

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held virtually on Wednesday September 23rd 2020 at 6.50pm

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

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

7280 Payments

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

7281 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.

7282 Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

7283 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 7219.3 Closed Churchyard** Cllr Ms White has contacted the officer concerned at the District Council to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council handing over responsibility for the closed churchyard.

7284 Remembrance Sunday Parades

Members reviewed written information received from the British Legion advising that wherever possible the parades should now be organised by a civic authority. The Temporary Traffic Management Orders, needed to close roads thereby enabling parades to take place may only be organised by civic authorities. Remembrance Services can take place without parades although traditionally Balderton's event has always involved a parade up and down Main Street to also incorporate the war memorial at the Methodist Church into the event. The Council's liability insurance would cover such an event subject to stringent risk assessments being undertaken. On balance members,

AGREED

that the Parish Council should take on the responsibility for future parades, whilst acknowledging that there will not be such an event this year owing to the pandemic. Fernwood Parish Council will be asked to continue to support 50% of any costs relating to necessary road closures. Wreaths will still be purchased this year and placed at the war memorials.

7285 Unitary Authority

Members gave initial discussion to Nottinghamshire County Council's proposal to create a unitary authority, replacing the eight councils in the current two-tier system with just one level of local government. It is estimated that this would achieve an annual saving of £27 million. The County Council is undertaking a consultation exercise where comments are invited for submission on-line by October 19th 2020. Members expressed some generic concerns about the proposal but there is little detail available to ascertain what impact such a change could have on Parish Councils, therefore making it difficult to comment as a Council at this stage.

7286 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. The local company that undertakes the Council's electrical works had provided a comprehensive breakdown of projected savings against installation costs, and this has been broken down into different areas to allow for a phased changeover if required. Members considered on balance that the changeover is almost inevitable but should be phased over the next few years to enable the cost to be built into the budget and priority should be given to the busiest areas. This will be taken into account when the committee discusses budgetary requirements at the next meeting for the 2021/22 financial year. Enquiries will also be made to ascertain if there are any funding opportunities for this energy efficient 'green' project.

7287 Pay Agreement

Members noted that agreement has been reached between the National Employers and National Joint Council Trade Union on rates of pay for local government employees of 2.75% . The new pay rates are applicable from April 1st 2020. Members were mindful of the impact upon budgetary requirements that national pay rises create.

7288 Highways Faults

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

1. VIA East Midlands has partially covered a manhole cover on Macaulay Drive with tarmac, puzzling residents.

7289 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) Overnight roadworks from October 30th to December 2020 from 10pm to 6am Monday to Friday, will necessitate the closure of the A46 between the A1/A46 interchange and the Winthorpe roundabout.
- b) Notice that the following roads are scheduled for asphaltting works on October 29th and 30th (subject to weather conditions) – Queen Street, Lacey Green, Elton Close, Waltham Close, Lovedon Close, Knipton Close, Harby Close, Barkston Close and Denton Close. Members welcomed this news as the roads in question have been repeatedly reported as being in a poor condition.
- c) Notice that N.A.L.C.'s AGM will be held remotely this year on Thursday November 19th at 7.30pm. Only registered voting delegates will be able to attend the meeting this year owing to managing large numbers via a Zoom meeting.

7290 **Future Agenda Items**

CLlr Mrs Hurst asked that the Full Council discuss the possibility of utilising SmartWater forensic liquid as a crime deterrent to protect Council property.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7:30pm.