

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Balderton Village Centre on Wednesday September 18th 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Green, Mrs Hurst, Lynch, Mallard, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Rouse with the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr Mrs Lee.

7202 **Payments**

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

7203 **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. Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst and Mayall, as members of the Balderton British Legion declared a personal interest to minute reference 7212 - grant payment for the Remembrance Sunday Road Closure. Cllr Mrs Brooks declared a personal interest to minute reference 7208 – Balderton Parochial Charity trustees.

7204 **Public Participation**

There were no members of public present.

7205 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

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

- 1. Re Minute 6195 Postal Addresses** Royal Mail has replied to the Council's enquiry regarding the removal of the prefix 'New' on Balderton addresses. It may be possible to do this but Royal Mail must ensure that there is broad support for the change so there are therefore additional procedures to undertake. Members were mindful of the potential workload involved and suggested that the process would be better instigated by the resident who raised the request at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council could then provide a letter of support as part of the process.
- 2. Re Minute 6198 Street Naming** Members were disappointed that the submitted street name suggestions had not been taken up by the District Council.

7206 **Financial Risks Assessment**

Members reviewed the Council's Financial Risk Register, copies having been previously circulated. The Register includes an assessment of the likelihood and impact of any risk taking place; this provides the Council with far greater control to enable managing its financial risks. Members approved the introduction of two measures under Section 3 'Administration' to check annually that bank mandates are up to date, and to upgrade the office computers to the latest Windows package to ensure continued security and anti-

virus compliance. Section 1 will be amended to include Data Protection under the Liability issues already listed.

7207 Annual Audit for 2018/19

Members were pleased to note the completion of the Annual Audit by external auditors PKF Littlejohn with an unqualified return for the last financial year. Appreciation was extended to the staff for their hard work in preparing the Annual Return, and in particular to the Deputy Clerk for her duties as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer.

7208 Balderton Parochial Charity

Approval was given to the re-appointment of charity trustees Mrs Betty Brooks and Mrs Pat Wood. The new term of office will run until November 2022.

7209 Facebook

Cllrs Allen and Rouse gave feedback regarding a meeting held with the Fernwood Parish Council Clerk regarding the authority's Facebook account. Discussion was given to the benefits and problems associated with social media but on balance members considered that organisations are expected to use this forum. There is a cost involved but this is understood to be minimal. The account will be set up to only 'post' information, agendas, minutes etc. It will not be an 'interactive' account so anyone wishing to comment' on an article will still have to contact the Council individually instead. It was,

RECOMMENDED that a Facebook account be created, subject to reasonable cost.

7210 Sainsbury's Supermarket

Members discussed concerns raised regarding the one way delivery system at Sainsbury's supermarket on London Road. H.G.V. lorries enter the site via the car park and exit onto Belvoir Road - this can be problematic owing to parked vehicles. The road surface is also being eroded by the heavy vehicles. Members could not suggest any definitive solution other than possibly seeking the introduction of double yellow lines along that section of Belvoir Road. On balance it was considered beneficial to write initially to the company asking for their comments and whether they had any suggestions.

7211 Armed Forces Covenant

Approval was given to the Parish Council signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant. This encourages local authorities to engage with and support armed forces to nurture public awareness among public issues affecting their community.

7212 Grant Application

Consideration was given to a request for financial assistance from the Balderton Branch of the Royal British Legion for £266, this being 50% of the road closure cost for the Annual Remembrance Sunday Parade. It is understood that Fernwood Parish Council will fund the remaining 50% of the cost. It was,

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £266 be paid.

7213 Highways Faults

The following faults were reported for submission to the relevant authorities:

1. An amount of fly tipping (used tyres) has been left in a gateway off Staple Lane.
2. The section of pavement, between Sainsbury's and Manners Road which is approximately 50m in length, dips considerably, and the verges have encroached over the path from both sides, making it difficult for wheelchair users.
3. The northern junction of Manners Road with London Road, which is wide and sweeping, seems to encourage vehicles to leave London Road at speed when turning left into Manners Road. The County Council will be asked if anything can be done to slow vehicles down there, including making the angle of the junction more acute.

7214 Correspondence/Information

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

- a) An invitation to a consultation event at the Methodist Church on Friday October 4th at 6pm where plans will be shared for the old hall to the rear of the Church to be converted into a community café. The Parish Council's representation is particularly valued and members were urged to attend if possible.
- b) An invitation to the Notts Association of Local Councils' AGM on Thursday November 21st at 7.30pm in Eppertstone Village Hall. This Council is scheduled to receive a Certificate of Merit relating to the café at the event. Cllrs Mrs Hurst and Ms White undertook to attend if possible.
- c) The latest newsletter from Police Inspector Heather Sutton.
- d) A number of thank you letters from Chuter Ede Primary School's Year 5 pupils for a Council grant used towards the cost of a school trip to the Holocaust Centre at Laxton.
- e) The 75th anniversary of V.E. Day is on Friday May 8th 2020 and this will be a National Bank Holiday replacing the usual May Day on the Monday of that week. Members were asked to give initial consideration to how this occasion could be marked. Cllr Mrs Brooks advised that a local school has offered the Council a small 'Tommy Soldier' statue that could be utilised to mark the event. This news was welcomed and members were asked to suggest a suitable place for this to be installed.

7215 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Allen asked that consideration be given to asking local artist Christine Goldschmidt to create a painting of the Playing Field, in a similar style of the one commissioned for Lakeside.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.55pm.