

## Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Village Centre on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 6.30pm

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

APOLOGIES were received from Cllrs Mrs Hurst and Lynch.

### 7360 **Payments**

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

### 7361 **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.

### 7362 **Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

### 7363 **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 Minute 7343 Street Naming** Members again expressed their disquiet at the District Council's policy for naming developments after dignitaries and local characters only after they have been deceased for twenty years. District Councillors were asked to challenge this with the authority on the Council's behalf.
- 2. Re Minute 73458h Dance Studio** Members were pleased to hear that the new business in the former café building is going well.

### 7364 **Code of Conduct**

Members had reviewed draft copies of a new Code of Conduct for Councillors, drawn up by The Local Government Association and endorsed by Newark & Sherwood District Council. The District Council has undertaken to offer training for Parish Councils that adopt the new Code. It was,

RECOMMENDED that the new Code of Conduct be adopted.

7365 **Facebook Account**

Members gave further consideration to setting up a Facebook account for the Council to post updates and information. Though members supported the notion in principle, some concerns were expressed that social media can invite inappropriate comments at times. However, the account could be set up without a response option and comments would be invited by e-mail instead if readers had a genuine reason to contact the Council about any postings. Enquiries will be made to get help setting up such an account.

7366 **Annual Governance & Accountable Return (AGAR)**

Members were pleased to note that the Auditor has signed off without comment, the AGAR for the 2020/21 financial year.

7367 **Financial Risk Assessment**

Members reviewed the Council's Financial Risk Register, copies having been previously circulated. The Register includes an assessment of the likelihood and impact of any risks taking place, thereby providing the Council with greater control to manage its financial risks. Members considered that being liable for the fabric of the Churchyard should be included under Section 5, and the need for future staff succession/training needs including under Section 2.

7368 **Environmental Policy**

Members gave consideration to adopting an Environmental Policy for the Council. A draft version had been produced and previously circulated. It was,

RECOMMENDED                      that the Policy be adopted as drafted.

7369 **Annual Remembrance Sunday**

The Balderton branch of the Royal British Legion has folded sadly, leaving the arrangements of any parade, service and road closures to the Parish Council. Members gave lengthy discussion to possible arrangements but number restrictions arising from Covid need confirming before progress can be made. Enquiries will be made in the interim with the Church and the local organisations that usually take part.

7370 **Highways Faults**

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

7371 **Police Update**

Members gave discussion to recent anti-social behaviour and crime issues in the village, including information received from District Cllr Lee that the Lidl car park is still subject to cars racing around causing anti-social behaviour issues. One of the car park barriers seems to be faulty, and the racing also sometimes takes place while the store is still open. Cllr Lee has visited the store to speak to with management, stressing the need to report issues to the Police as they happen. It is a difficult situation as the site is privately owned, not a public highway, but this longstanding problem will be mentioned when Inspector Allardice attends next week's Full Council meeting.

Cllr Roberts left the meeting at approximately 7.15pm.

7372 **Correspondence/Information**

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

- a) Cllr Rouse has resigned from the Council with immediate effect owing to poor health. Members expressed their sadness at this news, acknowledging his considerable contribution to the work of the Council over the years. This therefore creates a further casual vacancy on the Balderton South Ward; notices to this effect will be published on the Council's web-site and notice boards.
- b) Notice of the Notts Association of Local Council's Annual General Meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. Cllrs Mrs Lee and Ms White undertook to attend the meeting.
- c) The County Council has arranged two events for parish councils to participate in the County's Big Notts Survey to sets out Council priorities. One event is at West Bridgford on Monday September 20<sup>th</sup> and one in Worksop on September 27<sup>th</sup>, both 6-7.30pm. Any Councillors wishing to attend to represent the Council to notify the Clerk.
- d) An invitation to comment on the District Council's Statement of Gambling Principles Any comments to be submitted by October 12<sup>th</sup> 2021.
- e) Notice that Staple Lane will be subject to two-way traffic signals from Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup> to enable Severn Trent to carry out a water pipe repair.

7373 **Future Agenda Items**

No future agenda items were raised.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.20pm