

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday April 6th 2022 at 6.30pm

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

with five members of the public and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr Lynch, and Cllr Gloster had advised he would be slightly late joining the meeting.

7425 **Payments**

All payments including direct debit payments were approved and authorised; a list of these is published with the minutes. All relevant paperwork has been viewed by the Council.

7426 **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.

7427 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments. Members of the public expressed their concerns objections to the Council agreeing to allow the YMCA to undertake kayaking and canoeing on the Lake, believing that it will have a detrimental impact on the ecology of the area. The Council's reluctance to discuss the issue was criticised. A Council decision from 2001, refusing a request to allow canoeing was raised, asking why the Council has changed its stance. The residents were thanked for their attendance and the meeting re-opened.

Cllr Gloster had joined the meeting during the public session.

7428 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

A printed update of ongoing matters was circulated and noted. The update is published with the minutes. No issues were discussed from the update.

7429 **Council Standing Orders**

Members reviewed the Council's Standing Orders as recommended by the Internal Auditor, copies having been previously circulated along with a parishioner's comments which were taken into account as part of the process. It was,

RECOMMENDED that amendments be made to:

- i) 3c to show meetings shall not exceed a period of 2 hours unless agreed by all members present.

- ii) 5c to show that the annual meeting will commence at 6.30pm.
- iii) 18f & 18g to show the new government agreed procurement thresholds relating to Public Contact Regulations.

7430 **Council Financial Regulations**

Members reviewed the Council Financial Regulations as recommended by the Internal Auditor, copies having been previously circulated. It was,

RECOMMENDED that amendments be made to:

- i. 6.3 to show that payments are essentially by bank transfer (cheques now being rarely used)
- iv) 11c to remove the EU reference relating to Public Contact Regulations.

7431 **Play Equipment Insurance**

Members gave consideration to including vandalism cover on the Council's insurance policy, at an additional yearly premium of £615.99. On balance members considered that the excess payable would make most minor claims untenable, which vandalism cases tend to be on play equipment. Should any play equipment ever be vandalised and those responsible were caught, the Council would seek damages through private prosecution.

7432 **Electrical Vehicle Charging Points**

Consideration was given to any potential suitable sites for electrical vehicle charging points in the village. The Lidl company has advised that it is considering installing points in its store car parks, and members considered that enquiries should be made with Sainsbury's to ascertain if it intends to install them in the Balderton branch car park. Members agreed that the whole issue of sourcing and providing adequate charging points for the future will require full consideration by all agencies and organisations.

7433 **Police Update**

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village. A further incident had occurred today when young people caused problems at the Dance Studio, necessitating a 999 call. The local M.P.s office has suggested that the grant application submitted to the District Council for a CCTV camera at the Warwick Road end of the playing field, be amended to have it installed to cover the eastern side of the Dance Studio. The County Council has advised that a street light column can only be used to host a CCTV camera for 3 months at any one time so a new column would be required, at an estimated additional cost of £1,900. This Council's own CCTV system can be extended to cover that area concerned and a quotation has been requested. The District Council has indicated that the grant application can be varied to show this alteration and members agreed to change this.

7434 **Highways Faults**

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

1. County Cllr Lee had advised that he has requested a review of Grove Street in terms of the carriageway surface. Cllr Gloster advised that he had attended a walkabout this week with Cllr Lee and the Highways Manager, which had been both informative and promising in terms of future work for Balderton. He asked that a letter be sent to the Notts County Council Chief Executive expressing appreciation to Cllr Lee for his helpful and open manner in dealing with ongoing local issues and for inviting members to accompany him on the site visit.
2. The road surface is poor at the junction of Baines Avenue with Macaulay Drive, and continuing down Macaulay Drive itself.
3. Tarmac 'seams' on London Road near to the bridge have gaps and appear to be opening wider, creating hazards for cyclists; these will almost certainly develop into potholes in time.

7435 **Correspondence/Information**

The following items of correspondence/information have been received for noting:

- a) An update from local M.P. Mr Robert Jenrick's office that the Government is considering the request to consider making remote and/or hybrid council meetings lawful.
- b) The funeral of former Councillor Mr Raymond Rouse will take place at Ollerton Crematorium on Wednesday April 13th at 1.30pm.

7436 **Future Agenda Items**

- a) Cllr Gloster asked that the issue of social media for the Council be again discussed.
- b) Cllr Fairbairn asked whether consideration had been given to meeting with residents regarding Lakeside concerns? The Chairman advised that an informal meeting has been scheduled for next week with two residents, Cllr Mrs Brooks and herself.
- c) Cllr Mrs Lee asked whether the Council should consider getting involved in producing a village magazine? St. Giles Church already produces a magazine and the Council could get involved in it, contributing to it on a more regular basis.

7437 ***Exempt Item – Staffing Issue***

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, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the duration of this agenda item.

The members of the public left the meeting and a staffing issue was discussed and agreed upon.

The meeting was closed at approximately 8.00pm