

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday December 2nd 2020 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Ms White

with one member of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3245 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Scott.

3246 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 Newstead and Newstead declared a personal interest to minute reference 3251 Allotment Water.

3247 Public Participation

The one member of the public in attendance did not wish to address the members at this stage.

3248 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 3192 L.I.S. Funding Bid** Members were advised that a grant of 50% of the cost of a zip wire project has been awarded by the County Council. Though this is very welcome news some concern was expressed that the remaining 50 % of cost must be found at a time when the Council's income has been reduced considerably due the impact of the pandemic. Enquiries will be made with the County Council to enquire whether the allocated fund has to be spent within a certain timeframe or whether it could be held as an earmarked reserve for the project for later delivery.

3249 Café

Members were reminded that REACH's last day in the building is December 18th 2020. Nothing further has been heard from local organisation Bridge Together who previously expressed an interest in running the café and visited last month. The Working Party will arrange a meeting to discuss the best way forward to market this business opportunity.

3250 Playing Field Public Toilet

Discussion was given to re-opening the public toilet which was closed initially owing to the pandemic and then due to repeated vandalism. The regular early morning visitors and dog walkers have requested it be opened again. On balance members agreed that it should be opened on a trial basis Monday to Friday until 3pm, and when there are scheduled football matches at the weekend. Members sought assurance that the once daily cleaning practice of the toilet is adequate in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic before the facility is opened.

3251 Allotment Water

Members discussed possible measures to reduce the amount of water being used at the allotments. One option is to replace the standpipes at the allotments with self-filling water troughs. These would take up quite a lot of space on either the roadways or tenants plots and will cost approximately £100 each, plus installation. Cllr Newstead suggested an alternative option of “press-down” spring loaded taps that would only release a measured amount of water at any one time and are understood to be substantially cheaper. Further details will be obtained and the issue given further discussion.

3252 Flowserve Sportsground

The meeting was closed at this stage for a member of the public who expressed his concern regarding the higher rent being set by the new private owner of the sportsground and social club at the Flowserve factory site off Hawton Lane. He advised that the new rates make it completely unviable for any of the existing local teams and clubs to continue there. Appreciation was extended to the District Council, acknowledging that the authority is doing what it can to help a difficult situation. He was thanked for his attendance and the meeting resumed.

Discussion was given to the situation at the sportsground and social club, members expressing their support for those concerned. Notification had been received today from the District Council that the Newark Sports Association has applied for the site to be an asset of Community Value and is seeking the Council’s support for the proposal. As the deadline for any comments is December 30th this year members considered that this issue should be referred for consideration to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting next week.

3253 Highway Faults

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

- a) Garden waste is still be dumped into the watercourse outside near to 8 Staple Lane. This will again be reported to the Internal Drainage Board.
- b) A lot of disquiet is being expressed about loose grit from the newly re-surfaced estate roads off Manners Road.

3254 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) A quotation of £1070 + VAT has been received for the self-closing gate to the children's play area, from the company that originally installed it. The company that recently carried out fencing work behind the café building has been asked to supply an alternative quotation.
- b) The latest Police update briefing from Inspector Sutton advising that officers detained young persons recently following reports of anti-social behaviour in Balderton, took them home and explained the consequences to parents.
- c) The latest newsletter from the Police Commissioner Paddy Tipping.
- d) A letter from the Chairman of the Newark Members Group of the Notts Wildlife Trust asking that the organisations' disapproval be registered for any boating activity on the Lake.
- e) The annual play area inspection has been carried out; the written report and findings are being reviewed by the Head Groundsman but nothing of immediate concern has been identified.
- f) An e-mail from former Anti-Social Behaviour Officer (ASBO) Terry Bailey thanking Councillors for their support over the years. Mr Bailey will continue to work for the District Council but in the Housing Department. It is not yet known who will replace Mr Bailey's position as ASBO for this area.
- g) A letter from a resident who is purchasing a property that backs onto the Churchyard, expressing concern about the height of some polar trees that run along that boundary. The resident is offering to contribute £500 towards any costs, and though members appreciated this gesture they deemed it would not be appropriate to accept it. The Head Groundsman will inspect the trees in question, but they were not found to be in need scheduled pruning work when the formal review was last undertaken by the specialist tree company. Cllr Roberts reminded fellow members that the Council is also looking to try and pass responsibility on to the District Council for maintenance of the Churchyard.
- h) An email from Belvoir Surfacing suggesting a small paddling pool be installed on the playing field, offering to supply the plant and labour for the project free of charge. Initial discussion was given to the possibility but longer-term logistical difficulties/health and safety concerns would probably make this prohibitive. Further consideration will be given to the issue along with the possibility of asking whether the company would consider contributing to another play area installation instead.
- i) Two of the fenced areas at the Lake, Catkin Way and Heron Way are falling into disrepair. Estimates will be obtained to replace the post and rail style as existing, along with the alternative option to install knee high post.

3255 **Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Mrs Hurst asked that the issue of road crossing safety for Suthers School pupils walking from Balderton to the Fernwood site be discussed at the next F&GP meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.35pm.