

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 16th September, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Gordon Fiddy, Steve Wilcox, Heather Pierce, Kim Pearson, Jennie Tipler and Lynda Henderson.

Public: 3

Also in attendance: Henry Batchelor

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Nick Coates, Jeremy Wade, James Kiddy and Geoff Harvey.
2. **Parish Council co-option:** The PC unanimously co-opted Lynda Henderson onto the PC.
3. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None
4. **Public Participation (15 mins):**

The Church Institute received the Zero Carbon grant of £ 15,000 from SCDC to fund solar panels and a battery. The PC agreed at the last meeting to donate £ 2,500 to the project from the S106 money.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: The PC thanked Jo Stinton and Judy Richards for organising the Macmillan Coffee morning and for all the people attending and raising £ 1,020.00.

Solar Farm: Kingsway Solar haven't been in touch with the PC.
5. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July, 2024:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
6. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

County Councillor: Consultation on the potential for bus franchising in Cambridgeshire has opened and there will be a pop-up evening on 10th October at Imperial War Museum in Duxford.

The planning for the Anaerobic Digester in Streetly End was granted. A Local Liaison group to be set up including Parish Councillors which will be as they start construction of the site.

Active Travel: The map for Balsham was discussed.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Improvements to the Prince Memorial:** The PC has received a number of positive comments about the improvements which have been completed at the Prince Memorial.
 - b) **New bench for the bus shelter:** Clerk to order the new bench.
 - c) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** The Clerk to confirm if the CCC will allow the installation of the map board from the green near May's Ave to the land opposite Lower Farm near the bench. When the location is agreed new map boards will be ordered. The Clerk will prepare the text to reproduce the artwork for the tree board at Rosie Green Wood. The cabinets at Rosie Green Wood will be restored.
 - d) **Defibrillator installation at May's Ave:** The defibrillator has been installed.
 - e) **Bridge at the allotment field:** The bridge has been reported to CCC – PROW but no response has been received. Clerk to chase up.

- f) **Footpath from Recreation Ground to rear field:** Local residents have made some very positive comments about the work to open up the path to the field.
- g) **UK Power Network wires in trees in High Street:** The PC believe that the work hasn't been carried out.
- h) **Guttering and fascia board installation:** The work has been completed by Price Right Roofing.
- i) **Acoustics in the Green Room of the pavilion:** The acoustic boards have been installed and the PC has received some very positive comments from user groups.

8. Allocation of S106 funds

- a) **Additional quotes from the Scouts:** No further information has been received from the Scouts.
- b) **Request for funding from Church Institute for solar panels and batteries:** The Clerk will organise the payment of £ 2,500 to the Church Institute as the grant from SCDC has been received.

9. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the siting of a Shepherd's Hut on wheels for use as a Summer House.

Site address: 67 High Street Balsham Reference: 24/02941/CL2PD

Public Access link: <https://applications.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/02941/CL2PD>

No objections

Proposal: Repairs to existing render and timber framing.

Site address: 19 Linton Road Balsham Reference: 24/02959/LBC

Public Access Link: <https://applications.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/02959/LBC>

PC Decision: No Objections

b) Decisions:

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.

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

Granted permission by SCDC

Proposal: Internal and external alterations to convert existing outbuilding building to annex ancillary to main dwelling, including alterations to fenestration and installation of flue

Site address: 39 High Street Balsham Reference: 24/02651/HFUL

Granted permission by SCDC

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

Granted permission by SCDC

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

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

Application withdrawn

Proposal: Lime - L1 - Re-pollard to previous pollarded points. They are at around 2.5m from ground level. The reason we are doing this is that the regrowth on a pollard is Epicormic emergency growth and has no real structural strength. (Owned by Applicant)
 Beech - B1 - Reduce crown by 30%, 1-3m overhanging neighbour and overshadowing garden. (Owned by Neighbour)

Site address: Mulberry Cottage Fox Road Reference: 24/0870/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/0870/TTPO>

Approved by SCDC

10. Allotment update:

a) Condition of allotments: The allotments have been inspected and people will be asked if they continuing. There are 6 vacant plots and no waiting list.

b) PC allotment rep vacancy/setting up an allotment committee: Lynda Henderson will help with the allotment committee. Clerk to set up a meeting of the new allotment committee in October.

c) Removal of bamboo and hedgecutting: The PC approved the quotes for removing the bamboo and hedgecutting at the allotments.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Zero carbon grant / Energy survey: Gordon Fiddy and the Clerk will meet with the consultant to carry out an Energy Survey at the pavilion.

12. Highway Matters:

a) Water issue in West Wickham Road: Highways are planning to clear the gullies and put a camera down the drains on 29th October.

b) Condition of footpaths in Trinity Close: Highways have added Trinity Close footpaths to the maintenance list.

c) Condition of School Lane: Highways have inspected School Lane. The school and Sutton Hall will be asked to cut back their trees to help the lane dry out better.

d) Signposts: There are a number of signposts that need replacing including a signpost at The Bell crossroads signposting West Wickham and West Wrating and a signpost at the Hildersham junction.

13. Correspondence: All emailed out to Councillors.

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 11/09/24 and any invoices/receipts received up until 16/09/24 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts	
Balsham Singers	£ 730.00
Allotment rent	£ 95.00
Total receipts	£ 825.00
Payments (August/September)	
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 132.97 Exp: £ 157.28 Pension £ 78.80	£ 1,378.11
M McCall £ 229.50 (Gross) £ 46.00 (Tax)	£ 183.50
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
British Gas Lite	£ 80.65
Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 3264/3353/3372/3265)	£ 822.00
Drax Energy	£ 316.91
Bradnams & Son (wood for Prince Memorial)	£ 1,756.80
Steve Thurgood (pavilion work)	£ 43.00

HMRC	£ 826.58
Price Right Roofing	£ 2,390.00
Rob Ellam	£ 609.60
British Gas Lite	£ 65.62
Drax Energy	£ 332.41
Cambridgeshire Pensions	£ 739.24
LGS Services	£ 186.00
Kleen Windows	£ 30.00
Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 3427/3419/3399/3394)	£ 912.00
Acoustic Advice	£ 5,613.60
Chris Hall	£ 205.00
Drax Energy	£ 139.42
Cyril Denny	£ 75.00
Kleen Windows	£ 30.00
NextNorth	£ 180.00
Business Service (Insurance)	£ 1,797.80
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 132.97 Exp: £ 154.38 Pension £ 78.80	£ 1,375.21
M McCall £ 337.50 (Gross) £ 67.40 (Tax)	£ 284.31
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 3462)	£ 606.00
TOTAL	£ 21,398.76

Bank Balances as at 11/09/2024

Community A/C:	£ 2,431.44
H.I. Account:	£ 103,326.19
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 43,871.51
Total	£ 149,629.14

15. Area Report:

a) Cricket Club: The Cricket Club has informed the PC that the club is folding as there are not enough players. The Cricket Club are going to make a final decision after their AGM in October. The Cricket Club will remove their equipment from the pavilion and recreation ground when it has been confirmed at the Cricket Club is closing.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 21st October, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed

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Date

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