

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Balderton Village Centre on Wednesday December 11th 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mayall B.E.M., Newstead and Roberts M.B.E. with the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Lynch, Mallard and Mrs Newstead.

7229 Payments

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

7230 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.

7231 Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

7232 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 7228 Car Park Ramp** The ramp that has been installed to aid wheelchair access will be painted yellow to alert pedestrians and vehicles alike; the groundstaff are waiting for drier weather conditions to do this. An advisory notice is also required and will be ordered.

7233 Interim Internal Audit

Members noted that Mr Goddard the Internal Auditor had carried out an interim audit as agreed, a copy of his report having been previously circulated. Mr Goddard is satisfied with the systems of internal control that are in place and are being effectively followed. Some minor recommendations were reviewed and will be implemented. Appreciation was extended to staff for their continued high standards of administration.

7234 VE Day

Members gave discussion to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2020; ideas included a tea dance and/or afternoon tea for veterans where war-time ration recipes could be served. Cllr Mayall advised that he is scheduled to attend a meeting in January at the local British Legion HQ where this subject is being discussed. Members considered that a joint venture involving all local organisations should be encouraged but decided to wait until after the British Legion meeting to see if there are any local plans already in hand.

7235 **Precept for 2020/21**

Members gave further consideration to budgetary requirements for 20/21. Committee 'running costs' had been previously approved. Discussion was given to the precept requirement for the next financial year. A proposal was made and seconded, to increase the precept by 4.56%, which gives a band 'D' property a parish rate of £96.15, an approximate yearly increase of £4.10 or 34 pence per month. It was unanimously,

RECOMMENDED that the precept for 2020/21 be set at £292,266

7236 **Sporting Fees**

Members discussed the Council's charges for providing cricket facilities following the Council Review Committee's meeting with Cricket Club members last week. The Council has never based sporting fees on actual provision costs but the difference between income and expenditure needs addressing. On balance members considered that a fairer option may be to base all sporting fees on the same percentage of real cost. More extensive costings will be obtained for the Council provided facilities and these will be brought back to the committee for discussion.

7237 **Highways Faults**

There were no new faults reported for submission to relevant authorities.

7238 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) A Christmas Tree with lights has been purchased for the village – this has been installed in the Churchyard close to the main entrance as previously agreed. Some electrical work was necessary to provide power to the lights.
- b) A further request has been submitted to the Brisbane Court letting agents for some improvement work to be undertaken to the service road which is very uneven in places.
- c) The Poppy Appeal collection box which was located in the Village Centre reception raised £7.67 for the British Legion.
- d) Cllr Newstead advised that there had been a break-in at the Balderton Surgery where sadly many of the better Christmas raffle prizes had been stolen. Members were sorry to hear this and undertook to raise awareness of this locally to try and get some of the prizes replaced.

7239 **Future Agenda Items**

No items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.35pm.