Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 7pm in the large hall of Balderton Village Centre, Coronation Street, Balderton, NG24 3BD

Attendees:

Balderton Parish Councillors: Vanessa Bracegirdle, Ronalie Bright, Jane Buxton (Chair), Karen Callingham, Mandie Elson, Roy Fairbairn, Jean Hall, Dean Scott, Joy Sellars

District & County Councillors: Kay Smith and Sam Smith

Officer Support: Interim/Locum Parish Clerk, Sharon Pyke

Public: 4

Meeting agenda pack with reports can be found on our website: https://www.baldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk Blue underlined text indicates hyperlinks in this document take online readers to relevant information online.

230. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present. A reminder was given that the meeting would be recorded in support of minute taking.

231. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cox

232. Vice Chairman

a) The resignation of Councillor Hall as the Vice Chairman was **NOTED**
b) A nomination was received for Councillor Elson. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Elson would fulfil the remainder of the civic year as Vice Chairman
c) The acceptance of office form was signed by Councillor Elson

233. Interests

Councillors Hall declared a general interest as they also serve as a District Councillor and Councillor Moore through their association with a Planning Committee Member at Newark and Sherwood District Council

234. Public Forum

The following representations were made:

A thank-you was extended to Councillor Hall for their involvement in listening to concerns and bringing about understanding and change in consultation with the various parties involved. The resident provided the latest concerns from the Lowfield Lane development, this time in relation to the number of articulated trucks and incorporating safer access practices on Mead Way. The site ecologist has been seen onsite to inspect the protected grass area, but the wet conditions has made that difficult. Walkways 11 and 13 will be closing so that the earlier work can be repaired. Councillor Hall offered to meet with the resident tomorrow.

235. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Councillor Smith provided the following update. Progress is being made on whether wooden posts can be installed on Bullpit Road to prevent inconsiderate parking. Whilst it sounds simplistic and therefore straightforward, it isn't. Temporary repairs to priority potholes are being made ahead of more comprehensive pothole filling regime. Main Road with 21 priority potholes was completed on 18 February and 34 other potholes will be completed by 17 March. Virgin Media has submitted a £260,000 quote to move cabling whilst BT has not yet responded this would enable a cost analysis to be completed as part of identifying the right solution for the car parking issue outside Chuter Ede school. The Youth Bus service has started again on the basis of use it or lose it and will be parked outside Newark Academy on Monday evenings from 5.45pm.

District Councillor Smith has been working with District Councillor Hall on the Policy and Performance Improvements Committee. District Councillor Smith is also a member of the Governance, General Purposes and Local Government Re-organisation Committee. Councillor Smith asked if the public consultation regarding the three options put forward for the Local Government Re-organisation could be published to social media. Newark and Southwell are preparing their expressions of interest for the Town of Culture competition with the first phase of competition closing on 31 March 2026. There is funding support for the strongest bids to deliver their full bids. There will be three finalists designated according to their small, medium and large size, one winner will be awarded £3m with the two runners up awarded £250,000 to deliver elements of their bid. Newark regeneration plans are well advanced; with a master plan and design code which seeks to respect and protect the historic aspects of the town is scheduled to become part of planning guidance in April 2026.

The locum Clerk enquired whether the previously circulated report to Council from County Councillor Lee should be read out and were there any questions? The response was no.

District Councillor Hall talked about the increasing engagement around the Local Government Reorganisation discussions and its options. Time had been invested working to address resident issues at Lowfield with Lovell's and Arkwood such as work on the ditch and the best placement of bins or dog bins. Related working groups should consider community walkabouts to expand thinking beyond housing. Following on from the Council's decision to submit the renewal for the Flowserve Asset of Community Value designation. There was a significant fire on Sunday night with the sports pavilion reduced to a shell.

236. Minutes

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of 28 January 2026 meeting were an accurate record with a minor amendment. The Chairman signed the minutes as confirmation.

237. Committee Minutes

The Chairman of the Amenities Committee offered to take questions on the draft minutes. No questions were forthcoming, so the draft minutes held on 11 February 2026 were **NOTED**.

238. Lake

Further support will be offered to Grove Angling Club so that it can apply for grant funding. The Grounds Team is preparing temporary areas around the lake for any summer weed extraction. It was **AGREED** that if the summer weed re-appears, Council will proceed with its removal and bear the full cost, if necessary.

239. Parish Councillors' Report

There were no reports

240. Interim Internal Audit Report

a) The internal auditor's report was **NOTED**
b) The locum Clerk spoke of the work and policies required several of which would be placed before Council at its March meeting. It was **AGREED** to support the guidance provided in the report with Council wanting the Annual Governance and Accountability Review to be as robust as possible for the year ending 31 March 2026.

241. Direct Debits

The locum Clerk apologised as the inclusion of HMRC payments had been included in an earlier approved list but had not been actioned

242. Lowfield Community Noticeboard

It was **AGREED** to adopt, maintain and insure the proposed community noticeboard on Mead Way adjacent to the bench and lectern once any approvals had been secured and installation has taken place by Lovell Homes. A resident kindly volunteered to put up the notices.

243. Grant Application

This was a retrospective application with the event having already taken place. The application had been received earlier but had not been included on an agenda. Councillors spoke in support of the Young Voices Choir and the impact and opportunities it had provided. The locum Clerk explained that the grant funding budget is at capacity but within the wider budget heading there is scope should the application have support. It was **AGREED** to make a £500 grant allocation.

244. Projects

a) The review by the Amenities Committee of the Council's existing action plan was **NOTED**. It was **AGREED** to add the inclusion of work to determine the work required to stem the bank erosion at the Lake
b) It was **NOTED** that the Projects List for the year ending 31 March 2027 may return to Council for consideration depending on the outcome of the above investigatory work

245. Planning

To consider the following planning applications/consultations (Balderton Parish Council is a consultee). Newark and Sherwood District Council is the planning authority that will decide on whether permission is granted):

a) 25/01794/HOUSE

4 Wesley Close, Balderton, NG24 3LH - Replace existing flat roof to a pitched tile roof over garage and utility
No comment

b) 26/00010/HOUSE
1 Theresa Court, NG24 3LB - Demolition of part and extension to existing bungalow
No comment

c) 26/00163/PA
Flowserve Pump Division, Hawton - Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for proposed installation of roof mounted 400kWp solar PV system as Schedule 2 Part 14 Class J
Flowserve provides employment within the immediate area so anything which underpins that through initiatives such as roof mounted solar panels is welcomed. It was agreed to let due process take its course.

Agenda numbering duplicated at 245 for both Planning and Correspondence. Correspondence in the minutes has been corrected to 246

246. Correspondence
The following correspondence was **NOTED**:
a) Newark and Sherwood District Council - Statutory Consultation on the Local Government Re-organisation on Thursday 26 February or Monday 02 March. The Chairman encouraged Councillors to register for one of the online briefing sessions because on next month's agenda there will be an online submission of the Statutory Consultation because it closes the following day.
b) Newark and Sherwood District Council – Neighbourhood Planning – dates to be finalised but scheduled for early March 2026

247. Exempt Business
It was **AGREED** under the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - Staffing Matters

248. The exempt notes from 28 January were **APPROVED** and signed

249. An update on Staffing Matters was provided

Meeting Closed at: 8.10 pm

Chairman (name): _____

Chairman (signature): _____

Date: _____