

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 18th November, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

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

Public: 2

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Nick Coates, James Kiddy
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**

Solar Farm: Simon Chandler (Chair of West Wrating PC) attended the meeting and explained that he was organising an extraordinary meeting of West Wrating PC on 5th December to discuss the Solar Farm consultation response and he would like other PC's to attend with the Kingsway Solar Action Group.

Pippa Heylings has said publicly that she is opposed to the application and her objection is based on the fact that if there was a land use framework in place the application wouldn't be here. The main issue is using Burwell Substation, and using above the ground wires and pylons. The application doesn't make sense from an environmental standpoint.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st October, 2024:**

The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

County Councillor: The upgrade of the A1307 is continuing with a new Park and Ride site at Babraham.

The new PROW officer at CCC is Oliver Ayto.

District Councillor: The mobile warden scheme has been extended for another 10 years. The bus franchising consultation ends in 2 days. The Government are putting funding into South Cambs bus service.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **New bench for the bus shelter:** The bench has been delivered and Rob Ellam is going to install asap.
 - b) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** The new map cases are on order.
 - c) **Bridge at the allotment field:** Clerk to ask Rob Ellam to mend the bridge.
 - d) **UK Power Network wires in trees in High Street:** Work has taken place, but the work was unsatisfactory and they need to come back again to carry out more tree cutting.
 - e) **Orchard Close:** Cambridge Housing haven't responded to an email about ownership of the trees.
7. **Solar Farm**
 - a) **Report about Solar Farm working party meeting with Kingsway Solar:** Some members of the PC met with a employee of Kingsway Solar and an employee from Carter Jonas.

Lots of questions were asked and the representatives were unable to answer most of the

questions.

b) Kingsway Consultation discussion: The Parish Council voted that they were unanimously against the Kingsway Solar Farm and the PC will draft a response to the Kingsway Solar Consultation document.

c) Village Survey: The PC have organised an online Solar Farm survey and a hardcopy will be delivered to every household and can be dropped into a collection box at the Post Office.

8. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Acacia Remove small low branch 2m in length which is growing into neighbouring tree.

Site address: 36 High Street Balsham Reference: 24/1253/TTCA **PC Decision:** Approve

Proposal: T1: Ash - Crown reduce over extended lateral limb which is above footpath by up to 4m.

Site address: Balsham Footpath 7 Balsham Reference: 24/1214/TTPO

PC Decision: Approve

b) Decisions

Proposal: T001 - Cherry Plum - Remove

Site address: 39 High Street Balsham Reference: 24/1134/TTCA

SCDC approved

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for loft conversion.

Site address: 3 Field End Balsham Reference: 24/03571/CL2PD

SCDC agreed it is permitted development

9. Allotment update

a) Report from allotment meeting: Jennie Tipler organised an Allotment Working Party Meeting which was attended by allotment members and the Clerk. The Committee agreed to meet twice a year. There was lots of discussion about the management of the allotments and there have been a number of enquires of new allotment holders.

b) Removal of bamboo: There has been another patch of bamboo at the back of Hay Close. Herts and Cambs will be asked to remove the bamboo.

10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Zero carbon grant / Energy survey: The company hasn't sent the quote to the PC yet.

11. Highway Matters:

a) Water issue in West Wickham Road: The water issue is ongoing and the contractor that carried out the CCTV of the drains have mislaid the footage. The PC have been chasing up Highways for a solution to the issues.

b) Condition of School Lane: The PC have asked CCC Highways to clear the debris in School Lane.

c) Missing signposts: All the missing signposts have been reported to Highways.

d) 20 is plenty: Feedback has been received. A new application will be organised and a request for comments will be put in the review.

12. Correspondence:

a) Flood lights for dog walking request: The PC has received some correspondence about the flood lights, but a decision was made not to put the floodlights for the dog walkers due to cost and making the area around the floodlights too muddy.

13. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 13-11-24 and any invoices/receipts received up until 18-11-2024 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

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|--|-------------------|
| Receipts | |
| Gardening Club | £ 180.00 |
| Allotment rent | £ 1,342.50 |
| | |
| Total receipts | £ 1,522.50 |
| Payments (October) | |
| T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 76.80 Exp: £ 154.32 Pension £ 78.80 | £ 1,400.55 |
| M McCall £ 249.75 (Gross) £ 50.00 (Tax) | £ 199.75 |
| S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00 | £ 210.00 |
| British Gas Lite | £ 60.74 |
| Engie Power (Street lights) | £ 136.95 |
| Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 3508/3509) | £ 1,284.00 |
| TOTAL | £ 3,613.25 |

Bank Balances as at 13/11/2024

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Community A/C: | £ | 4,195.84 |
| H.I. Account: | £ | 123,764.69 |
| 3 month notice account (Lloyds) | £ | 43,871.51 |
| Total | £ | 149,629.14 |

b) S106 account update: The PC discussed the S106 account update and it was agreed that the grass in the Community Orchard will be cut around the trees when it is drier.

14. Area Report:

a) **Balsham Parochial Charities:** The PC unanimously approved that Steve Wilcox will be the PC representative on the Balsham Parochial Charities with James Kiddy.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 20th January, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed

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Date

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