

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday September 12th 2018 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Owen, Page, Scott, Watt and Ms White with the Clerk.

3057 **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

3058 **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.

3059 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

3060 **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 Carp Fish in the Pump Pond The Environment Agency attended the site to review the situation. The preferred method of removal was to drain the pump pond area, but subsequent enquiries had shown this to be prohibitive. Further enquiries are being made and a meeting of the Lakeside Working Party will be convened to further discuss the issue.

3061 **Trailer Gang Mower**

The trailer gang mower currently in use is believed to date back to the 1940s and was second hand when purchased by the Council in the late 1960's or early 1970's. It has been refurbished and repaired on numerous occasions but is becoming increasingly problematic and costly to continue to do so. It was,

RECOMMENDED that a new trailer gang mower at an estimated cost of £19,000 be purchased

3062 **Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV) at the Cemetery**

Members gave consideration to a request to install CCTV cameras at the Mount Road Cemetery. The request had been suggested owing to a spate of thefts from a nearby store and some of the stolen goods were found abandoned in the Cemetery. These thefts have since eased and the area has not been subject to any reported anti-social behaviour so members agreed to monitor the situation and give further consideration to the request if deemed necessary.

3063 **Car Park Marking**

Consideration was given to marking the car park with appropriate wording, immediately in front of the Emergency Resilience Store to allow access at all times and deter vehicles being left there. The existing warning and advisory markings on the car park seem to have little effect, so members agreed to install more prominent signs on the unit itself advising anyone parking near it to allow a sufficient space to allow access. If this proves unsuccessful collapsible bollards will be installed immediately by the doors – the keys to which could be kept with the storage unit key.

3064 **Water Supply System**

Members gave consideration to a plumber's suggestion that further isolation taps be installed in the water supply system located in the roof space over the changing rooms. A different plumber had been asked to provide a quotation for this work but he could see little or no benefit in doing the work, believing the existing system is easily drainable in the event of any leaks. Members did not therefore approve the suggested work.

3065 **Litter Bin**

Members approved a parishioner's request for an additional litter bin on the playing field, nearer to the middle tree area. This will be installed near to the middle gate, bolted onto a concrete slab; this will enable it to be relocated if necessary as previous bins in that vicinity have been subject to misuse.

3066 **Acacia Road Footpath**

Members gave consideration to a request to install a hard surface on the Council owned public footpath which is currently top surfaced with stones. The stones were originally installed to prevent excessive rainwater run-off into the two adjacent gardens, and to slow cyclists down. Members could not concur with the request but did agree to the purchase of further stones to 'top up' the path as they are quite sparse in places.

3067 **Lakeside Nettles**

Discussion was given to removing a large patch of nettles at Lakeside and replacing it with a flower bed or shrubbery area. Members considered on balance that nettles are good for attracting butterflies and wildlife and are a natural species for the area. Wildflower seeds will be scattered amongst the nettles to encourage other insects.

3068 **Budget Projects 2019/20**

Members were asked to give initial consideration to any projects for inclusion in the budget for the next financial year. Budgetary issues will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

3069 **Highway Faults**

The following faults/issues were raised and will be passed onto the relevant authority:

- a) A pavement between Bullpit Road and Macaulay Drive has a very uneven surface, this is believed to have been caused by tree roots.
- b) One or more street lights are not working on Grove Street – exact column not known.

3070 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) The playing field is scheduled to be closed on Monday October 1st for mole treatment.
- b) A local photographer has enquired about the possibility of recording wildlife at the Lake with a hidden camera. The footage and findings could possibly be used to undertake a project with local schools, and the information gleaned could be used to create a Wildlife Information Board for Lakeside visitors. Members considered this to be an interesting project and welcomed the initiative.
- c) An e-mail of appreciation from a Balderton resident praising the Council for the tidiness and neatness of the playing field.
- d) A number of road closure notices; Coddington Road between Fen Lane and Vicarage Gardens from Monday September 29th to Wednesday October 31st inclusive, for Sewer Project work. Hawton Lane from Monday October 8th to Friday October 17th for road resurfacing. A 100m section of Baines Avenue from London Road from Monday October 8th to Friday October 19th for sewer repair works. Clement Avenue and Wetsyke Lane from Thursday October 4th to Friday October 12th for road patching and surface dressing works.
- e) A request from the groundstaff to visit the Saltex Show at the Birmingham NEC on either October 31st or November 1st 2018. It is quite a number of years since staff attended this show which specialises in groundcare issues and equipment. Members approved this request.
- f) Cllr Allen asked that Councillors' condolences be recorded for Newark Advertiser reporter Warwick Lane who had recently passed away. Warwick had been a regular reporter of this Council's meetings. A card will be sent on behalf of the Council.

3071 **Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Watt asked that the issue of encouraging newts be discussed.

3072 ***Exempt Item***

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

A legal issue was discussed and agreed upon.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.00pm.