

Notes from meeting between Grove Angling Club and Balderton Parish Council

January 22nd, 2025, at Balderton Village Centre

Attendees:

Grove Angling Club: Kim Ashmore, John Fisher (c)¹, Dave Green (c), Pat Kershaw (c), Chris Parker (c), Paul Rebbin, Michael Wing (c)

Balderton Parish Councillors: Jane Buxton, Mandie Elson, Jean Hall, and Joy Sellars

Parish Clerk: Marion Fox Goddard

	Item	Action	By whom
1	Introductions Attendees gave introductions and Jane Buxton welcomed Grove Angling Club members, outlining that the council want to work with GAC ² and that the council had invited all GAC members to the meeting to make clear that Balderton Parish Council want GAC to prosper and continue fishing on the lake (as there had been rumours to the contrary). BPC see GAC as an important part of the community.	None – for information.	
2	Help for GAC BPC ³ arranged a meeting at the end of November 2024 with Newark and Sherwood District Council ⁴ , Active4Today, BPC and GAC to introduce committee members John and Dave. Following the meeting, John and Dave have been working with N&SDC to work on a new constitution, prepare risk assessments, ensure the club has safeguarding procedures in place. This work is ongoing.		
3	Communications issues/Lack of Volunteers During the meeting it was confirmed that there are issues with communications in GAC, with members feeling that information is not being passed on from the committee to members. It was apparent that the WhatsApp group may not be the best method. A suggestion of a Facebook closed group be a good way to share committee minutes etc.		

¹ c = Committee Member of Grove Angling Club

² GAC = Grove Angling Club.

³ BPC = Balderton Parish Council

⁴ N&SDC = Newark and Sherwood District Council

	Item	Action	By whom
	<p>GAC members at the meeting acknowledged that communications could be better, but the committee do not know how to set up Facebook/use technology etc.</p> <p>Mandie Elson is the Chair of Newark and Sherwood Sports Council⁵. NSSC can support GAC to try find committee members to take on committee roles and hopefully improve communications and spread the administrative load.</p> <p>Chris detailed he will rejoin the committee to help with the 'youth' membership/management.</p> <p>Mandie suggested the Angling Trust may be able to help GAC with what is needed to ensure the club thrives.</p>	<p>Work together to help GAC find committee members/volunteers to join the committee and actively take part in the administration/management of GAC affairs.</p>	<p>GAC/NSSC</p>
4	<p>Questions from GAC to BPC – see appendix 1 – John read out questions from members who could not be at the meeting and Chris, Paul and John added their questions.</p>	<p>Requests to be researched, agreed by GAC committee and then emailed to BPC for consideration</p>	<p>GAC.</p>

Prepared by Marion Fox Goddard.

⁵ NSSC - Newark and Sherwood Sports Council

Appendix 1

The following questions were asked. (I have gone into more detail in the answers below to give a fuller explanation - *Marion Fox Goddard*)

1	The current council has been on the council for nearly 2 years, what has been done around the lake?
	<p>The council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have worked to introduce greater security measures around the lake in designing out crime with the aim of reducing antisocial behaviour, wildlife crime , drug dealing & illegal fishing/poachers.• working with all local groups to establish community input and support .• worked with N&SDC and the Crime Commissioner to get funding for new signage, safety equipment around the lake and lighting and CCTV in Heron Way car park. New bins and benches have also been installed replacing the old ones.• commissioned a management plan which will be being rolled out over 10 years.• the grounds team did do less maintenance during the time the stop kayaking campaign on the lake, but they will be doing more grounds maintenance and have in recent weeks have been completing tree work identified in a tree survey that the council commissioned last year. A contractor is due to complete tree work on the taller trees before the bird nesting season. The ground staff will also be clearing plants encroaching onto the fishing platforms.• there are plans to fill some gaps from the Sustrans track onto the lake site with large logs and plant hedges along them.• also, plans to reduce the height of the hedging on the Sustrans side to let more light into the paths along that edge of the lake.• see as high priority tackling the bank erosion.
2	Will the council be applying to the Get Fishing Fund? Can cages be put in?
3	Will the council use dye to get rid of the weed?

⁶ EMEC = East Midlands Environmental Consultancy Ecology

⁷ Grass Carp not mentioned in the meeting, but BPC would appreciate GAC feedback on this

4	<p>Will some of the fee be returned due to the length of time weed stopped fishing last year?</p> <p>The council cannot refund some of the fee. Costs for providing the facilities wood for platforms, grounds maintenance materials and other overheads do not stop when the weed is present. This is a natural phenomenon not caused by the council so we cannot refund the fee.</p> <p>Last year we did offer to pay for a skip for a day for anglers to rake out weed and put it in, but this was not taken up. (Limited time due to the fly tipping and use for purposes other than weed).</p>
5	<p>Could another council reverse the lease and let kayaks on the lake?</p> <p>The council has adopted a Communication and Engagement Policy. Item 17 gives details of how the council will consult. This council knows there was a large number of residents against the use of kayaks on the lake and we would hope that future councils would know to consult based on the recent history. This council would certainly consult on such a significant change. Best practice includes consultation so we are hopeful any council would adhere to this. (A balance is required, not everything can be consulted on as this would be time consuming and costly. For significant change consultation is needed).</p>
6	<p>Would it be possible to extend some pegs so they could accommodate an adult with a child as more children are joining the club?</p> <p>As with funding applications, GAC committee need to consider this and send a formal request with as much detail as possible for BPC to consider.</p>
7	<p>On matchdays, can cars (5/6) be brought onto the parking area (to the left of the Catkin Way gate) and at all times can blue/green badge holders bring their cars onto the lakeside?</p> <p>Yes. GAC and the matchday secretaries will need to be responsible for monitoring this, have a risk assessment and make sure this is not abused. A new padlock⁸/key will be issued, with a Balderton Parish Council tag. This will need to be collected from the Balderton Parish Council office and a deposit will be payable for each key. Evidence of membership of GAC will need to be provided annually and blue/green badge cards will need to be brought to the office when collecting the key. <i>Clerk will be in contact when the new keys are ready with a full process.</i></p>
8	<p>Could the outlet have a screen to stop small fry going into the drain?</p> <p>GAC committee need to consider this and send a formal request with as much detail as possible for BPC to consider. On this question members of GAC present did not see the need for this so this will not be considered.</p>
9	<p>Could we put more bait in/carp fishing?...</p> <p>John gave some background on why the current rules are in place. GAC committee need to consider this and send a formal request with as much detail as possible for BPC to consider.</p>
10	<p>Could the channels be built up with pea gravel so the water can still flow but stop carp getting into the pump pond?</p> <p>BPC are investigating costs for removing the silt from both of the channels to make it deeper. This will hopefully increase flow and deter people from crossing on to the small island. Pea gravel would negate this work.</p>

⁸ During discussion on this item, it was established that not all keys can be accounted for.