

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday June 29th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen, Mrs Brooks, Gloster, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Ms White
with nine members of the public and the Clerk.

3409 Committee Chairman

One nomination was received for Cllr Allen who was unanimously elected as Committee Chairman. He thanked Cllr Mrs Brooks for her hard work, chairing the Amenities Committee for several years.

3410 Committee Vice Chairman

One nomination was received for Cllr Mrs Brooks was unanimously elected as Committee Vice Chairman.

3411 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Batey, Fairbairn and Scott, and Head Groundsman Mr Brown.

3412 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.

3413 Public Participation

The meeting was closed to take public comments regarding scheduled agenda items; parishioners commented about anti-social behaviour at Lakeside and suggested increased notices, about the hazards of swimming and not taking boats or inflatables on the water, particularly in the warm weather. They were thanked for their attendance and the meeting resumed.

3414 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 3376 Millennium Clock** Following notice from Lidl that they are not prepared to contribute to the Clock's repair or replacement, members asked that the repair costs, obtained in 2020, be checked and confirmed before a decision is taken whether to repair or remove the tower clock.

3415 **Playing Field Flooding**

The District Council has commissioned work to de-silt the drain that runs from the field end of Macaulay Drive through to London Road, between several Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue properties. The drain is badly silted up and it is considered that this could be causing the playing field's very slow drainage and long-standing flooding problem.

3416 **Police Update**

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime issues in the village. Young people have again been causing problems at the Dance Studio, necessitating further 999 calls. The police had scheduled an evening of high officer presence for the playing field the week before but this had to be cancelled owing to another incident on the day; they plan to re-arrange it on another evening. Options and costs are being explored to enclose the studio canopy area which young people congregate under. The need for everyone to report all incidents of ASB and crime was re-iterated; this can be done by phone or on-line and the link for this will be included on the Council's web-site.

3417 **Lake Group**

Members gave initial discussion to a suggestion from residents to create a 'Friends of Balderton Lake' group. Whilst generally supportive in principle to the idea, some hesitation was considered necessary. Members were open to the idea of receiving suggestions from the group but nothing must be undertaken without prior consideration and consent, and they considered that the Council should not form part of the group itself, it would be independent of the authority. On balance members were happy to enter into dialogue with the originators to discuss this further, and the groundstaff's opinion will be canvassed in the interim.

3418 **Allotment Bee Hives**

Consideration was given to a further request that allotment tenants be allowed to keep bee hives on site. A similar enquiry was refused previously because one tenant has a known severe allergy to bee stings. Tenants opinion will be canvassed, particular at rent payment time which is due in the late summer, and notices will be placed on the allotment notice board with the suggestion asking for feedback.

3419 **Lakeside Picnic Benches**

Consideration was given to a request to relocate and/or remove entirely the picnic benches at Lakeside which are sited near to Heron Way car park. Local residents consider that the benches attract unwelcome and anti-social behaviour. Members could not support the request as they report that families use it and the vast majority of people are well behaved and welcome the facility.

3420 **Highway Issues**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities:
No new issues were raised.

3421 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) Notts Wildlife Trust is scheduled to hold a pop-up information stand at Heron Way car park from July 15th to 17th inclusive, 9.30am to 4pm.
- b) Newark Fire Crews will be undertaking a water rescue exercise on the Lake during the evening of July 14th from 6.30-8.30pm.
- c) The latest allotment routine inspections have been carried out where four plots have been placed on a 'watch' list owing to them either being overgrown with weeds or not being used for growing. It was also considered that some old apple trees on an open area are in need of height reduction.
- d) There is an amount of Lake bank erosion at Orchid Close which needs addressing; this will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Initial enquiries are being made in the interim with a local contractor for some ideas of cost, options etc.
- e) Newark Fire Station is holding an open day on Sunday August 28th from 10am to 3pm where all are welcome.

3422 **Future Agenda Items**

No new items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm.