

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Balderton Village Centre on Wednesday October 30th 2019 at 7.00pm

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr Green.

7216 Payments

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

7217 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.

7218 Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

7219 Clerk/Chairman's Update

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

- 1. Re Mead Way Footpath Street Lights** Members were pleased to hear that the County Council has now accepted liability for the maintenance of street lights along the stretch of Public Footpath between Mead Way and Mount Road. This issue has been under discussion by the County Council for many months.
- 2. Re Minute 7209 Facebook Page** Members questioned the information submitted by the District Council's Communications Team regarding setting up an account. Further enquiries will be made.
- 3. Re Minute 7214e Methodist Church Café** Cllr Mrs Brooks gave feedback from the organisation's consultation evening held to promote plans to convert their old hall to a community café. During members' wider discussions about Balderton's Churches mention was made that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of St. Giles churchyard and has been since it was formally 'closed' in the 1970's. Cllr Roberts questioned this, stating that to the best of his knowledge the District Council should be the authority responsible for closed churchyards, not parish councils. Previous enquiries have been made to try and pass the liability onto the District Council but to no avail. Cllrs Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hurst and Ms White undertook to look into this with the District Council's Chief Executive Mr Robinson.

7220 Annual Review of Internal Audit Effectiveness

Members undertook a review of the effectiveness of the Council's Internal Audit procedures. The committee approved the list of checks and tests for the Internal Auditor

to use as a basis for the process as laid out in Section 5.102 of the ‘Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England’. The Council’s Internal Auditor Mr Ken Goddard, who was appointed in 2018 continues to meet the necessary criteria, being independent of this Council and highly competent. It was considered beneficial to continue with the practice of an interim internal audit being carried out approximately six months into the financial year.

7221 Tommy Soldier/VE Day

Members discussed the preferred siting for the ‘Tommy Soldier’ statue that was donated to the Council. On balance members considered that the front garden area of the Methodist Church would be a fitting place as this will be seen by anyone passing by and is close to the war memorial located in the boundary wall. Enquiries will be made with the Church about this possibility. The statue could also be used to acknowledge the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2020.

7222 Grant Application

Consideration was given to a written request for financial assistance from Chuter Ede Primary School for the Year 5 pupils to undertake the Drugs Abuse Resistance Education programme. There are 60 pupils and the programme cost is £17.60 each. It was,

RECOMMENDED with ten votes for and one against that a grant of £500 be paid to the School.

7223 CCTV Camera

Discussion was given whether to proceed with the purchase and installation of a monitored Police interactive CCTV camera for the Playing Field to help deal with anti-social behaviour. The cost of the camera itself is approximately £5000, with a price of £1950 for an 8m high pole plus ongoing monitoring and maintenance costs of approximately £600 a year. The Council has asked the District Council for a contribution towards these costs but the outcome of this request is not yet known. Some discussion took place about the effectiveness of such a camera when compared to the cost, but the notion was fully supported by the Police when first mooted in the early Summer. Members considered on balance that the decision to proceed should be deferred until the funding request outcome is known.

7224 Budgets for 2020/21

Members reviewed and approved the committee ‘running cost’ estimates for the next financial year, copies having been previously circulated. These budgeting costs will form part of the process to determine the Precept requirement for 2020/21 which will be considered at the next committee meeting in December.

7225 London Road/Staple Lane Road Safety

Members discussed ongoing concerns regarding road safety in the Staple Lane/London Road junction vicinity which have been raised with the County Council on many

occasions. One of the main concerns is that the speed limit is 40 mph along this stretch of London Road, not 30mph like the remaining stretch of the road throughout the village. Members agreed that a petition should be started to present to the County Council seeking a reduction in the speed limit there. The school buses which pull up between Sibcy Lane and Lacey Green junctions will be asked to stop doing this, and be urged instead to use the formal bus stops slightly further along London Road. A warning sign on the roundabout, advising traffic that lorries are turning right out of a junction immediately ahead, may also prove beneficial and will be requested from the County Council.

7226 Highways Faults

There were no faults reported for submission to relevant authorities.

7227 Correspondence/Information

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

- a) Fen Lane residents have advised that they have been asked to put their land forward to the District Council as a potential Travellers and Gypsies' site. Members considered that the site is wholly unsuitable owing to the vehicular access being on the Main Street 'S' bend where vision is restricted. Concerns were also expressed regarding the location of the oil pipe which passes through the land concerned. It is understood that the District Council's Local Development Framework Committee is actively considering potential sites within their whole area. Land off Lowfield Lane has been noted as another potential site. Serving District Cllrs were asked to submit members' concerns before sites are even put forward as options and they undertook to make further enquiries with the authority.
- b) A thank you card from MacMillan Cancer Support for the £372.44 raised at the coffee morning held on September 27th 2019.
- c) Notice that the Bullpit Road level crossing will be closed overnight from midnight to 6am on Sunday November 17th and Thursday November 21st 2019.
- d) Some guidance of how Parish Councils can "do their bit" to address climate change.
- e) A suggestion from a parishioner that the Council asks the Main Street Chemist to consider reserving a parking space on the forecourt to the front of the shop for the medical supplies van which causes an obstruction when it parks across the pavement. Members agreed that a letter be sent to the Chemist asking if suitable arrangements could be implemented.

7228 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Allen asked that consideration be given to installing an improved ramp onto the Village Centre path to aid access for wheelchair users going to the Café. A temporary wooden structure was installed in the early Summer but users have reported that it's not really suitable. Members agreed that this should be carried out as soon as possible.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.55pm.