

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held virtually on Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT** Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Green, Lynch, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mallard, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Rouse with five members of the public, Lynne Oxlade District Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Community Support Officer Lauren Astle, P.C. Tom Mead Police Beat Manager for Balderton, P.S.C.O. Sophie Patterson-Lees and the Clerk.

**APOLOGIES** no apologies were received.

**7330 Payments**

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

**7331 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.

**7332 Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments. A resident raised concerns about the recent escalation in crime and anti-social behaviour in the village, particularly in the vicinity of the public footpath that runs along the playing field boundary. The problems seem to escalate once the playing field closes as young people climb over the gate, gaining access back onto the field.

Representatives from the Balderton Methodist Church attended to express their disappointment regarding the Council's recent decision not to make a grant payment towards their community hub café project. The Chairman and Vice Chairman offered to meet the representatives separately as the decision had already been taken and this meeting was not considered the ideal forum to discuss it.

Cllr Mrs Hurst and four members of the public left and the meeting resumed.

**7333 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 7325 Football Fee Refunds** Members concurred with a suggested 50% refund of last season's fees to the Clubs.

7334 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Police representatives advised that few if any reports are being made to the Police about the latest activity, and without the information they cannot be tasked to tackle the crime or increase patrols. Beat Manager PC Mead informed that he has apprehended several young people since he took over the post and has a zero-tolerance attitude to young persons' bad behaviour. Plain clothes policing is undertaken so not all patrols are visible.

Ms Oxlade advised that C.P.O. patrols are concentrated on problem areas and a consultation exercise is currently being undertaken for Public Protection Orders in the Playing Field, Lakeside and Lidl Shopping areas. If approved these would give greater powers to ban known troublemakers from certain areas.

C.P.O. Ms Astle advised that daily patrols are being undertaken and intervention is ongoing. She undertook to ask the District Council's Communications Department to post notices on social media platforms about the issues and raise awareness of the Police monitored CCTV camera on the playing field, stressing the need for all incidents to be reported as they happen as the camera may be deployed at the time.

Consideration was given to what action the Parish Council could take to support the enforcement agencies and residents. Members agreed that letters be sent to homes in the vicinity of the playing field/public footpath, again stressing the need to report every incident to 101 (or 999 if a crime is in progress), however arduous the process. Reports can also be made on line via 'Crimestoppers' - this is far quicker once a simple set up registration has been completed. Details of this will be obtained and posted on the Council's web-site. Enquiries will be made with the County Council to ascertain whether Public Footpath 1 could be closed off when the playing field is closed. The alleyway is dark and provides an ideal escape route for those committing criminal damage and bad behaviour.

Appreciation was extended to all officers for attending the meeting.

7335 **Highways Faults**

Members were invited to raise any issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: No new problem sites were highlighted.

7336 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) The latest edition of the Police Commissioner's newsletter 'The Beat' advising that a further 100 officers will be recruited into the service.
- b) The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 6.30pm immediately followed by the Full Council meeting.

7337 **Future Agenda Items**

No future items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7:30pm.