

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 15th July, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Gordon Fiddy, James Kiddy, Jennie Tipler, Heather Pierce, Kim Pearson, and Jeremy Wade.

Public: 1

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor.

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Nick Coates, Steve Wilcox
2. **Resignation of Paul Anderson from the PC:** Gordon Fiddy thanked Paul Anderson for all his time on the Parish Council. The vacancy will be advertised.
3. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None.
4. **Public Participation (15 mins):** None
The Chair thanked the Balsham Feast Committee, Debbie Paton and Glynis Hanlon for all their hard work organising the Balsham Feast.
5. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th June, 2024:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
6. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
County Councillor: The report was shorter due to pre-election period. It will be interesting to see if the new Government will continue with the plans with house building in Cambridge.
The Sunnica Solar farm has been approved in Suffolk. The ban on offshore windfarms has been lifted.
Geoff Harvey will look at progressing the EV Charger points with Helen Ford.
Anaerobic Digestion: The application is being discussed at the CCC Planning Meeting on Wednesday in Huntingdon. The PC weren't notified of the meeting due to an error. The Acorn application in Haverhill hasn't been determined yet.
Henry Batchelor to speak on behalf of Balsham PC.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Improvements to the Prince Memorial:** All stonework has been completed and the metal for the benches. The oak delivery has been delayed. The PC thanked Rob Ellam, Andy Willers, Martin Chamberlain and Stan Stinton for all their excellent work at the Prince Memorial.
 - b) **Levelling of the edges at the car park:** Rob Ellam has dug the root of a tree out which was causing the issue, filled the hole and made the area good.
 - c) **New bench for the bus shelter:** A quote will be organised for a recycled plastic bench for the bus shelter near Lower Farm.
 - d) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** The PC agreed to order the new map cases as per the letter from The Map Group and they will be mounted back to back. The Map Project will pay a donation towards the cost of the map case.
The map board in Rosie Green Wood needs to be cut open and refurbished and the back board will then be replaced.

- e) **Defibrillator installation at May's Ave:** The PC are chasing up the installation of the defibrillator at the Community Hall at Mays Ave.
- f) **Bridge at the recreation ground and allotment field:** Rob Ellam has cut the vegetation back and the damaged wooden slats have been reported to CCC.
- g) **Footpath from Recreation Ground to rear field:** Permission has been received from Mr Cubitt that the uneven path can be filled with compacted dirt and the trees were cut back to let the light in and dry out the path.
- h) **UK Power Network wires in trees in High Street:** UK Networks are programming in the work to cut back the trees from the wires.

8. Allocation of S106 funds

- a) **Additional quotes from the Scouts:** No information has been received.
- b) **Request for funding from Church Institute for solar panels and batteries:** The Church Institute have applied for a grant from SCDC for £ 15,000 towards the cost of £ 20,230 and have asked the PC to donate £ 2,500 from S106 money. The PC agreed for the money to be paid to the Church Institute Committee if they are awarded the grant from SCDC.

9. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: T1: Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Fell. Due to a severe infestation of bamboo that is causing damage to the property and adjoining properties, we need to remove the bamboo rhizomes. However, due to the proximity of T1, we will cause significant structural damage to T1, therefore, it is required that we remove the tree to safely undertake the removal of the invasive bamboo.

Site address: 85 High Street Balsham Reference: 24/0662/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/0662/TTPO>

PC Decision: Approved

Proposal: Demolition and replacement of existing annexe and installation of air source heat pump.

Site address: 19 Linton Road Balsham Reference: 24/02304/HFUL

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/02304/HFUL>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: T1 Dead Elm. Posing risk to the highway. Fell and remove T2 Ash. Lapsed coppice (multi stemmed tree). Significant Ash dieback (Cat 3/4 as per the Tree Council Guide). Main stem is dead and poses risk to highway. Fell and remove.

Site address: 1 Linton Road Balsham Reference: 24/0652/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/0652/TTPO>

PC Decision: Approve

b) Decisions:

10. Allotment update:

- a) **Condition of allotments:** An allotment inspection will take before the end of September.
- b) **PC allotment rep vacancy/setting up an allotment committee:** The legalities will be looked into before the committee is set up.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

- a) **Zero carbon grant:** Gordon Fiddy has contacted a company to organise an energy

survey at the pavilion.

b) Replacing guttering and fascia board quotes: The quote from Price Right Roofing was approved by the PC.

c) Acoustics in the Green Room of the pavilion: The PC approved the quote for acoustic boards from Acoustics Advice for £ 4,678.00, but the Clerk is going to confirm how low they hang from the ceiling and which colours are available.

12. Highway Matters:

a) Water issue in West Wrattling and West Wickham Road: The PC is very concerned about West Wickham Road and the water over the road. CCC have been asked to send timescales of when the work is going to be organised.

b) Condition of footpaths in Trinity Close: Henry Batchelor to ask for clarification at Highways about the timescale of maintenance.

c) Condition of School Lane: The lane is in an awful condition, and it is flooding and the road is breaking up. The condition of the School Lane has been reported to CCC Highways and the school and Sutton Hall will be asked to cut back the trees.

13. Correspondence: None

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 10/07/2024 and any invoices/receipts received up until 15/07/24 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

| Payments (July) | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 132.97 Exp: £ 161.43 Pension £ 78.80 | | £ 1,382.26 |
| M McCall £ 290.25 (Gross) £ 58.00 (Tax) | | £ 272.75 |
| S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00 | | £ 210.00 |
| Debbie Paton (signs for pavilion) | | £ 12.30 |
| Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 346/3281/3337) | | £ 270.00 |
| ICO (Subscription) | | £ 35.00 |
| Rob Ellam (Path and Prince Memorial refurb) | | £ 5,590.33 |
| Amazon (Key safe, toilet rolls/towels for pavilion) | | £ 87.72 |
| Kleen Windows x 2 | | £ 60.00 |
| Point Contact Hygienist | | £ 171.54 |
| Cyril Denny (CI Hedge) | | £ 75.00 |
| Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 3338/3329/3304) | | £ 1,374.00 |
| Martin Chamberlain (Metal benches) | | £ 605.00 |
| Rob Ellam (car park/bridge) | | £ 834.00 |
| Total payments (July) | | £ 10,979.90 |

Bank Balances as at 10/07/2024

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Community A/C: | £ | 1,791.28 |
| H.I. Account: | £ | 123,326.19 |
| 3 month notice account (Lloyds) | £ | 42,490.67 |
| Total | £ | 167,608.14 |

15. Area Report:

a) Fleam Dyke: The condition of the path will be reported to Highways as it is impossible for pedestrians to use from Fox Road to Dungate Farm. The trees/roots are dangerous, and people are using farmers' fields and walking through Dungate Farm.

b) Buttercups: Clerk to ask for an update on the finances.

c) Balsham Ploughmen: The Ploughmen have agreed to donate £ 1,000 to the Prince Memorial refurbishment.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 16th September, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed

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Date

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