

Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday December 8th 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT Councillors Ms White (Chairman), Allen (Vice Chairman), Mrs Brooks, Gloster, Green and Lynch with the Clerk.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Mrs Hurst, Mrs Lee and Roberts M.B.E.

7385 **Payments**

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

7386 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Mrs Brooks and Ms White, as serving members of Newark & Sherwood District Council declared a personal interest to any issue relating to the District Council.

7387 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

7388 **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 7343 Street Naming** The outcome is still unknown regarding the request made to the District Council to review the decision not to allow the suggested name of 'Jarvis' for the residential development being built next to The Grove Garage on London Rd.

7389 **Street Naming**

The District Council has invited parish councils to submit a list of street name suggestions for any future developments. No suggestions were put forward at this time but members undertook to give it further consideration.

7390 **Administration**

Members approved any necessary expenditure to accommodate additional administrative requirements in the Council Office, including a third computer terminal, different furniture etc.

7391 **Burial Plot**

Members considered a request made by Lincolnshire Co-op Funeral Services for the routine additional grave purchase fee for non Balderton residents to be waived, relating to a burial in February this year for a Newark resident. The purchaser needs to buy two graves, side by side as it was not possible to dig a double depth grave owing to the extremely high-water table at the time. The need to buy two plots was pointed out at the onset by the Clerk but this has since been disputed by the firm. The purchaser has advised that the company told him that the fee quoted by them was to cover both plots. Members totally supported the Clerk, endorsing that the additional cost would still have to be met by the company, or by the purchaser, but this would need to be agreed between the two parties.

7392 **Precept 2022/23**

Members gave further consideration to budgetary requirements for the next financial year, committee 'running cost' estimates having been previously agreed. It was agreed to give this issue final discussion at the next committee meeting in January owing to the reduced number of Councillors present.

7392 **Local Improvement Fund**

Initial consideration was given to any suitable projects to submit for funding under the County Council's Local Improvement Fund. Two ideas were put forward; zebra crossings For London Road and Hawton Lane, and wooden mini adventure style play equipment at Lakeside. Members hoped that if successful the adventure play equipment could be match funded by the Y.M.C.A. Enquiries will be made to ascertain if these project ideas meet the Fund criteria.

7393 **Casual Vacancy**

The committee was informed that Cllr Ben Mayall B.E.M. has tendered his resignation from the Council on ill health grounds, thereby creating a further Casual Vacancy on the Balderton South Ward. Members were saddened to hear this. Notices will be installed locally, and on the Council's web-site to advertise the Vacancy. Members also agreed to place a notice on this occasion, in The Newark Advertiser at a cost of £190 to ascertain if this generates increased interest.

7394 **Highways Faults**

Members were invited to raise any issues or faults to pass onto relevant authorities: No new problem sites were highlighted but the dyke near to number 8 Staple Lane is till blocked, despite being previously reported to the Internal Drainage Board. This will again be expedited.

7395 **Police Update**

Members discussed any recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village. Things have been generally quieter recently, possibly due to the darker evenings, and Community Support Officers and Police have been present at times. The ongoing need was stressed for people to report *all* incidents to the Police on 101 or 999 for emergencies.

7396 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) The latest Stakeholder Updates from Police Inspector Charlotte Allardice.
- b) A call for evidence of abuse and intimidation of Councillors, which is part of the Local Government Association's Civility in Public Life Programme. The aim of the project is to promote civility and respect in public life including good governance, positive debate and support the well-being of councillors and staff. Details will be circulated to all Councillors.
- c) The Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire, Mrs Janet Richardson has asked to attend the January Full Council meeting to address the Council about her role, along with plans for the Queen's Jubilee Platinum celebrations next year. Members welcomed this news.
- d) The latest newsletter from Notts Police & Crime Commissioner Caroline Henry, including the decision to retain Newark Police Station in its current location and not to relocate officers to District Council premises.

7397 **Future Agenda Items**

No further agenda items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.15pm