

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday April 3rd 2019 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Brooks (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Green, Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee, Mrs Newstead, Newstead, Scott and Ms White

with Head Groundsman Mr Brown and the Clerk.

3115 **Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Watt.

3116 **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 3119 – Allotment rent.

3117 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

3118 **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 Minute 3107.2 Granby Drive Grassed Area** It is understood that Cllr Walker is arranging a site meeting with County Highways representatives regarding the problem of local residents driving over the green area.

3119 **Allotment Fees**

Members gave further consideration to setting the rent for the Council allotments for 2019/20 following receipt of a water bill of approximately £450 which covers the past two years. The Council also pays £400 a year to rent the land from the Southwell Diocese. It was,

RECOMMENDED that the yearly rent be set at £15 per half plot.

3120 **Café Tenancy**

The REACH organisation is in the process of appointing a Manager and it is their intention to be operational by the end of May 2019. The extent of the required internal alteration work to the kitchen is still unknown. Some alterations to the boiler may be necessary but this is entirely the Council's responsibility, not as a result of a tenant's request. The cost of kitchen alterations may have a bearing on the rent free, or reduced rent period that the Council can give to the organisation.

3121 **YMCA Lakeside Boating**

The Lakeside Working Party had reviewed the first draft of the terms of use to allow the YMCA to undertake paddle boat activity on the Lake. A meeting had then taken place with organisation representatives where issues resulting from the first draft had been addressed. These included the proposed area of use, the licence term and fee, and access times. The terms of use are being re-drafted and members will then give further consideration to the details. Once happy with the content the document will require formal checking by the Council's solicitors before any agreement is signed.

Some concerns were expressed about safety issues and potential loss of tranquillity resulting from allowing paddle boating on the Lake. The majority of members still considered that the proposal is a viable one; the Lake was purchased for all local people to enjoy, not for just those who live adjacent to it, or for a relatively small number of anglers to exclusively fish there. It is up to the Council to monitor the situation and ensure that only the agreed amount of activity takes place there; any deviations or concerns must be reported to the YMCA without delay. The Council will always retain the right to withdraw permission in the future should persistent problems be experienced.

3122 **Heron Way Car Park**

Members reviewed three quotations obtained from local contractors to resurface the car park at Heron Way, Lakeside, replacing a crushed stone and old road plainings surface with tarmac. It was,

RECOMMENDED

that J.C. Surfacing's quote of £15,870 +VAT be selected as the preferred option on this occasion. The outcome is still awaited for a request for funding towards this project from the County Council; this will be expedited.

3123 **Rats at Lakeside**

There has been an increase in reports of visible rats at Lakeside. The District Council's Environmental Health Department (EHD) considers rats in an open public space to be a health concern. A pest control company has inspected the site and provided some suggested approaches to bait the rats; details of which had been previously circulated to members. It is known that the EHD has written to one Catkin Way property regarding the

number of rats seen in and around its garden and it is also understood that animals may be being kept there in outdoor pens. Members asked that the EHD be contacted first to see if any action is considered necessary about the situation at the property from an Animal Welfare point of view before a decision is taken whether to proceed with a programme of rat baiting.

3124 Highway Faults

The following faults/issues were raised and will be passed onto the relevant authorities:

- a) The pavements on Longfellow Drive and Goldsmith Road are very uneven in places and need resurfacing.
- b) There are a number of potholes between the two speed humps on Lacey Green and that stretch of road needs resurfacing.

3125 Correspondence and Information

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

- a) A request for permission to site a memorial bench at Lakeside, near to fishing peg number 50. Members had no objection to the request subject to a mutually agreeable location being determined by the groundstaff.
- b) A letter from two Newark residents who purchased a Mount Road Cemetery grave in 2001 who no longer wish to be buried there, offering the plot back to the Council subject to a suitable purchase offer being made. The fee paid at the time was £106. The plot has been maintained by the Council for the past eighteen years and administrative costs have been incurred so members considered that half the purchase price is an appropriate offer to make.
- c) An e-mail advising that Blackthorne Close residents are experiencing problems through the hazardous and thoughtless parking practices of a scrap lorry driver. The residents will be advised to contact the local Police regarding this issue.
- d) The latest newsletter from the Police Commissioner Mr Paddy Tipping.
- e) Notice that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday April 17th 2019 at 6.30pm immediately before the Full Council meeting.

3126 Future Agenda Items

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at approximately 7.55pm.