

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday October 5th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Hurst (Chairman), Allen, Mrs Brooks, Fairbairn, Gloster, Green, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead and Ms White with County Cllrs Girling and Lee, Smith, eight members of the public and the Clerk.

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

4407 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Batey, Mrs Lee (Vice Chairman), Lynch, Roberts M.B.E., and Scott, and County Cllr Smith.

4408 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.

4409 Public Participation

The meeting was closed to take public comments relating to scheduled agenda items. The only item raised relating to the agenda was a resident's specific questions about the Working Party being set up to look at renewable energy options. The Chairman asked that these questions be submitted in writing in order that a full response can be supplied.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting at approximately 6.40pm

4410 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday August 17th 2022, having been circulated previously were approved, confirmed as a true record and signed.

4411 Clerk/Chairman's Update

An update of ongoing matters from the minutes of the previous Council meeting and subsequent committee meetings was circulated and noted. Updates circulated prior to each committee meeting had been included with the minutes. The following issues were discussed:-

a) Council

1. Re Minute 4397d Manners Road Grassed Areas County Cllr Lee advised that the authority will not be installing any bollards, posts or trees on the open areas as the costs are prohibitive. These measures had been requested to help prevent vehicles being driven over the grassed areas.

b) Amenities

4412 **Committees**

The minutes of the following committee was confirmed as a true record and signed:
Amenities of September 7th 2022

4413 **Renewable Energy Working Party**

The following members elected to serve on a Working Party to consider renewable energy options for the Village Centre: Cllrs Allen, Mrs Brooks, Fairbairn and Mallard.

4414 **Financial Assistance**

Members considered a written application for financial assistance from John Hunt Academy school choir to support them perform at Sheffield Arena for the 2023 Young Voices concert which is the largest child's choir concert in the world. Members unanimously supported this application and it was,

AGREED that in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council approves the payments of £500 to John Hunt Academy, this being expenditure incurred in the interest of the parish or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

4415 **Financial Statement**

The details as published were correct, there being a total payment requirement of £30,336.53 for July and £29,488.78 for August 2022.

4416 **Reports from Representatives**

County Cllr Girling outlined the summary of a devolution deal from the government that would make £1.14 billion available to the East Midlands area over the next 30 years. A new combined authority would be set up of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire city and county councils, giving additional functions and powers to the area. All four council leaders have signed up to the proposal there will be a public consultation later this year for residents and businesses.

County Cllr Lee advised that a new Safer Neighbourhood Police Group is being set up jointly for Balderton Fernwood & Middlebeck. It is envisaged that the first meeting will be in December. He also advised that Grove Street and Wilfred Avenue roads will be resurfaced. He reported that Fernwood Parish is canvassing public opinion about Hollowdyke Lane, suggesting that it eventually be open to two-way traffic, something this and other neighbouring Parish Councils are against. He had personally originally voted against Hollowdyke Lane being closed to traffic but the County Council does not consider it a viable option without serious improvements to other local road systems which are deemed prohibitive. He has requested an updated statement from the |County Council.

4417 **Highways Faults**

No new faults/issues were raised for passing onto the relevant authority.

4418 **Clerk's Additional Information**

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

- a) The external auditors PKF Littlejohn, have signed off without comment the Annual Return for the 2021/22 financial year audit.
- b) The agenda for NALC's A.G.M. on Thursday November 17th at 6.30pm in Oxton Village Hall.
- c) Details of an incident on the playing field involving hundreds of Newark Academy students on September 8th where an organised fight took place immediately after school finished. The Academy has undertaken to work with the Council and the Police to try and prevent similar incidents.
- d) Notice that Christopher Crescent will be closed from November 10th to the 15th (8am to 3.30pm) for carriageway patching work.
- e) A meeting of the Working Party for Terms of Reference for Committees is needed to progress with the formation of this outstanding policy; this will be arranged as soon as practicable.

4419 **Future Agenda Items**

Though not an item for the Council to debate, Cllr Gloster asked people to be aware that there are some considerable proposed cuts to the Fire Service. At this point County Cllr Lee left the meeting as he serves on the Fire Authority. Cllr Gloster urged people to take part in the on-line consultation as the proposed cuts, including a loss of 45 firefighters across the county, will have a worryingly detrimental impact on local services.

4420 **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. The two County Councillors and members of the public left the meeting. A legal issue was discussed and agreed upon.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.00pm