

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday June 30th 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen (Vice Chairman in the Chair), Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mayall B.E.M., Roberts M.B.E. and Rouse with the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Green and Ms White (Chairman).

7348 Payments

All payments were approved and authorised; a list of these is published with the minutes.

7349 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.

7350 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

7351 Clerk/Chairman's Update

A printed update of ongoing matters was circulated and noted. The update is published with the minutes. The following issue was discussed from the update:

- 1. Re Minute Closed Churchyard** The District Council has advised that it is neither obliged or prepared to take on the responsibility of the maintenance and liability issues of St. Giles Churchyard. The authority may be able to help with future tree work there as its own staff are to be trained to undertake such work and it may be possible to get this sort of work done more 'at cost' by one authority for another.
- 2. Re Minute 7343 Street Naming** Members expressed their disappointment at the District Council's policy for naming developments after dignitaries and local characters only after they have been deceased for twenty years. The Clerk was asked to challenge this policy as it is understood that at least one development in Newark has been named relatively recently after a living individual.
- 3. Re Minute 7347 Police Commissioner** It is not yet known whether a date has been secured for newly elected Police Commissioner Caroline Henry to attend a meeting; further enquiries will be made in readiness for next week's Council meeting.

7352 **Financial Assistance**

Further consideration was given to a written request, previously circulated, for financial assistance from Chuter Ede Primary school for Year 5 pupils to visit the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Laxton. Additional information and accounts had been received and circulated to members since the last meeting. On balance members agreed to pay the cost of £12.50 each for the thirteen pupils who qualify for free school meals. It was,

RECOMMENDED that a grant of £162.50 be paid to the School.

7353 **Internal Auditor's Report**

Members had been provided with copies of the Internal Auditor's report following completion of the 2020/21 year end audit. Two recommendations regarding working arrangements were noted and will be taken into account as considered necessary. Appreciation was extended to staff for the very positive findings in the Auditor's report.

7354 **Casual Vacancy**

Cllr Dikkez has sent written notification of his resignation for personal reasons, from the Council. This was formally noted by members, and a casual vacancy for the Balderton south ward duly declared. Notices about the casual vacancy will be displayed within the village and on the web-site. Ten electors from that ward would need to call for a bye-election within fourteen working days of the notice being displayed; after that time the Council will be free to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy.

7355 **Cyber Risk Insurance**

Members gave initial consideration to adding 'Cyber Risk' to its insurance at a cost of £319.20 following a suggestion from the broker. This includes data loss, a pre-breach package and post breach incident response policy. The Council's I.T. support company has been asked for its opinion and members agreed to wait until this has been obtained before making a decision although members agreed in principle that this is an important issue to mitigate against possible risks. Other larger parish councils will be contacted to ascertain if they have similar cover.

7356 **Highways Faults**

Members were invited to raise any issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: No new problem sites were highlighted but members re-iterated known flooded areas along London Road between Sainsburys and the A1 roundabout that are always very slow to clear after heavy rain. These have already been reported to the County Council.

7357 **Police Update**

Members gave discussion to recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village, including information from County & District Cllr Lee that the Lidl car park is still subject to cars racing around causing anti-social behaviour issues. The car park barrier is not always deployed by the store after closing allegedly. Members suggested that the new Police Inspector for Newark, Charlotte Allardice be invited to a Council meeting to discuss policing issues in Balderton.

7358 **Correspondence/Information**

The following items of correspondence/information had been received for noting:

- a) An update from the District Council regarding the new Councillor Model Code of Conduct which is scheduled to be adopted at its meeting on July 13th 2021. Training will then be offered to parish councillors on the assumption that councils will be adopting the new Code in due course.
- b) Parish Councils are being actively encouraged to partake in a beacon lighting event on June 2nd 2022 at 9.15pm to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Members considered that a Working Party should be set up to plan and co-ordinate this important occasion and this will be included on the Full Council agenda.
- c) Council Financial Regulation 11.c requires amending as it refers to an EU directive which is no longer relevant now that the UK is not in the European Union. Approval was given for this minor amendment to be made
- d) Notice that Manners Road will be closed from August 10th-12th for carriageway resurfacing.
- e) Notice of the County Council's Civic Service on Sunday July 11th at 3pm which will be livestreamed via YouTube owing to Covid restrictions. A link will be sent to any Councillor wishing to view the Service.
- f) A letter from local M.P. Robert Jenrick advising members of the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition for city status and Lord Mayor (or Provost) status. Applications are to be made through the District Council and members are urged to feed any relevant ideas or suggestions to the authority.
- g) One of the Village Centre changing room ceilings needs replacing following water damage from a burst pipe in the loft. The pipe which had been leaking has now been replaced and enquiries are being made with the insurance company to ascertain whether a claim should be made.
- h) A new business lease holder has been found for the former café building - it is to be used as a young persons' dance studio with ages ranging from 3 to 18. This is subject to a current planning permission being granted to change the operational hours which were originally 9am to 5pm. Members were pleased that the building will be used and agreed to support the planning application.

7359 **Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.25pm