’ policy for the playing field due to the unruly behaviour of some dogs and/or poor ownership issues. The field is the only remaining place in the village where dogs can be exercised off leads and the byelaws state that dogs should be under close control when on the field. On balance, members considered that the request could not be supported. Notices will be placed at the entrance gates reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.

3508 Highway Issues

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

1. The junction of Masefield Crescent and Warwick Road floods during heavy rainfall.

3509 Correspondence and Information

The following item of information/correspondence has been received and was noted:

1. An e-mail from the District Council advising that any reports or complaints regarding dust from the Tarmac factory on Hawton Lane should be submitted individually by complainants directly to the authority rather than via the Parish Council. There are ‘damping down’ measures that the company should adhere to, and the District Council requires all complaints to be logged on their system to enable any enforcement action.

3510 Future Agenda Items

The issue of a skatepark will be given further discussion at the next Amenities Committee meeting.

3511 Long Service Award

Mr James Brown was presented with his Long Service Award by the Chairman of the Parish Council Mrs Lydia Hurst, for a remarkable forty years’ continuous service for the authority. He was thanked for his hard work and commitment to the Parish Council and he gave a speech of appreciation for the support he has been shown by both Councillors and fellow staff.

3512 Exempt Item

It was resolved that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the special nature of the information in the business to be transacted, any public and press be excluded from the meeting for the duration of this agenda item. The members of the public and staff except the Clerk, left the meeting. A staffing issue was duly discussed and agreed upon.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.50pm.