

***BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL***  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at 7.30 pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

**Present:** Gordon Fiddy, James Kiddy, Steve Wilcox, Kim Pearson, Nick Coates, Jennie Tipler and Lynda Henderson.

**Public:** 2

**Also in attendance:** Geoff Harvey, Henry Batchelor

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Heather Pierce, Jerry Wade.
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None.
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**

**Kingsway Solar Farm Action Group:** Simon Chandler attended the PC meeting and explained that funding will be required to engage with experts. The Alliance of Parish Councils was discussed but no further information was available. Simon explained that West Wrating PC has earmarked £ 5,000 reserves. The PC funding of the Sonicca application was £ 30,000 split between 15 PC's. but the horseracing community topped it up and the total amount of £ 300,000. A Landscape report is important in the evaluation stage. The funding could be split between 10/15 Parish Councils.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2024:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

**District Councillor:** Unitary Authorities are being discussed and there are discussions taking place between SCDC and Cambridge City Council. This all needs to be in place by 2027 and District Elections won't take place until 2026. There is a public consultation on the 4-day week taking place. There is concern that 23 Mays Ave hasn't been let out and now the dwelling has had flooding damage. The PC asked Geoff Harvey if there is a council house waiting list.

**County Councillor:** West Wickham Road pothole has been escalated to the Chief of Highways and they are checking it weekly and repairing the hole. A permanent solution needs to be found, and the ditch needs to be dug out and piped to the ditch. Henry Batchelor is planning to organise a meeting with SCDC and CCC planning officers and the Solar Farm action group to discuss the process with the inspector and details of the National Planning Process.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **New bench for the bus shelter:** All installed thanks to Rob Ellam.
  - b) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** The new map boards have been purchased and Dick Padon is organising the installation.
  - c) **Bridge at the allotment field:** CCC haven't mended the bridge and due to it being dangerous the PC will ask Rob Ellam to replace the boards.
  - d) **UK Power Network wires in trees in High Street:** The lower branches need cutting off the leylandii trees now that the tree work has been carried out by UK Power Network. Clerk to contact Aldertons.

## 7. Solar Farm

- a) Parish Councillors to represent Balsham PC on KSCA (Kingsway Solar Community Action):** KSCA will try and send a member to each PC meeting. KSCA have a Whatsapp group with updates and Kathy Day offered to send weekly updates to the Clerk who will forward the updates to the PC.
- b) Formulation of a creation of an Alliance of Parish Councils:** More information to be received from Simon Chandler (Chair of West Wrating PC)
- c) Response to Kingsway Solar Scoping Report:** The response was sent to the Planning Inspector. The full response is on the website.
- d) Village Survey results:** The survey results are: 257 responses from 88.9 % Balsham residents. The results are 77% agree, 10.9 support, 10.9 undecided, 1.2 don't care. The results will be reported in the Balsham Review and on the website.

## 8. Planning:

### a) For Discussion:

Proposal: S19 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of listed building consent 24/01128/LBC (Alterations to existing ground floor utility room and separate WC to create a shower room with WC and a smaller utility area including the demolition of an internal non-load bearing wall and the construction of a new stud wall at right angles to the existing wall and the insertion of a doorway into the existing rear wall of the conservatory to access the new shower room) for a reconfiguration of the internal wall.  
Site address: 4 West Wickham Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 25/00122/S19LB

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/00122/S19LB>

**PC Decision:** Approve

Proposal: Single storey side/rear extension and replace and enlarge the existing opening for bi-fold doors.

Site address: 17 Queens Close Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 24/04638/HFUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/04638/HFUL>

**PC Decision:** Approve

### b) Decisions

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 **Approved by SCDC.**

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

**Approved by SCDC**

## 9. Allotment update

- a) Update on vacant allotments:** 18 allotment haven't paid and chaser emails/letters have been sent. There are two full sized and 5 half plots available for rent. An advert will be put in the review.
- b) Removal of bamboo:** Some more bamboo has been found at the rear of Hay Close houses on the allotment side. The bamboo will be removed by Herts and Cambs.

**10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

**a) Zero carbon grant / Energy survey:** A quote has been received from Orion for £ 1,680.00 for cavity wall insulation and £ 1,731.00 for loft insulation. The Clerk will organise another quote.

**b) TAC Cricket Club:** The Clerk has taken references for TAC Cricket Club and has agreed that a midweek cricket match will be charged at £ 45.00 for the first year and the season price for 2026 will be £ 1,300.00 a season. This amount will just be for the rent of the pavilion and recreation ground and the wicket upkeep will be organised and financed by the Cricket Team with Cambs and Herts. The rent will be reviewed every year. The Clerk will draft some terms and conditions. The rent will be paid in advance. A review will be made after the 2025 season.

**11. Highway Matters:**

**a) Water issue in West Wickham Road:** All discussed under 5) County Councillor report. The PC will continue to chase up progress from CCC Highways.

**b) Condition of School Lane:** The condition of School Lane has been reported to CCC Highways.

**12. Correspondence:** All emailed.

- 13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 14/01/2025 and any invoices/receipts received up until 20/01/2025 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

<b>Receipts</b>	
Allotments	£ 240.00
Balsham Ploughmen (Donation towards Prince Memorial)	£ 1,000.00
Balsham WI	£ 300.00
L Nixon (Ballet classes)	£ 18.00
Annie West	£ 50.00
Balsham Horticulture Society	£ 90.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£ 1,698.00</b>
<b>Payments (December/January)</b>	
<u>December</u>	£ 1,432.60
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 107.77 Exp: £ 157.29 Pension £ 78.80	
M McCall £ 313.30 (Gross) £ 78.20 (Tax) £ 5.40 Ex	£ 318.70
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
<u>January</u>	£ 1,408.73
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 107.57 Exp: £ 162.50 Pension £ 78.80	
M McCall £ 313.30 (Gross) £ 78.20 (Tax) £ 5.40 Ex	£ 318.70
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
British Gas Lite	£ 226.06
Cambridgeshire Pensions	£ 739.24
Balsham PCC Churchyard	£ 300.00
Saffron Security	£ 109.20
Kleen Windows	£ 60.00
Herts & Cambs Grounds Maintenance Inv 653	£ 534.00
Engie Power	£ 240.27
Nextnorth (Website)	£ 264.00
Viking	£ 36.32
Cambridgeshire Pensions	£ 369.62
Defib Store	£ 236.36
Point Contact	£ 267.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 7,281.55</b>

**Bank Balances as at 14/01/2025**

Community A/C:	£ 3,156.91
H.I. Account:	£ 113,764.69
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 43,871.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 160,793.11</b>

- b) Precept:** The PC discussed the PC budget and agreed to set the precept for 2025-2026 at £ 78,000. Last year's precept was £ 50,763.00 and the increase of £ 27,237 was agreed to cover the cost of £ 20,000 for solar panels and £ 7,500 for funding action against the Solar Farm.

**14. Area Report:**

- a) April Cottage: Clerk to contact to cut back the hedge from the footpath.

- 15. Date of Next Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 21:34 pm

**Signed**

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**Date**

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