

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday September 7th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen (Chairman) Mrs Brooks (Vice Chairman), Mrs Batey, Fairbairn, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead and Roberts M.B.E.

with twenty members of the public, the Chairman of Newark Bee Keepers Mr Barber, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

The Chairman advised all present that the meeting was being recorded.

3423 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gloster and Scott. Cllr Ms White had advised she would be slightly late joining the meeting.

3424 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3425 **Bee Keeping**

The meeting was closed to meet Mr Barber, Chairman of Newark Bee Keepers. He outlined potential issues to take into consideration when determining the suitability/feasibility for hives of bees should being allowed on allotment sites. These included suitable high fencing/walls around hives, qualifications for any keepers, known allergies for other tenants, necessary signage etc.

Mr Barber was thanked for his information and attendance. He left and the meeting resumed.

Cllr Ms White joined the meeting during this agenda item at approximately 6.35pm.

3426 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments regarding scheduled agenda items:

One member of the public expressed his concern regarding the possibility of allowing bee hives to be kept on the allotments; as a tenant with a known severe allergic reaction to bee stings he would almost certainly have to give up his allotment if this is allowed. Does the Council not have a duty of care to its tenants? The allotment agreement also states that no livestock can be kept there so this would require changing if bees are allowed.

One resident asked for members to meet with the requesters of Friends of Balderton Lake to progress the issue.

One resident commented that any supporting papers should be published with the agendas on the Council's web-site.

Several residents spoke about the problems of litter, particularly at the Lake, suggesting that additional bins could help, along with proposals for alterations to the style and recycling options. They were thanked for their attendance and the meeting resumed.

3427 **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 3417 Lake Group** The request for a meeting made during the public session was noted.

3428 **Playing Field Flooding**

It has not been confirmed whether the commissioned work has yet been undertaken to de-silt the drain that runs from the field end of Macaulay Drive through to London Road, between several Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue properties. The drain is badly silted up and it is considered that this could be causing the playing field's very slow drainage and long-standing flooding problem.

3429 **Bee Hives at Allotments**

Members gave further discussion to the request to allow bee hives to be kept on the allotments., taking into account Mr Barber's comments at the beginning of the meeting. Several tenants had submitted their opinion about the proposal, the vast majority being against the idea. It was considered that the suggestion could not be supported owing to the potential hazards and concerns expressed, including the number of known severely allergic tenants.

3430 **Lake Bank Erosion**

Members were advised that the Orchid Close area of the Lake is showing signs of bank erosion at the feeding platform area. The erosion is caused by the undercurrent action of the water. The existing gabions have become misshapen – it may be possible to refill them with boulders/large stones. Alternatively, it may be possible that large wooden timbers could be piled into the ground, or large boulders installed within shuttering and mesh. Options and costings will be explored and the issue given further consideration.

3431 **Littering and Fly Tipping**

Discussion was given to the escalating problem of littering and fly tipping in the village. Various areas, including Barnby Road are subject to repeated bouts of fly tipping, and the village as a whole suffers from thoughtless people dropping litter. Members agreed to engage with the District Council to request WISE (the company that works with the Community Protection Officers) be deployed to issue fixed penalty tickets to anyone caught littering in the village. Cllr

Ms White advised that the District Council could be asked to undertake a Day of Action focussing on littering issues in the village; members supported this. Cllr Ms White also advised and the authority is also considering the provision of recycling waste bins. The Parish Council's litter bins around the Lake are steel, open basket style so that should any litter be set alight it would just burn out, but the option to cover them with smaller gauge wire will be explored to minimise litter falling out. Reports of fishing litter left at the Lake will be brought to the Grove Angling Club's attention.

3431 Dance Studio

Members approved the cost to fence off of the Dance Studio canopy area, a quote of £4745 having been obtained to install 1.8m high fence and lockable gate in a style to match that which surrounds the children's play area, from the same company that installed that fence. Fencing off the area will help deter anti-social behaviour as young people will not be able to loiter there, bang on the windows, open the door and shout abuse etc. An application has been submitted for funding towards the work from The Police Commissioner's Office but members approved the installation cost irrespective of the grant application outcome.

3432 Council Office Windows

Members gave further consideration to, and approved the installation of a solar film to the Council Office windows to help reflect heat and improve privacy.

3433 Solar Panels and Rainwater Harvesting

Initial discussion was given to installing solar panels and/or rain water harvesting equipment to the Village Centre. Cllr Fairbairn had undertaken an initial appraisal, advising that solar panels may prove worthy of the financial investment but his initial enquiries had shown that a rainwater harvesting system may need more caution. A Working Party to look into all aspects of these possibilities was considered the best way forward.

3434 Playing Field Vehicular Barrier

Consideration was given to installing some form of barrier to prevent unwanted vehicular access onto the playing field as the field is considered to be vulnerable to unwanted visitors. Different options will be explored, members agreeing in principle that something should be installed sooner rather than later to help protect the playing field.

3435 Millennium Clock

Having reviewed updated costs to repair and/or replace the Council's Millennium Pillar Clock located at Lakeside Shopping Centre, members considered that the costs could not be justified. There will still be a cost to remove the Pillar Clock, including isolating the electrical supply; enquiries will be made to obtain this. Alternative uses for the column could also be explored to minimise expenditure. Cllr Ms White advised that it could possibly be utilised to house a further

CCTV camera and undertook to liaise with the Police regarding this option.

3436 **Highway Issues**

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: New issues raised were the state of the very uneven pavement of London Road between Hawton Lane and Sainsbury's, and an amount of fly tipping on Barnby Road near to the S bend. Members again mentioned previously reported issues, namely Staple Lane soft road edge erosion, the poor state of London Road between the bridge and Newark Academy, a blocked culvert on London Road near to Manners Road and the issue of two cycle tracks on both London Road and the adjacent pavement. These issues will be brought to local County Councillors' attention.

3437 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) The latest allotment routine inspections have once again been carried out where three plots were found to be in a relatively poor state. Letters were subsequently sent to two tenants advising that they must clear the plots and a third tenant has been placed on a 'watch' list.
- b) The last monthly water bill for the allotments which was very high at just over £300 will be published on the allotment notice board to make tenants more aware. Checks were made at the time which confirmed there wasn't a leak in the system, but the period covered by the bill was during an exceptionally hot, prolonged dry spell of weather .
- c) A petition, handed in immediately before the meeting, asking the Council to reconsider its decision to allow supervised kayaking and canoeing on the Lake. All signatures will require verification before the petition can be considered.

3438 **Future Agenda Items**

The formation of a Working Party to review Village Centre renewable energy issues will be included on the Full Council agenda.

The need to meet with/discuss the Friends of Balderton Lake issue with the requesters.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.40pm.