Balderton Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 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, Martyn Cox, Mandie Elson, Roy Fairbairn, Jakub Hague, James Hague, Jean Hall, Debbie Moore, Dean Scott, and Joy Sellars

District & County Councillors: Kay Smith, Keith Girling and Sam Smith

Officer Support: Interim/Locum Parish Clerk, Sharon Pyke

Public: 3

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.

276. Welcome

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

277. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Marshall

278. Interests

Councillor Hall declared a general interest as they also serve as a District Councillor

279. Public Forum

No representations were made but two new Balderton residents attended to gain a sense of the community and the Parish Council. Unfortunately, their welcome to the village included having their house egged, they were sadly assured that they weren't the only household but were encouraged to report such anti-social behaviour to the Police.

280. County and District Councillors' Reports

County Councillor Girling provided an update on the patching/resurfacing of London Road, work had started and would continue over the summer. An invitation was extended to veterans and pensioners to attend Newark Services Club to watch Trooping the Colour on a big screen on 13 June 2026.

County Councillor Smith mentioned a cluster of potholes on Wolfit Avenue near the school which had been reported and outlined that Main Street would be resurfaced in late June/early July (weather dependent) which would be subject to a traffic management plan. Contact will be made with the landlord of Brisbane Court to enquire if benches, flowers and the like could be sited to make the area more inviting as a place to sit, eat and socialise. County Councillor Smith offered to help fund from his divisional fund.

District Councillor Kay Smith provided an overview of the scrutiny committees that she served upon, her involvement with renewable energy aspirations, learning gained in relation to available grant funding schemes and assisting residents with their queries.

District Councillor Forde had submitted a report earlier in the week which had been circulated to Councillors.

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.

281. Minutes

a) It was **AGREED** that the minutes of 25 March 2026 meeting were an accurate record once a correction had been made to change the months under Finance, minute 258a to258d, as per the agenda. Instead of December, the month should read January and instead of January, the month should read February. The Chairman signed the minutes as confirmation.
b) The minutes from the Amenities Committee held on 08 April 2026 were **NOTED**. There were no recommendations for Council.

282. Parish Councillors' Report

Councillors Moore & Elson covered the success of Easter Monday's community event which was hosted by Councillors. With plenty of children present wanting their face painted, or keen to participate in craft activities and archery, listening to a story, reviewing the artwork for the keep Balderton clean campaign and enjoying the home-made cakes. Beaumont House will be the recipient of monies raised. Both Councillors thanked their fellow Councillors including District Councillor Kay Smith for their help in making this such an enjoyable event.

283. Finance

a) The payments made in March 2026 were **VERIFIED**
b) The bank reconciliations for March 2026 were **APPROVED**
c) The Q4 (year-end) to actuals report was **APPROVED**

284. Assets

A question was raised about desks purchased in 2023 which the locum Clerk said would be looked into and an amendment would be made. On this basis, the Asset Register for the year ending 31 March 2026 was **APPROVED.**

Councillor Fairbairn offered to work with the locum Clerk to review and update the replacement values for big ticket items such as the Village Centre boilers.

285. Bank Mandate

It was **APPROVED** to remove the Assistant Clerk's name from the CCLA, Lloyds and Unity Bank mandates

286. No Mow May

The Head Groundsman had confirmed that operationally the initiative had been planned for. The continuation of No Mow May was **APPROVED.**

The Chairman sought approval to re-order the agenda at this point with the Village Trail agenda item deferred until after Planning. Council agreed. The minutes are recorded in agenda order. Councillor Hall arrived for the Village Trail agenda item.

287. Village Trail

The locum Clerk provided an update on the long running challenge of siting the carved wooden Ox in its original location. More recently this has resulted in a request from Via to consider alternate sites. However, no accident/safety data has been provided to evidence that the preferred location is a highways concern. The Chairman said that the planning application for the micro energy storage project was in the same vicinity and suggested that a disproportionate amount of resource had been expended on trying to site the Ox. Therefore, it was suggested that the roundabout at the bottom of London Road could be considered to conclude this phase of the project even though the roundabout is not within the Balderton parish, it's in Fernwood parish. Concerns were raised that a roundabout may not be suitable as young children could run across the road to touch the Ox. A question was asked about the merit of the decision-making process appearing to enable one County Councillor's opposition to the site; as well as an observation that without the data it was difficult to establish why the preferred site is potentially unsuitable. The majority of Councillors wanted to see the Ox sited where it was originally intended.

A County Councillor present intervened and suggested that the Council could start a petition to site the Ox in its preferred location. It was **AGREED** that the creation of a petition be delegated to Councillors Bright and Elson.

288. Notice of Landowner Deposits

The deposit of a map, statement and declaration under section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 and deposit a statement under section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006 had been made in relation to land north of Staple Lane, Balderton to Nottinghamshire County Council was **NOTED**

289. 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) 26/00419/HOUSE
97 Manners Road, NG24 3JB - Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension
No comment

b) 26/00331/HOUSE
15 Wordsworth Drive, NG24 3QY - Single storey front extension including conversion of garage
No comment

c) 26/00473/FUL
Land to the west of London Road - Construction and operation of a micro energy storage project
Comment
The planning application refers to a belief that the noise generated will have no significant impact. Is that testing conducted in isolation? Given the proposed location and its proximity to residential properties, could the accumulation of noise be collectively detrimental and take it beyond an acceptable threshold for residents to peaceably enjoy their homes & gardens
The Council would like to have read and considered Nottinghamshire County Council Highways and Environment Departments submissions.

290. Planning Approval
Planning approval for 25/01794/HOUSE - 4 Wesley Close, NG24 3LH - Replace existing flat roof to a pitched tile roof over garage and utility was **NOTED**

291. Correspondence
To note any correspondence:
a) Newark & Sherwood District Council Planning Consultation - To note the Public Consultation on the Draft Interim Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2026 and Draft Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2026: **https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/spds/**
Councillors were encouraged to complete

292. 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

293. The exempt notes from 25 March were **APPROVED** and signed

294. An update on Staffing Matters was provided:

b) It was **AGREED** to advertise the Assistant Clerk position in due course
d) It was **AGREED** to accept the Clerk's resignation and delegate any residual matters to Councillors Callingham and Cox within an agreed framework. It was **AGREED** to advertise the vacancy in due course.
e) It was **AGREED** to advertise for a locum Clerk to cover the locum Clerk's extended leave. Councillors Buxton, Cox, James Hague and Moore offered to sit on the interview panel as required, with the insitu locum Clerk providing support.

Meeting Closed at: 9.34pm

Chairman (name): _____

Chairman (signature): _____

Date: _____