

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 6.30pm

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

with Cllr Rouse, two representatives from Age UK and the Clerk.

**3234 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Lynch, Mallard and Scott, and Head Groundsman Mr Brown.

**3235 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.

**3236 Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to meet two representatives from Age UK, Nicky Wheddon and Nick Fairfax. They outlined a local pilot project which is being aimed to support the Balderton community to address issues such as social isolation and more practical needs such as shopping, collection of medications etc. These types of support requirements have of course increased since the start of the Covid pandemic. The organisation's aim is that the initiative would ultimately run itself through village volunteers as Age UK's involvement is purely to instigate the project; their direct involvement will end on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Members took the opportunity to ask questions about the project after which the representatives were thanked for their information and attendance. They left, along with Cllr Ms White and the meeting resumed at approximately 7pm.

**3237 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 Y.M.C.A. Agreement** Members were advised that the license agreement is still awaiting details of the design and security of the launch dock and CCTV but these are almost complete.

**3238 Café**

Members were advised that REACH has decided not to re-open the Café which has been closed since March when the pandemic lockdown commenced. The organisation has now given formal notice for their lease on the building to end on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. Another local organisation called Bridge Together has expressed a strong interest in running the café and has asked what the initial rent would be. Members gave lengthy discussion to this and determined on balance that the original agreed figure of £500 per calendar month should remain as the business lease amount and this figure will be quoted to any interested party. Bridge Together representatives will be invited to a virtual meeting with Café Working Party members.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting at approximately 7.20pm.

**3239 Playing Field Seating**

Discussion was given to provide some basic additional seating around the large Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for young people who currently congregate around the two benches between the Café and Village Centre. The suggestion is to utilise large logs, positioned around the MUGA and these would be sourced when any larger trees have to be removed by the groundstaff. Members supported the proposal in principle and enquiries will be made with the groundstaff to determine if this is feasible.

**3240 Age UK Project**

Members gave lengthy discussion to the project as outlined earlier in the meeting. Though encouraged by the aim of the project, members considered that many small, support initiatives have been set up as a result of the pandemic, some by friends, family or neighbours, and these are working very well. The Nottinghamshire Community Response Hub has also been excellent in pitching support and practical help for anyone in need. In summary, whilst applauding the aims of Age UK's project, members considered on balance that no practical support could be offered at this time from the Parish Council.

**3241 2021/22 Budget**

Initial discussion was given to budgetary requirements for the next financial year. Committee 'running cost' estimates which had been previously circulated were approved. More in depth discussion will be given to the budget at next week's Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, with particular attention being paid to the Council's continued use of reserves.

**3242 Highway Faults**

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

- a) A request from a resident for some form of signage to encourage drivers to keep left and not cut the corner on the bend near to the Manners Road junction with London Road. The Parish Council previously submitted a request that the junction be narrowed there to try and slow down drivers but this was not supported by the County Council.

**3243 Correspondence and Information**

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

- a) The latest Police update briefing from Inspector Sutton advising that the newly formed 'Operation Reacher' team has been on patrol in Balderton to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- b) Notice that Staple Lane will be closed for a distance of 900 metres from the Jericho Road junction in a south westerly direction, from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup> for pipeline repair works.

**3244 Future Agenda Items**

No agenda items were put forward.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.55pm.