

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Tuesday June 6th 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Roy Fairbairn, Simon Forde, Gill Lee, Debbie Moore and Joy Sellars

with no members of the public and the Clerk

3513 Committee Chairman

One nomination was received for Cllr Elson who was unanimously elected as Committee Chairman in her absence.

3514 Committee Vice Chairman

One nomination was received for Cllr Moore was unanimously elected as Committee Vice Chairman, and took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3515 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mandie Elson, Jean Hall, Leigh Marshall, Ronnie White and Head Groundsman James Brown.

3516 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Forde as a serving member of Newark & Sherwood District Council, declared a personal interest to any District Council issue. Cllr Fairbairn as an allotment holder, declared a personal interest to minute reference 3523.

3517 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

3518 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 3503 Heron Way Car Park** Cllr Forde as a District Councillor, undertook to make enquires with Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding whether whoever secures the Grove Street play area could deploy the bollards to the car park at a similar time and what the costs would be.
- 2. Re Minute 3505 Variseeder** Members gave further discussion to the option of purchasing the Variseeder machine, and it was,

RECOMMENDED with 6 votes for and 2 against that is be purchased. A cost to benefit analysis was requested in time if possible for the Full Council meeting.

3. **Re Minute 3506 Coronation Planters** Further discussion took place about the option to purchase a unit for the four village primary schools. **Cllr Sellars** undertook to liaise on the Council's behalf with village schools to ascertain their thoughts about this proposal and bring her findings back to the committee.

3519 **Additional Lakeside Litter Bin**

Consideration was given to a request to place a new litter bin near a bench seat at 'The Point' area of the Lake which seems to be a regular spot for littering, despite it not being too far a distance from another litter bin. It was,

RECOMMENDED that a suitable fire-retardant steel bin be purchased with an estimated cost being in the region of £250 + VAT.

3520 **Bankside Erosion**

Further discussion was given to Lake bank erosion at the Orchid Close feeding platform which is a particularly problematic area owing to the constant movement of the water coupled with the ash bottom of the water bed. Whilst 'hard' engineered options such as concrete walls and gabion baskets may be a longer-term solution, this is not very aesthetically pleasing. **Cllr Callingham** undertook to explore 'softer engineering' options and bring her findings back to the committee.

3521 **Cricket Nets**

Members considered a request from the Cricket Club that the Council's groundsmen install the new protective window nets in front of the buildings on Friday afternoons ready for the weekend as they consider they are too high for them to work safely at height on ladders. Members' response was that it must also therefore be too high for staff to work safely, and as the higher nets had been purchased at the Club's request they must arrange for their own installation and removal, and/or seek alternative solutions. It was also considered that once staff leave the field unsupervised the nets would almost certainly get damaged.

3522 **Skatepark**

Discussion was again given to the possibility of providing a skatepark in the village for young people. Members considered it beneficial to initially liaise with other parish councils that have installed parks for advice on styles, process, funding options etc. **Cllr Buxton** undertook to contact appropriate councils, arrange any site visits etc.

3523 **Allotments**

Consideration was given to a suggestion that when any plots become vacant they be divided up further (some of the plot sizes vary slightly). This would create additional plot numbers and help reduce the allotment waiting list. It would also allow new tenants the opportunity to try out an allotment and gauge more easily whether they can manage a site and keep it in good condition in accordance with the Council's rules. Members supported this in principle and Cllr Fairbairn asked that a meeting of the Allotment sub-committee be arranged to progress the proposal.

3524 **Highway Issues**

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

1. Cllr Forde advised that he is liaising with the appropriate authorities regarding reports of overgrown trees on the A1 embankment near to residential properties.

3525 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) A request from two local girl guides to site a geocache at Balderton Lake as part of their guides badge for geocaching. Members were happy to support this request in principle subject to the exact location being agreed in advance.
- b) There is a large amount of curly weed in the Lake; this is causing difficulties for the fishermen but is not considered to be harmful to wildlife or the fish. Enquiries are ongoing to ascertain any methods of treatment and/or removal.

3526 **Future Agenda Items**

A review of sports fees and charges will be discussed at a future committee meeting once an updated 'cost to income' breakdown has been produced.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm.