

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Mandie Elson (Chairman) Debbie Moore (Vice Chairman), Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Roy Fairbairn, Robert Green, Jean Hall, Gill Lee and Joy Sellars

with three members of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk

### 3527 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Simon Forde, Mac Mallard, Leigh Marshall and Ronnie White.

### 3528 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hall, 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 3532.

### 3529 Public Participation

The meeting was closed to take public comments on scheduled agenda items. One resident asked about the protocol for reporting people who contravene the Dog Control Order to keep dogs on leads while walking around the Lake, and suggested additional signage may help. One resident spoke about CCTV cameras in problem areas and suggested that any future skatepark area should be covered by cameras. The meeting was re-opened and the public were thanked for their comments.

### 3530 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** A local security company has taken over deploying and removing the bollards to prevent vehicular access to the car park overnight to try and minimise anti-social behaviour in the vicinity. The company had asked if the displayed closing time could be altered from 9pm to 8pm as the operatives considered this would help. Members had no objections to this request and the car park notice will be changed accordingly.
- 2. Re Minute 3518.3 Coronation Planters for Schools** Cllr Sellars advised that John Hunt School would like a planter for the front of the building, Newark Academy would prefer fruit trees for planting, and enquiries are still being made with The Orchard and Chuter Ede

Primary Schools.

3. **Re Minute 3521 Cricket Nets** The Club has requested an evening site meeting with members to discuss an alternative option of fixing the new higher nets in front of the Dance Studio and Village Centre windows. The Head Groundsman undertook to liaise with the Club in the interim to ascertain the details of what is being proposed, and Cllrs Elson and Moore offered to meet Club members if still required.
4. **Re Minute 3522 Skatepark** Cllr Buxton advised that enquiries are ongoing to arrange meetings with other Parish Councils who have gone through the process of installing a skate park in terms of selecting design options, sourcing funding opportunities, etc.
5. **Re Minute 3525b Lake Curly Weed** Members of the Lakeside Working Party had met informally with representatives from the Grove Angling Club about this naturally occurring pond weed. It is now understood that the weed can cause longer term health issues for the fish and the Club has, at its own expense, commissioned a specialist company to assess the problem; this is scheduled to take place on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 8am, meeting at Heron Way car park.

#### 3531 **Bankside Erosion**

Further discussion was given to bank erosion at the Orchid Close feeding platform area of the Lake. Cllr Callingham had contacted Notts Wildlife Trust who had suggested one option could be for willow posts to be driven into the water bed and willow then woven between the posts to create a living barrier. This would only be a relatively short term solution (possibly 4-5 years) as it would require significant maintenance after that time, and it could also impair the view across the water. It is however a soft, more environmentally friendly option than harder engineering solutions. Floating platforms could also be considered as these would help minimise erosion, and/or alternatively, large boulders could be installed with coir rolls which would create a habitat for a range of wildlife. The whole issue is complex and members concurred that further research, costings, discussions with other organisations, funding possibilities, etc. are required

#### 3532 **Allotments**

Members were advised of a meeting held on Monday July 10th of the Allotment Working Party where a number of issues had been agreed. These were to further reduce plot sizes when allotments become available, and to double the rent for new allotment holders for the first year only to encourage responsible, committed tenants. Fees were also set at £35, £20 and £15 respectively for a full, half or quarter area. A number of letters were being drafted to those tenants whose plots were not considered to be in a suitable condition, offering various suggestions to move forward in line with the Council's terms and conditions for allotments.

#### 3533 **CCTV for Heron Way/Picnic Bench Area**

Discussion was given to the feasibility of installing a CCTV camera at the Heron Way car park and picnic bench area of the Lake which continues to be a target for misuse, such as barbecue fires, drug taking etc. The site has no readily available electricity supply and this would be costly to install.. Some questions were raised about the validity of a camera unless the footage is being

constantly monitored, which is also more expensive. However, CCTV can be a deterrent and give reassurance to genuine visitors. Cllrs Buxton, Lee & Sellars had met earlier today with Yvonne Swinton, the District Council's Community Protection Officer manager who had undertaken to provide details of a CCTV camera company who may be able to give some specialised advice. In the interim, the public needs to continue to report each and every incident to the Police on 101, or via 999 if a crime is in progress, and ongoing education of this must continue by all means possible.

**3534 Swimming and Dogs off Leads at Lakeside**

Consideration was given to a resident's e-mail outlining the ongoing issue of young people swimming in the Lake during good weather, and people allowing their dogs to go in the water when they should be kept under closer control on leads. Allowing dogs in the water has implications to wildlife and wildfowl safety. The Community Protection Officers will again be asked to pay attention to the area whenever possible and to issue fixed penalty tickets to irresponsible dog owners. This would improve awareness that there are very real consequences for non-compliance. Any regular offending dog walkers who allow their pets to be off the lead can be reported to the District Council by description, citing their routine time of walking etc. With regard to the suggestion made by the public for increased signage, Mr Brown advised that there are currently seventeen signs at Lakeside for Dogs on Leads, eight signs relating to poop scoop laws and five no swimming signs.

**3535 Dog Waste Bins**

Consideration was given to a request from the District Council to either remove or replace three dog waste bins which are in poor state of repair. These are located on the corner of Mead Way near to the Salvation Army Centre, outside John Hunt Primary School and one near to the Dance Studio on the playing field. The Council had previously decided not to replace any dog waste bins that are not located on Council land, to try and save money as bagged waste can legally be deposited in the general litter bins which are provided by the District Council. Members asked for confirmation whether the District Council had undertaken an audit of all the dog waste bins in the village, and if not, asked the groundsmen to do this. Costings can then be obtained and further consideration given to replace any that are in need.

**3536 Sporting Fees 2023/24**

Members reviewed the Council's sports fees and charges for the current season. Cllr Forde had, in his absence, submitted a comprehensive breakdown and suggested pricing structure. Although members were grateful for his hard work, this report had not been received in time to circulate it with the agenda. It was,

**RECOMMENDED**

that an increase of 5% be implemented across all sporting fees. Members asked that the issue of sports fees be given much more detailed consideration next year, in readiness for a decision before the summer invoice deadline.

3537 **Highway Issues**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities:  
No new issues were raised.

3538 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) A request from the Wildlife Trust to again visit Balderton Lake with their pop up stand on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> . The Trust has done this on a few occasions previously without incident, and no objections were raised to this request.
- b) An e-mail from Mallard Green residents asking for Council owned Poplar trees to the rear of their property to be reduced in height and cut back. The Council's policy is not to cut back trees just because of height, and it works in accordance with a professional tree survey undertaken approximately every five years. The survey is due again this winter and will highlight necessary work to any trees which under the Council's jurisdiction. Householders may of course cut back any vegetation that overhangs their property but Mr Brown did not consider there were any substantial overhanging branches in this case.
- c) A couple of land-lord building maintenance responsibilities for the Dance Studio had come to light. Some minor but essential issues will be undertaken immediately, and the more involved issue relating to a concern about inadequate ventilation will require future committee discussion.
- d) The Cricket Club has applied for funding for an artificial practice wicket which would be installed alongside the grass wickets on the playing field. Newly elected members were not aware of this possible project and asked for further information relating to it.
- e) An e-mail from a resident concerned about the persistent removal of lifebuoys, people jumping and swimming in the Lake, etc. This subject had been discussed earlier in the meeting but the question was raised of what the cost would be, and would it help, if the Council was to undertake a private prosecution against an individual for offences which contravene the Lakeside byelaws. The cost is unknown, but is considered to be quite substantial.
- f) Mr Brown asked members to notify the Clerk of any projects that they may wish the groundsmen to consider undertaking during the winter months when traditionally the routine grass cutting work eases.

3539 **Future Agenda Items**

1. The issue of the Cricket Club's bid to fund an artificial practice wicket for the playing field.
2. The audit of village dog waste bins.
3. Dance Studio ventilation.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.45pm.