

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held virtually on Wednesday June 24th 2020 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mrs Newstead and Newstead with the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Roberts M.B.E. and Rouse.

7260 Payments

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

7261 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.

7262 Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

7263 Clerk/Chairman's Update

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

- 1. Re Minute 7253.1 Petitions to Lower Speed Limits** Owing to difficulties from a Data Protection perspective, the requests for speed reductions on London Road and Hawton Lane will be taken up by an individual resident who is prepared to raise petitions. The Parish Council can then support those requests before they are submitted to the County Council.
- 2. Re Minute 7254 CCTV Camera** The District Council has made a grant of £5000 towards the camera for the playing field. Planning permission is being sought for the 8m high pole to house the camera.
- 3. Re Minute 7258.b Policing** Balderton now has a new Beat Manager, P.C. Graham Whitehead.

7264 Financial Assistance

Members gave consideration to a written request from local football team Warriors FC for funding towards installing a disabled ramp at their new Pavilion which is located on Newark Academy's playing field. Members did not consider that a further grant to this organisation could be justified at this time.

7265 Code of Conduct

Members gave consideration to an invitation to comment on a new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors from the Local Government Association. Members had found

the new Code to be very similar to the existing one and no comments were considered necessary.

7266 Financial Review

Members discussed the Council's current and likely future financial position in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. Income is down considerably owing to cancelled Village Centre events and it is not known whether all sports will be able to return or when large social gatherings will be allowed so this may impact on future revenue. The Responsible Financial Officer had circulated a paper showing the reduced end of year cash balance for 2019/20 which was down by over £17,000 from the previous year despite cutting back on expenditure where possible and careful spending. The significantly reduced income for the first quarter of the current financial year was also highlighted in the paper. Members agreed that the Council must be as prudent as possible with essential spending only, and that some things may not be automatically replaced immediately as has been the case - for example any vandalised or damaged items. The situation will continue to be monitored closely. Cllr Ms White undertook to see if there is any Government funding support available for parish councils where income has been adversely affected by the pandemic.

7267 Highways Faults

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

1. The verges and vegetation at the junction of Bullpit Road and Barnby Road need cutting back as vehicles have to egress out onto Barnby Road to see beyond the junction line when turning out from Bullpit Road.

7268 Correspondence/Information

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

- a) The latest newsletter from Police Commissioner Paddy Tipping, including an article about the appointment of a new Deputy Commissioner Emma Foody.
- b) The District Council Waste Management Section has advised that in their opinion the litter bins outside Sainsburys do not need replacing following a request made from this Council to do so.
- c) A reply from the County Council that a request submitted some months ago for the junction at Manners Road with London Road to be re-aligned to try and reduce traffic speed cannot be supported. This is due to lack of accidents and costs.
- d) A number of Coronavirus specific risk assessments are being undertaken to assess how the Village Centre can be safely used for future events and routine activities including regular user groups.

7269 Future Agenda Items

No items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.10pm.