

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held virtually on Wednesday July 22nd 2020 at 6.30pm

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Ms White (Chairman), Mrs Lee, Mallard and Roberts M.B.E.

7270 **Payments**

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

7271 **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.

7272 **Public Participation**

There were no members of public present.

7273 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

A printed update of ongoing matters was circulated and noted. The update is published with the minutes.

1. **Re Minute 7219.3 Closed Churchyard** Cllr Ms White is arranging a meeting with the District Council regarding the possibility of the Parish Council handing over responsibility for the closed churchyard.
2. **Re Minute 7266 Government Funding** Parish Councils do not qualify for the recently pledged substantial sum of money from the Government to help local authorities recoup lost income due to the Pandemic. Parish Councils are being urged to apply to their local District Council for such funding. Members agreed that an application should be submitted via the District Ward Members showing both the loss of income from cancelled events and the extra cost to the Council for additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

7274 **Standing Orders**

Members reviewed revised Council Standing Orders, copies having been previously circulated. It was,

RECOMMENDED that the revised Standing Orders be adopted by the Council.

7275 **Financial Risk Assessment**

Members reviewed the Council's Financial Risk Register, copies having been previously circulated. The Register includes an assessment of the likelihood and impact of any risk taking place thereby providing the Council with greater control to manage its financial

risks. Members approved the Register as circulated.

7276 Village Centre Lighting System

Further discussion was given to changing the Village Centre's lights to L.E.D. which are more energy efficient and therefore more cost effective in the long term. It is also getting increasingly difficult to replace some of the fittings as they fail, particularly the emergency standby lights. It had not been possible to get a quotation in time for the meeting and whilst members supported the proposal in principle it may be necessary to defer the project until the next financial year if the cost dictates. Further consideration will be given to the proposal at the next meeting when the quotation can be reviewed.

7277 Highways Faults

The following fault/issue was raised and will be passed onto the relevant authority:

1. Several main dykes are overgrown in places with vegetation and need clearing.

7278 Correspondence/Information

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

- a) A proposal to extinguish part of Public Footpath 10 which runs straight over the A1 from Worthington Road to Fernwood. The route, which has been temporarily closed for some time, is extremely dangerous to use and the new housing development at Fernwood includes several access routes which will enable the public to walk via Hollowdyke Lane to and from Balderton. Members supported the proposal.
- b) Notice that the uncontested Parish elections which were held in May last year cost the authority £532.12 in administrative costs which will re-charged shortly. The long-awaited revised parish boundary maps from May 2019 are still awaited from the District Council; these have again been expedited.
- c) The self-closing gate to the children's play area is faulty and has had to be chained off. Visitors can still access the site via the gate at the other end of the play area. The company that installed the perimeter fence and gate have been asked to inspect it to ascertain if it can be repaired. An estimate for a new gate (supply only) is £995.00
- d) The bowling green sprinkler system is also faulty and needs a number of spare parts, if these can be sourced, as the system is approximately twenty years old. Failing this, whole new units may be necessary but the ground staff hope to fit these in-house.
- e) A virtual meeting had taken place earlier today; Cllrs Allen and Mrs Brooks with the Clerk met District Council officers about the possibility of developing a 'friends' group for the Lake. The District Council officers undertook to make enquiries with an existing Facebook group who already try to help with all Lakeside issues to ascertain if they have any appetite to formalise their status as a voluntary body to help support the Council.

7279 Future Agenda Items

No items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7:00pm.