

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 21st October, 2024 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

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

Public: 2

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Henry Batchelor
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**
A member of the public thanked Highways for flattening the road outside the 'House on the Green' which is so much better for vehicles and pedestrians.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th September, 2024:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
Empty Council House Properties: The PC has raised concerns about a property that has been empty for a while in Mays Ave. It has just been relet. Other council properties are being upgraded with insulation.
EV chargers were discussed, and it was agreed that the cost would outweigh the demand. The bus franchise consultation is live.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **New bench for the bus shelter:** The bench has been ordered for the bus shelter.
 - b) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** Two new map boards have been ordered and Stuart King has been contacted to carry out the work. The PC has asked CCC Highways for permission to relocate the map to the land opposite Lower Farm near the bench.
 - c) **Bridge at the allotment field:** PROW at CCC has been chased up to mend the bridge.
 - d) **UK Power Network wires in trees in High Street:** UK Power Network haven't been out to cut the trees back. Jerry Wade to chase up.
 - e) **Trees in Orchard Close:** Two trees have fallen into the road in Orchard Close. They were cleared by local people. The Clerk will contact the Housing Society to see if they own the land and ask for maintenance to be organised.
7. **Allocation of S106 funds:** Clerk to update the S106 accounts and send to all Parish Councillors.
8. **Solar Farm Consultation meeting:** The Solar Farm consultancy company has been in touch with the Clerk, and they hope to go live with the public consultation on 31st October and have a consultation meeting on 15th November, 2024 at Balsham Pavilion.

9. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: T001 - Cherry Plum - Remove

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

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/1134/TTCA>

PC Decision: No objection, Comments that the hedge needs facing back in Woodhall Lane and the horse chestnut tree needs to be cut back.

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for loft conversion.

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

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/03571/CL2PD>

PC Decision: No objections

b) Decisions

Proposal: Repairs to existing render and timber framing.

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

SCDC Decision: Granted

Proposal: Lime - L1 - Re-pollard to previous pollarded points. They are at around 2.5m from ground level. Site address: Mulberry Cottage Fox Road Reference: 24/0870/TTPO

SCDC Decision: Granted

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

SCDC Decision: Granted

10. Allotment update

a) Setting up an allotment committee: The allotment committee will meet on 30th October at Balsham Pavilion.

b) Removal of bamboo and hedgecutting: The bamboo has been removed near the Hawthorns and will be sprayed if it returns. The hedges have been cut around the allotments and more hedges will be cut back further before the winter.

c) Update: There are 2 full sized and 6 half sized allotments available. £ 1,437.50 rent has been received and £ 170.00 for water.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Zero carbon grant / Energy survey: Gordon Fiddy and Clerk met with Home Energy Innovations. They suggested installing more loft installation and to check if the pavilion has cavity wall installation and suggested a company to carry out the work. Home Energy Innovations will produce some plans and costings for solar panels at the pavilion.

12. Highway Matters:

a) Water issue in West Wickham Road: The road will be closed on 26th October by the water company and Highways are going to clean out the drains and resurface the holes in the road.

b) Condition of School Lane: Nothing has been done by Highways which is disappointing for pedestrians using the lane.

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

d) 20mph application: Unfortunately the application was not successful. The next window for applications opens in January. Information about the AD Plant to be added to the next application. Kim Pearson will organise a survey of the parishioners. Some

questions will be drafted by Kim Pearson.

13. Correspondence:

a) Shared Ownership Home for sale – Hay Close: The information has been advertised.

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 16/10/2024 and any invoices/receipts received up until 21/10/24 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts	
Pavilion Rent (Funeral)	£ 24.00
Allotment rent	£ 1,342.50
2 nd Precept payment	£ 25,438.50
Gardening Club	£ 180.00
Total receipts	£ 26,985.00
Payments (October)	
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ + 44.43 Exp: £ 153.50 Pension £ 78.80	£ 1,551.73
M McCall £ 455.63 (Gross) £ 91.20 (Tax) £ 5.40 (Ex)	£ 369.83
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 15/10/2024

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

15. Area Report:

a) Water flowing out of the drain opposite Dairy Way: The water is running flooding down the road. All the drains need to be reported to Highways to be jetted.

b) Street light: The light which is opposite Linton Road No. 34 will be reported again.

c) Poppy wreath: The PC approved a donation of £ 100.00 to the Poppy Appeal.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 18th November, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed

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Date

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