



# Balderton Parish Council Amenities Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm

**Attendees:**

**Balderton Parish Councillors:** Vanessa Bracegirdle, Ronalie Bright, Jane Buxton, Mandie Elson (Chair), Debbie Moore, Dean Scott, and Joy Sellars

**Staff:** James Brown (Head Groundsman), Marion Fox Goddard (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

**Public:** 4 residents joined the meeting

Meeting agenda pack with reports can be found on our website: <https://www.baldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk>

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**1. Declarations to record the meeting**

The clerk recorded the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence** - Karen Callingham, Simon Forde

**3. Declarations of interest**

None.

**4. Public Open Forum**

The Chair of Grove Angling Club introduced himself, having come to the meeting regarding item 8 on the agenda. The reason the club has asked for the matches to start earlier in the year is due to the expected curly weed later on in the year. A football manager from one of the teams that uses the playing field told councillors that his club would like to keep the current attendant arrangement; concern was raised regarding the responsibility and practicality of the proposal of the keys being given to the football club. Cllr Elson explained that the council will contact the club regarding this.

**5. Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record and Councillor Elson duly signed them.

**6. Clerk's update<sup>1</sup>**

The following report was noted.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: *Italics indicate where report has been updated (verbal during meeting) since agenda pack issued.*

	Item	Update
1	Millennium Clock	Whether to proceed with a replacement will be consulted on with residents in the March newsletter to gauge feedback on whether there is support to proceed with this project.
2	Lake	<p>Covenant – Clerk will bring a report to full council – date to be confirmed.</p> <p>A meeting was held with members of Grove Angling Club in January. (All members were invited). Balderton Parish Councillors let attendees know that BPC<sup>2</sup> wants to work with GAC<sup>3</sup>, to see the club prosper and continue fishing on the lake. It was also confirmed that blue/green badge holders are still able to access the lakeside with their cars. (There have been rumours to the contrary on local social media).</p> <p>See items 7, 8 and 9</p>
3	Allotments	New signage and noticeboard in place. All allotments let.
4	Safer Streets	<p>The lamps and CCTV are in place at Heron Way car park. There has been 1 complaint regarding the lamps but otherwise their installation has been well received.</p> <p>The first community organising/neighbourhood watch training session took place last month with two more due to be completed in February/March.</p> <p>Newark and Sherwood District Council are organising the graffiti project with local young people and an artist. Initial designs are due to be worked on this month with the final artwork due to be completed on the side of the work shed in March.</p>
5	Church Wall	We have met with St Giles representatives to move this forward. The plan is to have a day cleaning up the site this month. An officer from Nottinghamshire County Council is helping us with this project and we plan to do some of the work with volunteers (under his supervision) and some will require specialist stone masons. The reports that we initially received from the architect are being updated to include the bulge on the wall on Main Street. Updated quotes will then be sought. We will apply to the National Lottery for funding.
6	Memorial safety testing/Cemetery management.	<p>Hand tests have been done on all memorials in Mount Road Cemetery and St Giles Churchyard. 55 were found to be unstable at the cemetery, the majority have been staked with a notice but 6 had to be laid down due to their condition. Where we have contact details we have sent letters to owners but in some cases we do not have up to date details on record. Some owners have come forward and repairs are underway, but this will be an ongoing process dependent on if we can find the owners.</p> <p>In St Giles, many of the memorials are a lot bigger and older so unstable ones needed to be laid down rather than staked. Thirty-seven memorials in total needed to be laid down for the safety of churchyard visitors. We have sent details to St Giles as they hold records. When training on this , we were</p>

<sup>2</sup> BPC – Balderton Parish Council

<sup>3</sup> GAC - Grove Angling Club

	Item	Update
		advised it is unlikely we will find owners for the old memorials, however, notices have been put on them in case any family still tend the graves.
7	Village Centre	Bookings are healthy with numbers of children's parties continuing to increase. Full Council has approved expenditure for a specialist to undertake Disability Access Surveys for the Village Centre and Coronation Street site.
8	Tree Survey	The grounds team have been doing a significant amount of work around the lake in line with the tree survey findings and EMEC <sup>4</sup> report – See item 7. We are due to obtain quotes for the next survey which is due in the summer.
9	Litter pick	The next community litter pick is planned for 2/3/25. Members of the community will be invited to join councillors to help tidy up Balderton via a Facebook post and posters.
10	Defibrillators	A new defibrillator is up and running at Heron Way car park. We are still awaiting the electrical work to be completed to get the Chuter Ede one up and running again.
11	Dog bins	We have increased the collections to twice weekly (from once) on the dog bins at the corner of Mead Way and Lowfield Lane (no.0014) and the one opposite Sibcy Lane Manners Road junction (no. 1276) following reports of them overflowing.
12	Village Trail	<i>The benches have arrived, and their installation is imminent.</i>

#### **7. Update on ongoing work around the lake and actions recommended by the Ecological Appraisal and Management Plan**

The committee noted the update. The Head Groundsman detailed that the grounds team are on track to get the work required round the lake by the end of February/first week in March. Cllr Elson thanked Jim and the grounds team for their work. The clerk explained that the channels between the edge of the lake and island will be dredged this month. Removed material will be left nearby to allow invertebrates to be able to make their way back to the lake.

#### **8. Consideration of Grove Angling Club's request to bring their match start date forward to April 1<sup>st</sup> from May 1<sup>st</sup> each year**

The committee unanimously agreed to this change.

#### **9. Consideration of the designing out crime officer's advice**

The committee noted the report and requested more specific feedback on signage.

#### **10. Biodiversity – Discussion regarding areas that could be better used for biodiversity in our parish.**

Cllr Bright suggested that Balderton Parish Council should look at sites beyond our ones for increasing biodiversity as the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries, citing examples such as 52% of moth species being lost and the most recent butterfly count being down 50% on the survey done 2 years ago. It was suggested by starting small and building up, identifying small grass areas in the parish that could be better used for rewilding/creating wildlife corridors. It was agreed that if councillors email possible areas to the Clerical Assistant, we will

<sup>4</sup> EMEC - East Midlands Environmental Consultants Ltd (trading as EMEC Ecology)

collate this and establish which authority looks after them with a view to arranging a meeting with local councillors to discuss whether this is possible. *All Councillors requested to send suggestions to the office.*

#### **11. Grave Ownership and Deed Transferral Guidance for transfer of exclusive right of burial and Privacy Notice recommendations to Full Council**

Following recent training from the ICCM<sup>5</sup>, we have discovered that the process we have used for grave ownership transfers needs to be changed. The Amenities Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to Full Council that the Cemetery Privacy Notice should be adopted and that a charge should be introduced for the transfer of ownership of graves due to the administration required for this process.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

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<sup>5</sup> Institute Cemetery and Crematorium Management