# Balderton Parish Council

**Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 7pm in the large hall of Balderton Village Centre, Coronation Street, Balderton, NG24 3BD**

**Attendees:**

**Balderton Parish Councillors:** Ronalie Bright, Jane Buxton (Chair), Karen Callingham, Martyn Cox, Mandie Elson, Roy Fairbairn, Simon Forde, Jean Hall, Debbie Moore, Anna Rutkowska and Dean Scott

**District & County Councillors:** Simon Forde, Jean Hall and Kay Smith

**Officer Support:** Interim/Locum Parish Clerk, Sharon Pyke

**Public:** 1

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.

**183. Welcome**

The Chair congratulated newly elected District Councillor Kay Smith to her Balderton North and Coddington ward and she was welcomed to the meeting. Best wishes were extended to the Clerk and a welcome was given to the Locum Clerk and to a new temporary Clerical Assistant.

**184. Locum Clerk**

The appointment of a Locum Parish Clerk was **NOTED**

**185. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bracegirdle, Mallard, Marshall and Sellars

**186. Interests**

Councillors Forde and Hall declared a general interest as they also serve as District Councillors

**187. Public Forum**

The following representations were made by the member of the public present:

- Dog fouling around the play area has been solved in conjunction with the Community Officer
- Progress has been made relating to the re-opening of paths 11 & 13. The timelines appeared to be at odds with information Councillors Forde and Hall had received.
- Concerns were raised regarding commercial lorries going down Mead Way as part of the Lowfield development. The member of the public had attempted to raise concerns directly with the developer but they were of the opinion that the developer was uninterested. Councillor Forde commented there is preparatory work being undertaken onsite, so it may not have been the developer onsite but rather one of their contractors. Councillors Forde and Hall as District Councillors will contact the developer suggesting a community/residents meeting.
- The Council's groundsmen were thanked for attending to cemetery potholes although a bridlepath required attention. The resident was advised that this was the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council.

**188. County and District Councillors' Reports**

The following verbal reports were provided:

Councillor Smith looked forward to working with the Parish Council and had found residents to be warm and welcoming. It has only been 3 weeks since the election, so committee assignments are being agreed. Councillor Smith is a retired solicitor and has served both in private practice and Local Government specialising in employment law.

Councillor Forde referenced that Newark & Sherwood District Council's preferred option for Nottinghamshire's Local Government Reforms had been submitted. Two other Local Government options have been submitted. More will be known after May 2026.

The planning application on land southeast of Bullpit Road had been approved despite the Council's objections.

Councillor Forde also referred to his portfolio work on Greener Gateways and the impending initiative to improve play parks with corresponding match funding opportunities.

Councillor Hall confirmed Councillor Forde's early point regarding the land southeast of Bullpit Road planning application, she spoke to the Council's objection at Newark & Sherwood's November Planning Meeting, but the planning application had been recommended for approval by Newark & Sherwood's Planning Officer assigned to the application with the Committee supporting the officer's recommendation.

Councillor Hall had enjoyed the Remembrance Day afternoon tea hosted by Newark & Sherwood District Council at the Village Centre. In January 2026, Councillor Hall would be working with the Life Chances for Girls initiative.

**189. Minutes**

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of 29 October 2025 meeting were an accurate record with the Chairman signed the minutes as confirmation.

**190. Parish Councillors' Reports**

The Chairman outlined the Remembrance Sunday commemorations and how the community had come together to honour those who had given their lives in service for us. She thanked those who attended and the many who worked behind the scenes to ensure it was a smooth, reflective and appropriate homage from Balderton.

Attendance at a diverse mix of community events was also outlined as well as the need for a good choir singing voice during December

**191. Civility and Respect**

Councillors **AGREED** to individually commit or not to the Councillor Statement of Assurance

**192. Clerk's Report**

The Locum Clerk provided a verbal operational update of her 4 weeks in post including attendance at the Remembrance Sunday commemorations with most of her focus spent in readiness for tonight's meeting, preparing a draft budget and meeting Councillors and staff.

She reminded Councillors who had agreed to be bank signatories of the part they play in ensuring that the Council is considered a responsible customer. There had been little opportunity to walk the parish, but it was hoped that in the immediate term, availability of time would allow that.

**193. Lake**

A working party had been formed to seek and prioritise potential lake actions so that the £12,000 budget was appropriately spent and grant funding opportunities are actioned. There were two different types of seasonal weed this year. The weed seen in April through to June has been present before but the July through to September blooms are from the newest incumbent. This weed is not harmful; it is a native, non-invasive weed which is also an oxygenator. The membership of Grove Angling would like the weed to be removed. The Environmental Agency has already confirmed that dye cannot be used to eradicate it because there is an outlet from the lake. A specialised contractor has attended site and offered their approach on how to remove the weed from the lake should it reappear. The weed could be cut and placed at specific spots around the lakeside. It is compostable, reduces fast and it could be used by local growing groups.

The planting scheme of bulbs and other vegetation had been completed.

The Chairman of the Amenities Committee said it has taken time to understand the changeable environmental circumstances and to ascertain the bigger picture. With different groups/agencies needing to be involved, as there were differing criteria in applying and securing grant funding. It was felt that this collaborative approach was working.

**194. Finance**

a) The Quarter 2 payment to actual report was **NOTED**
**b)** The October 2025 payments list was **VERIFIED**
**c)** The bank reconciliations for October 2025 were **APPROVED**

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**195. Internal Auditor**

It was **AGREED** to proceed with the services of Office Elite Limited for the on-site interim internal audit

**196. Budget**

The first draft of the budget for the year ending 31 March 2027 was reviewed. It was **NOTED** that the budget would also proceed through the Amenities and the Personnel and Policy Committees

**197. Planning**

The following planning applications/consultations were considered:

a) 25/01653/HOUSE
22 Bullpit Road Balderton Newark on Trent NG24 3PT - Proposed rear extension & garage conversion
**No comment**

b) 25/01705/FUL
Saint Gobain Formula Jericho Works Bowbridge Lane Balderton Newark on Trent NG24 3BZ - New bag packing machine extension
**The Council supported the point raised in the Senior Environmental Health Officer's email, that the applicant must abide by the noise levels in the noise statement.**

c) 25/01297/HOUSE
12 Orchid Close Balderton Newark on Trent NG24 3ET - Proposed Garage extension to the side and rear in order to create a workshop.
**No comment**

d) 25/01808/TPO
46 Church Lane Balderton Newark on Trent NG24 3NW – Proposal to Undertake works to trees protected by TPO N11, land to the South of Church Lane, Balderton - removal of mixed hedging on the applicants side of a ditch for the width of the property
**Objection, as the removal of the mixed hedging would be a biodiversity loss and cause damage to the environment. There is a ditch on the other side of the property's fence which is a watercourse and the hedging helps maintain the effectiveness of the ditch's flood management.**

e) 25/01788/FUL
Trinity Hind Traders, Unit 10 Hawton Business Park, Hawton Lane – Change of use of unit from B8 (storage and distribution) to Class E (commercial, business and service)
**No comment**

**198. Street Naming**

The following street names for Lowfield Lane, Balderton were **AGREED** for submission: Owl, Hedgehog, Fox, Sparrow, Rabbit, Badger. There was a request to call the development: The Hedgerows.

**199. Newark & Sherwood District Council Planning Committee**

Councillor Hall's participation speaking to the planning application: 25/00805/FULM – Land to the Southeast of Bullpit Road, Balderton, NG24 3NA was **NOTED**

**200. Correspondence**

a) EMCCA Mayor's Transport Plan Consultation would be published to social media

**201. 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

**202.** The Locum Clerk's contract was **DEFERRED**

**203.** The Officer staffing arrangements were **AGREED:**

a) Temporary contracts were extended by 3 months
b) A probation period would continue

Meeting Closed at: 21:26

Chairman (name): _____

Chairman (signature): _____

Date: _____

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