

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday February 23rd 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Batey, Gloster, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mallard, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Roberts M.B.E. and Ms White
with thirty-four members of the public, Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs Tracey Batey to her first meeting as a serving Councillor following her co-option to the Council in January.

3370 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Scott

3371 **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.

3372 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments. One resident asked that consideration be given to the problems being experienced by those residents that deploy the barriers daily at the Heron Way car park; this issue was a tabled agenda item scheduled for discussion later during the meeting. Other members of the public raised concerns about the Council's decision to allow the YMCA to undertake canoeing and kayaking on the Lake including safety issues for this type of activity. A lack of communication with the public relating to the issue was alleged and the accuracy of certain Council minutes was questioned. The Council was again asked to engage with an environmental group for Lakeside. One resident voiced his concerns about loss of open spaces and football pitches in the local area.

The public were thanked for their attendance and the meeting resumed.

Cllr Ms White had left the meeting during the public session.

3373 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

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

- 1. Re Minute 3334.1 Millennium Clock** It was suggested that the clock be replaced to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Jubilee Working Party had previously discussed the possibility of installing a clock at the playing field as part of the planned activities.

3374 **Playing Field Flooding**

The drain that runs from the field end of Macaulay Drive through to London Road between several Masefield Crescent and Baines Avenue properties is badly silted up. This could be causing the playing field's very slow drainage and long-standing flooding problem. The District Council which maintains that section of the drain, had today advised that this work will be commissioned as soon as possible in the new financial year.

3375 **Angling Club Lease**

Members discussed renewing the Grove Angling Club's lease. Members considered that the Club has done all that it was asked to address some previous managerial issues and concerns. It was considered on balance that a four-year lease would be appropriate with the exact terms to be determined. The Club will be asked in the interim what it is doing to encourage younger people to take up the sport.

3376 **Heron Way Car Park**

Discussion was given to introducing fixed times for the bollards to be deployed at the car park as the residents who put them up overnight to prevent vehicular access are experiencing aggressive behaviour from some drivers. Currently the car park notices advise it will be closed from dusk until dawn. Members were open to the proposal to change the times and will liaise with the residents concerned, giving the matter further consideration.

3377 **Playing Field Access and Benches**

Members gave further consideration to a request for additional benches at the playing field. Mr Brown had undertaken an audit of the number of benches and possible sites for additional wooden sleeper style units, made in-house at an approximate cost for materials of £70 each. Members considered that three such units should be made and installed near to the tree areas of the playing field which provide welcome shade in the warmer months.

3378 **Lakeside Litter Bins**

Consideration was given to submitting a bid to the District Council's Initiative Fund to replace the current steel basket style waste bins at Lakeside with heavy duty plastic, more closed in style bins. Members considered on balance that the current style of bins is adequate, plus plastic bins would burn more easily if lit, where-as a fire in the steel bins would allow the contents to burn away. The bins continue to be misused by persons unknown leaving domestic waste in them at times despite signs being used to dissuade people from doing this.

3379 **CCTV Camera**

Consideration was given to a proposal made by the local Police Beat Managers that the Council install an additional CCTV camera to cover the eastern side of the Dance Studio where an organised fight took place some weeks ago. Members could not support the proposal on the

grounds of expense and because if the Police acknowledge that this is a problem area they should increase patrols accordingly and monitor social media to thwart any further planned incidents.

3380 Outdoor Gym Equipment

County Cllr Lee has kindly donated £1500 to provide additional outdoor gym equipment for the playing field. Members will be provided with options and prices to select a preferred piece or pieces, dependent on cost.

3381 Highway Issues

Members were invited to raise any new issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities:

1. Though reported before, the very poor state of Coddington Road continues to be a concern. This heavily used is considered to be quite hazardous in places, particularly at the edges of the road which are eroded away. This will again be brought to the County Councillors attention.
2. There is an increase of dog fouling incidents and dogs being walked off leads around the Lake. Community Protection Officers will be asked to increase patrols to issue Fixed Penalty Tickets.

3382 Correspondence and Information

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

- a) Notice that Great North Road between the A1 roundabout and the first roundabout in Fernwood will be subject to a temporary speed limit of 30mph from Sunday February 27th to Friday September 30th 2022 while access works are undertaken for the new Welcome Break service station.
- b) An update from the grave digger that he suspects double depth graves will not be possible in the extension area judging by recent work he has carried out there.
- c) A further e-mail asking for a meeting with the Lakeside Working Party to discuss ideas for flora and fauna encouragement at the Lake and to develop community involvement. The same group had previously offered to assist with the Balderton in Bloom 2022 entry, with particular interest in the community aspect and how the Lake could play a part. Sadly, the Council's involvement in the Balderton in Bloom initiative has had to be shelved owing to other commitments this year such as the Queens' Platinum Jubilee.
- d) An e-mail expressing concern regarding the methods used recently while a fish re-stocking exercise took place at the Lake which was arranged by the Grove Angling Club. The Club was contacted at the time and admitted that lessons had been learned by both themselves and the company concerned for any future re-stocking exercises.
- e) Notice that Sustrans plans maintenance works for the stretch of cycle network in the Balderton Lake and Bowbridge Lane area.

3383 Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.25pm.