

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7.00pm.

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

### 3169 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Green and Head Groundsman Mr Brown.

### 3170 **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.

### 3171 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

### 3172 **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 3160.2 Granby Drive Grass** The Clerk informed that the County Council has decided on balance not to take any action to prevent vehicular access across the grassed area concerned but will continue to monitor the situation. Members were surprised at this news, expressing some concern that the situation is possibly being abused by some.
2. **Re Minute 3162 Playing Field Artwork** Discussion was given to how the commissioned artwork for the playing field should be ultimately displayed once completed, i.e. in a lectern style information board or more simply on the Village Centre wall. Members agreed with ten votes for and one against that the commission should proceed; a decision will be taken how to display it once the artwork is complete.
3. **Re Minute 3163 Christmas Decorations Competition** The Newark Advertiser will be asked to include something in the paper about the competition and posters will be displayed in the village notice boards.

### 3173 **Free Tree Scheme**

The District Council has offered up to 50 free trees for which Parish Councils can apply to use for community planting events. The trees could possibly be used in conjunction with the Britain in Bloom initiative, and the County Council has also suggested that one of the trees could be used to replace a diseased plum tree that had to very recently be removed from the grassed area between Granby Drive and Marquis Avenue. Members agreed that an application should be completed as fully as possible although the details of community public involvement are not yet known.

3174 **Mount Road Cemetery**

Members discussed two memorial issues for the Mount Road Cemetery. At the last meeting a decision had been taken about the preferred style of memorial bench to be allowed in the extension area, but the supplying company can no longer provide that price range of bench. Local stonemasons Gill & Sons in Newark can supply a suitable bench at a similar price (that particular manufacturing company do not sell directly to the public). Members agreed that these benches should be the preferred option for the extension area, and be installed by the groundstaff as before. A request was considered for a memorial stone to be installed which would span two burial plots (it had been necessary to allocate two side by side plots during the very heavy rainfall in November as it was impossible to dig a double depth grave). Members refused the request as the headstone would be out of line and make ground care difficult. It must be stressed that the allocation/pre-purchase of the grave concerned was only allowed during this exceptional circumstance and does not set a precedent for any further requests.

3175 **Britain in Bloom**

Further discussion was given to the possible participation in the ‘Britain in Bloom’ competition which allows groups to transform their communities. Specific areas are nominated that are then assessed by judges but the work has to be undertaken by groups, it is not an initiative that the Council undertakes directly. Cllr Roberts undertook to obtain some information regarding the cost of entering the competition and members will give consideration in the interim to any areas in the village that could be nominated for improvements along with local community groups, and possible commercial sponsors.

3176 **Highway Faults**

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

- a) A large pothole on London Road close to the Highfields School.
- b) The gully between the road and pavement on Meadow Road between Russell Avenue and Christopher Crescent is badly broken up with quite a deep drop from the kerb. This has been reported before but the County Council did not consider it a problem at the time.
- c) The poor state of the road surface in general on Christopher Crescent.
- d) The dyke next to the last house on Staple Lane is being used to deposit grass and garden clippings.

3177 **Correspondence and Information**

The following item of information/correspondence had been received and was noted:

- a) A Certificate of Merit from the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the community café on the playing field. This had been awarded as part of the Best Kept Village Competition and was presented at the Notts Association of Local Councils’ AGM on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 which Cllr Mrs Lee had attended.

3178 **Future Agenda Items**

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.50pm.