

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday May 18th 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Fairbairn, Green, Mrs Hurst and Mrs Lee with twelve members of the public and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr Lynch and Roberts M.B.E.
Cllr Gloster had advised he would be late joining the meeting.

7438 **Payments**

All payments including direct debit payments were approved and authorised; a list of these is published with the minutes. All relevant paperwork has been viewed by the Council.

7439 **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.

7440 **Public Participation**

The meeting was closed to take public comments. Members of the public again expressed their concerns regarding the Council's agreement with the YMCA to undertake kayaking and canoeing on the Lake, believing it is unsafe and that it will have a detrimental impact on the ecology of the area. One resident again enquired about providing a parish newsletter as the Council had previously said it could do an article in the Church magazine, but these have to be purchased. One resident spoke in favour of the activity believing it will create something for young people to do, will not harm wildlife and could mean old debris is cleared away if that proves necessary. One resident asked the Council to consider changing the style of litter bins at the Lake as smaller pieces of litter fall out of the open weave steel basket design and he also enquired about displaying art work in the Council's notice boards. Residents were thanked for their attendance and the meeting re-opened.

Cllr Gloster joined the meeting as one parishioner left, at approximately 6.50pm.

7441 **Clerk/Chairman's Update**

A printed update of ongoing matters was circulated and noted. The update is published with the minutes. No issues were discussed from the update.

7442 **Facebook**

Members gave further discussion to the Council having its own Facebook account. Though mindful of the benefits members considered that social media can be very time consuming to respond to any misinformation that may be posted there, and Council staff

do not currently have the capacity to undertake this. The Parish Council's new web-site should soon be up and running and will have a news section to 'post' any update or planned Council activity. Social media options will be considered again later in the year.

7443 Village Centre Windows

Members gave consideration to installing solar film to the Village Centre windows which can prevent anyone from looking in through them in the day-time and would ultimately reduce air conditioning costs. Members supported the notion in principle but requested additional information and options from the company.

7444 Gaming Centre

Members considered an application for an adult gaming centre license for the new Welcome Break Services site near to the A1 roundabout which is scheduled to open in the autumn. No objections were raised to the application.

7445 Police Update

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village. A further incident had occurred yesterday evening when young people caused problems at the Dance Studio, necessitating a 999 call. The Police had once again not attended. The public toilet which was only re-opened five days ago after being vandalised in November, was used yesterday by young people taking drugs. External CCTV footage of this activity has been secured and the Police invited to view it. Given the close proximity of the toilet to the Studio, it will now only be open in the mornings during the week, and possibly closed altogether if things don't improve. The local M.P.s office has already written to the Police about the lack of officer response. Options and prices for closing in the canopy area to the Studio will be explored. Members considered that private security will have to be deployed; exact times to be determined after discussions with the Studio proprietor.

7446 Highways Faults

Members were invited to raise any issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: No new issues were raised.

7447 Correspondence/Information

The following items of correspondence/information had been received for noting:

- a) The Internal Auditor completed his year end audit on Tuesday May 10th and is pleased to advise that everything is in order and he is happy with the systems in place. His report is awaited and will be circulated to members once received. Appreciation was extended to the Deputy Clerk for all her hard work relating to the audit process.
- b) Members were reminded about the Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting event on the playing field on Thursday June 2nd - lighting up time is 9.45pm. A press release about the event has been sent to The Newark advertiser and local posters will be displayed.

7448 Future Agenda Items

No items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.20pm