

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday June 23rd 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Allen, Mrs Brooks, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E., Scott and Ms White
with Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

A moment's silence was held as a mark of respect in memory of former Councillor Kenneth Fletcher who had sadly passed away. Ken had served as a member of Balderton Parish Council for forty-five years from 1973-2018.

3303 Chairman

One nomination was received for Cllr Mrs Brooks who was unanimously re-elected as Committee Chairman.

3304 Vice Chairman

One nomination was received for Cllr Allen who was unanimously re-elected as Committee Vice Chairman.

3305 Apologies

No apologies were received.

3306 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. Cllr Allen declared a personal interest to minute reference 3312 – memorial bench request.

3307 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

3308 Clerk/Chairman's Update

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

- 1. Re Minute 3259.3 Play Area Gate** The company providing the self-closing gate will be told that the installation needs to be undertaken without further delay or the order, which was raised in January may be cancelled and an alternative option sourced.

2. **Re Minute 3295 Cemetery Issues** Members of the Cemetery Sub Committee arranged to meet and discuss unauthorised memorial issues; their findings will be brought back to the committee for consideration.
3. **Re Minute 3271.1 Pillar Clock** Cllr Mrs Brooks advised that she intends to again raise the issue of Lidl paying for the clock repairs with the local branch assistant manager.
4. **Re Minute 3298 Public Space Protection Orders (Dogs)** Enquiries are ongoing about the issue of assistance dogs being exempt from the Orders.
5. **Re Minute 3299 Bar Store Cooler** The bar manager has advised that a separate room cooler is required and cannot suggest an alternative system other than what has been priced. On balance members considered that a replacement system should be ordered and it was,

RECOMMENDED that the lowest quotation of £2,273 from Lynx AC be accepted

3309 **Playing Field Flooding**

The County Council's Drainage Manager for this area has advised that he hopes to deploy a team in either July or August to review the reported concern of a possible drainage blockage on the field. Cllr Allen had photographed a manhole cover, previously covered with tarmac that is now visible as the surface has worn away, at the area on the road where a blockage from the field could be. This will be sent to the Drainage Manager for his information.

3310 **Police Update**

Members gave discussion to recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village, including a vehicle speeding along the Sustrans track at the weekend which was of particular concern. The Churchyard continues to be an area subject to anti-social behaviour with young people congregating there and the Community Protection Officers will be reminded that this area requires routine patrols.

3311 **St. Giles Churchyard**

Members discussed two requests from the Church

- a) For the front boundary wall to be re-pointed in places. Quotations for the work will be obtained after checks have been made with the Church Warden that the Diocese approves the work being undertaken and is not subject to any specialised materials etc.
- b) That a natural area be created to encourage wildflowers and insects, eventually covering much of the Churchyard. A quite substantial area within the Churchyard has always been left by the groundstaff to protect and encourage wildflowers in the Springtime, so this is essentially an already established practice but it is believed that the Church are looking to expand on this. Photographs of the existing wildflower areas were circulated for members perusal. The Parochial Church Council is to discuss the issue further and come up with some specific proposals which will be referred back to this committee for consideration.

3312 **Memorial Bench Request**

Members approved a family's request for a memorial bench at Lakeside, subject to the exact location being approved by the Head Groundsman. A meeting with the applicant will be arranged. The applicant is aware of the Council's policy regarding the preferred design and make of bench, along with the standard installation fee.

3313 **Highway Faults**

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

3314 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) A request for a dog waste bin near to the public footpath between Smith Street and the Newark Academy site. There is a litter bin there but this is regularly full of domestic waste; a notice has been installed asking people not to do this. The Council's policy of not replacing or adding to dog waste bins on non-Council land was re-iterated. The applicant has been advised to apply to the District Council for an additional bin, or for the existing bin to be replaced with a larger unit. The authority should be encouraged to trace and fine the household for misusing the bin.
- b) The Village Centre roof insulation is being constantly eroded by birds who have stripped the material for nesting, causing regular blockages in the process to the gutters and downpipes from all the debris they create. Enquiries will be made with a local builder to suggest a solution including the installation of a barrier under the roof edging to prevent this happening further.
- c) Details of 'Thank You Day' on July 4th 2021 for communities to mark the past year and celebrate community spirit. Councils are encouraged to get involved with any planned local activities.

3315 **Future Agenda Items**

No new future agenda items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.20pm.