



# Balderton Parish Council Amenities Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7pm

## Attendees:

**Balderton Parish Councillors:** Vanessa Bracegirdle, Jane Buxton, Karen Callingham, Mandie Elson (Chair), Roy Fairbairn, Simon Forde, Debbie Moore (Vice-chair) and Joy Sellars

**Staff:** Marion Fox Goddard (Parish Clerk), Jim Brown (Head Groundsman)

**Additional Attendees:** Helen Ellison – Senior Health Improvement Officer – N&SDC<sup>1</sup>, Jenny Palmer – Community Development Officer - N&SDC (also a Balderton resident)

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## 26. Declarations to record the meeting

The clerk recorded the meeting.

## 27. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hall and Marshall.

## 28. Declarations of interest

Simon Forde – District Councillor.

## 29. Public Open Forum

Jenny gave positive feedback on Balderton Parish Council's newsletter.

## 30. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and Councillor Elson duly signed them.

## 31. Clerk's update<sup>2</sup>

The following report was noted.

	Item	Update
1	Millennium Clock	No further information regarding funding or whether permission has been sought. <i>Clerk clarified that members had taken this on to investigate. Clerk to send reminder to members involved.</i>
2	Fencing around Heron Way carpark	Work to replace this had been delayed due to rainfall and the holes being full of water <i>and Safer Streets 5 installations taking priority. We are aiming to get this done by the end of May. Weather permitting.</i> Hedging will be looked at in the Autumn.

<sup>1</sup> N&SDC – Newark and Sherwood District Council

<sup>2</sup> Note: *Italics indicate where report has been updated (verbal during meeting) since agenda pack issued.*

	Item	Update
3	Lake	Awaiting feedback from N&SDC on the covenant. Until this has been received, obtaining quotes for legal work have been put on hold. <i>Clerk will bring update to full council.</i>
4	Allotments	All vacant allotments have been let. HI-AB waste removal completed. <i>Waste storage bays have been installed.</i>
5	Safer Streets	Youth Pod installed with a temporary base – wood chips. This will be replaced with concrete once the field is dry enough to take a concrete lorry. Bin installed next to pod. Centrally controlled CCTV is in place on the dance school. CCTV at Balderton Village Centre has been upgraded. Lockable lifebuoys (3) and lifelines (3) for around Balderton Lake have been installed and are registered with the emergency service control rooms.
6	Church Wall	Survey on order. <i>Information has come to light about possibly only part of the churchyard being transferred to Balderton Parish Council. We need to investigate this.</i>
7	Memorial safety testing	See item 37
8	Village Centre	<i>LED lights and required electrical work will be done w/c 15/4/24.</i> Underground sewerage pump system has been fixed. New terms and conditions are being used.
9	Tree Survey	Completed. Grounds team are working through this to see which work they can do and what we will need to get quotes for.
10	Public Toilet (onside of dance school)	Vandalism – flooded. Disabled support ripped off wall – Bank Holiday 1/4/24. Reported to police. <i>Cllr Fairbairn suggested an item that can prevent flooding in future – details to be sent to the Clerk.</i>

### 32. Requests for more dog bins

The Amenities Committee unanimously agreed to not install more bins. This could be reviewed in 6-12 months if more requests are made.

### 33. Safer Streets 5 – location for final new bench at Balderton Lake

The committee agreed to locate this to the left of fishing peg 18 (6 for, 2 abstained).

### 34. Newark and Sherwood District Council's community planting project

Helen Ellison gave an overview of the project and detailed that N&SDC are looking for areas around Newark to expand this. Planters could be installed for the community to use to promote healthy eating and encourage community projects whilst tackling social isolation. Committee members appreciated the benefits of the project and 3 suggestions of where this could go in Balderton were made: Stafford Road Park, Southfield Park, on wasteland between the health centre and the Salvation Army building on Lowfield Lane. The planters at the end of Lansbury Road are going to be used for this project with a launch event taking place on 14 April. Members were keen to be kept abreast of this project so Balderton Parish Council can share details with the local community. Cllr Fairbairn mentioned that he is working with Helen to arrange a trial of a 'crop drop scheme' at the allotments which is another project the Health Improvement team are looking to expand.

### 35. Coronation Street playing field update

The Head Groundsman reported that the puddles on the field have now gone; he is due to book the Vertidrain contractor to complete the work at the end of April/beginning of May (subject to the ground conditions being suitable); that the Environment Agency's <sup>3</sup> contractor is

<sup>3</sup> Environment Agency - EA

doing investigations/clearing out some of the drains in the village. The clerk shared that Via have asked a company to give N&SDC a quote for 4 days of work to desilt and take CCTV footage in the drains in the area. (The drains in question are the responsibility of N&SDC rather than Via). There was a suggestion that the link from the playing field drain to the N&SDC owned drains may have been severed but this is not clear.

The committee agreed to ask the Environment Agency for the findings of their work, contact N&SDC to see if N&SDC will be proceeding with the 4 days of desilting/CCTV. It was agreed that until feedback on these items had been received, the parish council would not source a drainage expert regarding the playing field as the issues may be resolved by EA/N&SDC.

### **36. No Mow May**

The Head Groundsman detailed the areas they normally don't grass cut in May (areas of the churchyard, tree area of the playing field, near Orchid Close at the Lakeside). The committee suggested leaving more of the area behind Mallard Green homes<sup>4</sup>; it was agreed to leave 20 yards from the trees, whilst cutting the remainder (towards the lake) so this can be used for games etc. The clerk will add a post to the Facebook page and an article on the website to let residents know.

### **37. Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management membership and memorials testing training**

The committee unanimously agreed to become a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and for two spaces on a memorial inspection workshop to be booked.

### **38. Bins at Lakeside Shopping Centre – Lidl**

The committee agreed to site one bin at Mallard Green following establishing that there is already a large number of bins near the shops at the Lakeside Shopping Centre and the feedback from the company that manages the area.

### **39. Next Amenities meeting**

The committee agreed to defer the next meeting until June 12<sup>th</sup> to use staff resources to deliver project work. Should there be any items that need a decision prior to June 12<sup>th</sup>, these will be taken to the monthly full council meeting.

### **40. Correspondence**

- a. Hedgehog highways –The committee agreed not to purchase items but agreed it would be more appropriate to encourage residents to consider providing hedgehog highways on the council's Facebook page, bearing in mind the need to minimise expenditure where possible in the current economic climate.
- b. Request for signage regarding dogs – The committee decided not to take forward the suggestion of signs to ask people to be considerate of nervous dogs.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

#### **Future parish council meetings – open to the public**

- Full Council Meeting: Wednesday 24 April, 7pm , Planning Committee Meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm
- Amenities Committee Meeting: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm

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<sup>4</sup> Between back fences and lake.