

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Balderton Village Centre on Wednesday January 23rd 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Hurst (Chairman), Ms White (Vice Chairman), Allen, Mrs Brooks, Green, Mrs Lee, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Rouse, Walker and Watt with the Clerk.

APOLOGIES none were received.

6154 Payments

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

6155 Declarations of Interest

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

6156 Public Participation

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6157 Clerk/Chairman's Update

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

- 1. Re Minute 6147.1 Defibrillators** Members were pleased to hear that the Grove Inn has agreed to host a unit on the of the pub, fronting London Road. The electrician is still waiting for another appointment to install a unit at Sainsbury's; efforts will be made once again with store personnel to expedite this.

6158 Financial Assistance

Consideration was given to written requests for financial assistance from:

- a) Chuter Ede Primary School for a grant towards the cost of Year 5 pupils visiting the Holocaust Exhibition Centre at Laxton
- b) Newark Community First Aid (NCFA) for use of the Village Centre to hold a free, short resuscitation course.

It was,

RECOMMENDED

that a grant of £370 be paid to Chuter Ede Primary School and the NCFA be allowed to use the Village Centre one evening free of charge.

6159 Christmas Tree/Memorial Garden

Members gave further consideration to an exact preferred site for a park project to the front of the planned new Orchard School off London Road. The County Council requires a firm proposal from the Parish to formally consider this requested use of land. Members had met on site immediately prior to the meeting to help assess the suitability of the two options. Some members had concerns that forming a park in this vicinity could possibly create a potential hot spot for anti-social behaviour as the land in question is quite low lying and partially hidden behind a hedge. On balance, members agreed to proceed in stages and ask the County Council for permission to simply put some lights at Christmas-time on a conical shaped Holly tree that is already located there. The power for this could be sourced from an adjacent street light. If the authority allows this, and if the lit tree does not create any issues the garden project could be explored further.

6160 World War I

Members gave discussion to providing further memorial items to mark one hundred years since the end of World War I. An earlier suggestion of a stained glass window for one or more of the village churches had been considered too expensive, but some examples of more affordable stained glass items, such as lanterns, had been circulated. Though acknowledging the attractiveness of these items, members considered on balance that further memorial items are not necessary at this time.

6161 Precept for 2019/20

Members gave further consideration to budgetary requirements for 2019/20. Committee 'running costs' had been previously approved and the only agreed project for next year is to update play equipment and a sum of £10,000 has been set for this. Discussion was given to the precept requirement for the next financial year. A proposal was made and seconded, to increase the precept by 4.56%. A second proposal was made and seconded, to increase the precept by 3%. A vote was taken on the second proposal, with 4 votes for and 6 against so this proposal was not carried. A further vote was then taken on the original proposal with 10 votes for and 1 against. It was,

RECOMMENDED

that the precept for 2019/20 be set at £279,520 an increase of 4.46%, which gives a band 'D' property a parish rate of £92.05, an approximate yearly increase of £4.00.

6162 **Highways Faults**
No issues were raised.

6163 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) A report of concern was submitted to the agents who manage Brisbane Court regarding the poor state of surface to the car park which services the flats and garages off the Bullpit. A reply has not yet been received.
- b) Notification from the County Council Rights of Way Department that Public Footpath No. 4 will be extinguished. This footpath is located off Hollowdyke Lane in Fernwood, not in Balderton. The authority will be advised of the parish boundaries as certain alterations may be necessary to the Definitive Map.
- c) An open letter from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils outlining the organisation's activities and seeking members to encourage more people to stand for election. The organisation has a specific web-page of guidance and information.

6164 **Future Agenda Items**
No items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.50pm.