

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday September 11th 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Scott

with Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3144 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Lynch and Ms White.

3145 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3146 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

3147 **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 3123 Rats at Lakeside** Following advice taken from the District Council Environmental Services Department, members considered on balance that there would be no real benefit from installing rat bait boxes at Lakeside at this time. The situation will continue to be monitored.
2. **Re Minute 3137 Lakeside Protected Status** The District Council has replied that one option is for the Parish to do a Neighbourhood Plan where the Lake area could be designated a Local Green Space and/or Local Character Area. This has been considered previously by the Parish Council and rejected. However, the District authority's planning policies are in place to ensure that any development is in character with its surroundings.

3148 **Heron Way Car Park**

Further consideration was given to a request made at the Annual Parish Meeting that the Heron Way car park at Lakeside be gated and locked overnight to try and ease the impact of anti-social behaviour there for nearby residents. A simple swing barrier style gate would prevent vehicles but enable pedestrians to access the area - this would cost approximately £800 (supply only). Discussion was given to determine who would open and close it, and at what time etc. Some local residents have verbally offered to unlock and lock a gate but this would require further discussion and a written undertaking. Members asked that the residents concerned be contacted to confirm the extent of their commitment to this.

3149 **Christmas Tree**

Further discussion was given to providing a lit Christmas Tree for the village following an earlier proposal to create a Christmas Tree and mini park area in front of the new Orchard School which cannot now be accommodated by the County Council. One simple alternative is to install a tree in St. Giles' Churchyard near to where there is already a power source that was used for many years to light for Christmas lights in a Lime Tree (this can no longer be used as it had to be drastically reduced in height). A 12 foot high cut Norway Spruce Tree can be purchased for approximately £100 and installed via a sunken socket holder. Members supported this option in principle and gave initial discussion to asking local companies to sponsor the yearly purchase cost. Further discussion will take place with the Church (who support the proposal) regarding the exact site as it is understood that the project will require a Faculty from the Southwell Diocese.

3150 **Play Area Upgrade**

Members gave consideration to a resident's suggestion that the play area be upgraded/improved. The Council has committed a sum of £10,000 for play area improvements this current financial year (£1000 of which was used to provide the Summer diversionary activities on the playing field). Discussions with the Café revealed they would welcome some pieces of younger children's play equipment near to the building, and also adult outside gymnasium equipment on the playing field. Most of the existing play equipment is also in need of re-painting and Mr Brown advised that this work is scheduled for the Autumn. The Council is eligible to apply for a WREN grant but must find 10.75% of any grant from a Contributing Third Party; it is understood that the County Council may fit this criteria so further enquiries will be made. Members undertook to give consideration to the different options, and the resident who requested an upgrade will also be asked for any suggestions.

3151 **Cricket Protective Net**

The Cricket Club considers that the nets which are installed during matches in front of the Village Centre and Café windows require heightening. Two Centre windows have been broken this season, although one was from players' misuse, not during a match. Higher net systems are available on the market, and the angle of any installed nets may also have to be reviewed but members considered that the Club should really pay for them, not the Council. A meeting will be arranged with the Club.

3152 **Grass Verges and Wildflowers**

Consideration was given to the possibility of planting wildflowers within certain Council grassed areas to create a haven for wildlife. These areas would not then require mowing as frequently, enabling staff to undertake other duties including the possibility of cutting some of the County Council owned grass verges that the Council currently sub-contracts out. The sum of money paid by the County Council to cut these areas amounts to several thousand pounds less than it costs this Council to pay the contractor. Members agreed

that a meeting should be convened with the contractor and the County Council to see what can be done to redress the financial loss.

3153 Memorial Benches

Members gave consideration to requests for memorial benches, one on the playing field and one in the new Cemetery extension area which has just started to be used. Local undertakers have suggested that the Council approves one style of memorial bench to create uniformity and prevent unsuitable benches being used in the Cemetery extension area. The issue was referred to the Cemetery Sub Committee to allow further discussion and consideration be given to different options. The playing field has a number of different styles of benches so members approved that particular request subject to the Head Groundsman agreeing the site and style of bench with the originator.

3154 Highway Faults

The following fault/issue was raised and will be passed onto the relevant authorities:

- a) A number of potholes on Lacey Green.

3155 Correspondence and Information

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

- a) Feedback from the Best Kept Village Competition judges advising that although Balderton narrowly missed going through to Round 2, a Certificate of Merit will be awarded for the community (REACH) café on the playing field.
- b) The Newark & Sherwood Parish & Town Conference will take place at North Muskham Village Hall on Saturday November 2nd from 9am to 12 noon. Any Councillor wishing to attend or with a suggested item for the agenda should notify the Clerk as soon as possible.
- c) A request for additional dog waste bins in the Mead Way vicinity. Members could not support this and asked that the applicant be informed that litter bins can also be used to deposit bagged dog waste.
- d) A Council owned hedge that adjoins a Rowan Way property has been drastically cut back and reduced in height without permission. An advisory letter has been sent to the proprietors.
- e) The Council will hold a MacMillan Coffee Morning on September 27th 2019 from 10am-12 noon

3156 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Roberts asked that consideration be given to participating in the Britain in Bloom competition.

Cllr Scott asked that consideration be given to re-introducing the best Christmas Decorated house(s) in the village competition.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm.