

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday January 13th 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Lynch, Mayall B.E.M., Mrs Newstead and Newstead

with Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3256 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Mallard, Roberts M.B.E., Scott and Ms White.

3257 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Mrs Brooks and Mrs Hurst, as serving members of Newark & Sherwood District Council, declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the District Council. Cllrs Mrs Newstead and Newstead declared a personal interest to minute reference 3260 Allotment Water.

3258 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3259 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 3212 Pillar Clock** A further e-mail will be sent to Lidl enquiring whether the company would consider funding the clock repairs as it is understood that damage was sustained while the store was being built.
- 2. Re Minute 3237.1 Y.M.C.A.** The Grove Angling Club has asked whether their Bank Holiday Monday fishing matches can be incorporated into the agreement to avoid boat activity during those times. As the agreement has still not been finalised, members were happy for this request to be submitted to the organisation.
- 3. Re Minute 3254a Play Area Gate** As it had not been possible to acquire a third price for a replacement self-closing gate, members accepted the lowest of the two quotations - Kingsforth Fencing at a price of £1070 + VAT.

3260 Allotment Water

Members gave further discussion to try and reduce the amount of water being used at the allotments including replacing the standpipes with spring loaded taps that would only release a measured amount of water at any one time. These would prevent hosepipes from being used. Alternatively, the water bills could be divided between the allotment holders and paid with the rent. The issue will be given further discussion and consideration by spring time when the usage will start again (the taps are isolated during the winter months).

3261 **Rats at Lakeside**

The continued sighting of rats in one particular area of Lakeside was again discussed. A resident had written suggesting that the open weave design litter bins be replaced with solid, lidded versions. Whilst accepting that there will always be rats near to open water, members still consider that the problem is exacerbated by people feeding the wildfowl irresponsibly, and from an adjacent garden which houses chickens (rat runs can be seen through the fence). The Council has worked with the Environmental Health Department, clearing a large area of vegetation in the area concerned, delivering notices locally and installing posters asking for more reasonable bird feeding practices to try and temper the number of rats. Members agreed to remove the Catkin Way litter bin on a temporary basis, although no-one from the Council has ever reported seeing a rat in a bin, and the impact of this will be monitored. Lakeside is essentially a natural environment where wild animals, including rats, can be expected.

3262 **Lakeside Fencing**

Discussion was given to replacing sections of wooden fencing at Lakeside which after many years is rotting in places. The Head Groundsman had obtained prices for different options and these had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was,

AGREED that the fencing be renewed on Catkin Way and Rowan Way with the post and rail option, as per the existing installation.

3263 **Zip Wire**

Members discussed the most suitable site for the zip wire installation, fifty percent of the £10,450 project cost having been pledged by the County Council. A site visit had been undertaken by Cllrs Allen, Mrs Brooks and Ms White, along with the Head Groundsman who considered the preferred site is next to the children's play area within the overflow car park. Some realignment of the overflow car park will be necessary to accommodate this but the current knee rail fence there is already in need of replacement. Members were asked to assess this possible site when next visiting the playing field. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries in the interim with other local Councils who have zip wire facilities to ascertain if there are any issues or concerns that should be taken into account. Other funding sources are still being explored to meet the remaining project cost although a sum of £10,000 was built into the 2018/19 budget for play equipment upgrading and this has not yet been spent.

3264 **Highway Faults**

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

- a) A number of potholes on Manners Road including a particularly large one outside number 78.

3265 **Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) The Police interactive CCTV camera has been installed on the playing field and is now fully operational. Members gave approval for anti-vandal spikes to be installed by the groundsmen on the two transmission dishes located on the side of the Village Centre.
- b) Notice from the local contractor who cuts the County Council grassed areas in the village that he is not prepared to continue cutting it for the sum of money offered by the authority. This sum was subsidised by the Parish Council for many years but ceased in 2020. The authority will be advised that the work will not therefore be undertaken this year via the Parish Council.
- c) Notice that Bullpit Road level crossing will be closed overnight on Saturday/Sunday 27th /28th January 2021 for drainage maintenance works.
- d) Notice that the junction of Bowbridge Lane and Hawton Lane will subject to three-way traffic signals from January 25th to February 5th, and February 8th to 12th 2021, for water main reinforcement works.

3266 **Future Agenda Items**

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.25pm.