

Balsham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 16th September, 2019
at Green Room, Balsham Sports Pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

Present: A West, P Anderson, G Fiddy, D Paton, M Shaheer, J Kiddy, S Thurgood, J Scotland and K Reyes.

Public: 5

Also in attendance: Cllr Henry Batchelor

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Geoff Harvey.
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**
 - Ploughmen:** The ploughmen are looking for worthy village-based good causes to donate to. This can be an individual, charity or organisation.
 - Hunters Moon hedge:** Both the hedges need cutting. The Clerk will contact the developer.
 - Trees in Sutton Hall and School Lane:** The trees require cutting back. Clerk to contact the owners of Sutton Hall.
 - Dog Bin:** The dog bin at Woodhall Lane needs the brambles cutting back and a new bin installed. Clerk to action.
 - Buses:** Local residents are very concerned about the lack of bus services in the village. The shuttle bus isn't sufficient and only runs every 2 hours. The need for buses will increase with all the new houses. Lucy Frazer is campaigning for buses but wants the villagers to put a case forward to it. Stagecoach were asked a few years ago to redirect a bus through Balsham but they wouldn't agree to it. There is a great need for students to be independent. Jude Scotland organised a bus poll on Facebook and received 200 responses. Lucy Frazer requires facts and figures. It was suggested to communicate with Horseheath PC. The PC agreed for Lynn Seager, John Carey and Debbie Paton to meet and discuss the bus provision and how to collect evidence. Henry Batchelor commented that the Big Green Bus Company runs rural services and more are flexible, they also run the shuttle bus.
 - Footpaths:** Thurlow Estate will be contacted to ask them to reinstate the footpath across the horses field, The footpath from Dean Road to the Balsham Wood has also been drilled. Clerk to contact Mr Fairy.
 - Dog bin:** A local resident has asked for the dog bin to be moved at the recreation ground. The PC did not agree with the request as it is accessible for emptying.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July, 2019:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
 - Consultation for Greater Cambridge Partnership work:** All information is on the website. The consultation is on-line until the start of November. The next Combined Parishes meeting will be about by-ways. Annie West to attend.

6. Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) **Water connection at Princes Close allotments:** Waiting for an appointment to be arranged.
- b) **Updated quote for security lighting at the pavilion:** The details will be sent to Steve Thurgood before a decision is made.
- c) **Street light on path between Plumian Way/Burrell Way:** The street light hasn't been mended and it still goes out when someone approaches the light.
- d) **Ditch at rear of Balsham Buildings:** The ditch still hasn't been cleared out. The topsoil is being washed off of people's gardens into the ditch. The PC is concerned about whose responsibility the ditch will be after the properties are sold. The PC needs a guarantee that the Deed of Easement is being passed on.
- e) **Quote for new gate at allotments off The Hawthorns:** The PC approved a quote to remove the wooden gates and supply and fit a new pair of metal gates with throw over arm £ 300.00.
- f) **Archaeological site visit to Linton Road site report:** Residents that attended said that it was a very interesting visit and well attended. A report has been written for the Review. There had been a roman villa and ditches and drains. Two skeletal remains and a bronze buckle have been found.

7. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

S/2504/19/FL 16 Sleaford Close, Balsham

Two storey side & rear extension that replaces the existing porch, conservatory & single storey garage. A single storey extension to the rear/side of the dwelling and increased parking

PC Decision: No recommendation.

The parking is the same and not increased.

S/2866/19/FL The Old Mill House, 23 Linton Road, Balsham

Single storey extension

PC Decision: Approval

b) Decisions: None

8. Allotment update:

- a) Allotment rent renewals: The rents are being paid and Debbie Paton will chase up any late payers.
- b) Post: The post holding in the allotment notice needs to be concreted back in.
- c) Allotment Handbook: Debbie Paton has put together an allotment handbook and is organising a quote for printing it.

9. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

- a) **Improvements to the pavilion and flooring quotes:** The PC discussed a quote from A Westley Construction and D Albon. The PC approved the quote from A Westley construction for £ 24,000.00 (including VAT) for the first stage of improvements and £7,000 for the second stage as the work can be started in October and local people are used as contractors.
- b) **Quote for a bench on recreation ground:** The Clerk will order a bench and agree the location for it to be installed with the sports clubs.
- c) **Updated quote for security lighting at the pavilion:** The quotes were discussed and it was agreed to ask Saffron Security if the lighting could be put in the soffit and not the fascia.

10. a) Highway Issues

b) Pedestrian crossing outside The Meadow School: The wig wag signs are working and the Beacons needs to be connected. The Zig zag lines don't match in length with middle and need to be extended. 20mph is better in school hours.

There are more issues about parking on the bend. The PC are liaising with the police and school. The police attended the school at the end of last week. Staff should not park in Sleaford Close and High Street.

Debbie and Annie to work on signs and notices on cars. A meeting has been arranged with the Headteacher.

c) Road sign in Linton Road: The sign has been reported to SCDC.

e) Overhanging branches in the village: The Clerk to write to a resident in Plumian Way regarding overhanging trees in Plumian Way, overhanging hedges in Linton Road, hedge at Hunters Moon, hedge at Stocking Toft and yew tree head in High Street overhanging Church Lane.

11. Correspondence:

a) Hedge on corner of Burrell Way and parking around the school: Clerk to write to the residents again.

b) Street naming for Development West of Linton Road: The PC unanimously agreed to name the development Samworth Close.

c) Development at Plumbs Dairy: The PC did not agree to the names suggested by the developer and they have asked to name the development Dairy Close. SCDC will be notified.

d) Condition of play equipment: Some local residents have mentioned about the condition of the play equipment. The PC will have funds allocated from developments in the village and plans for the play area will be discussed with Debbie Paton and Steve Jordon and a consultation will take place with children at the school.

12. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 11/09/19 and any invoices/receipts received up until 16/09/19 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Payments August 2019		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp £ 135.20 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,041.38
M McCall (Gross £)	15.5 hrs	£ 148.80
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 154.00	£ 154.00
Point Contact Hygienesis		£ 83.97
Chris Hall		£ 132.00
HMRC		£ 428.88
E & E Plumridge (Allotment signs)		£ 244.20
LGSS (Pension)		£ 413.53
Total Payments		£ 2,646.76
Receipts September 2019		
Allotment receipts		£ 382.50
CCC Grasscutting		£ 444.18
Cheall (bench)		£ 685.80
Total Receipts		£ 1,512.48
Payments September 2019		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp £ 138.50 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,071.38
M McCall (Gross £)	23 hrs & £ 9.00 Expenses	£ 229.80
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 154.00	£ 154.00
Avast		£ 39.99
LGSS (Pension)		£ 413.53

A J King	£ 354.00
Opus Energy	£ 42.45
Cambridgeshire Pension Fund	£ 1,200.00
Church Institute (Emergency lights LED)	£ 450.00
Total Payments	£ 3,955.15

Bank Balances as at 11/09/2019

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 3,344.73
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 87,840.24
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 42,245.29
Total	£ 133,430.26

b) Church Institute: Gordon Fiddy provided information about maintenance that is required at the Balsham Institute provided. The institute raising £ 7,000.00 income and self-sufficient apart from not having enough money for maintenance. Maintenance is essential to attract rentals. The hall does not have disabled toilet facilities which are very important.

The PC has a repairing 35-year lease and the lease expires in June 2023.

The PC agreed that dialogue should be started with Ely Diocese to discuss what happens at the end of the lease.

It was discussed that SCDC have a grant to improve the carbon footprint but the landlord's permission is required.

Wi-fi hub will be put in for the users of the institute paid for on a grant.

A decision will have to be made to see if the PC wants to continue with the lease or release it to the church to run it or offer it back to Ely.

Disabled toilet facilities are very important.

13. Area Report: Nothing to report.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Meeting will be held on 21st October, 2019 at 7.30 pm in The Green Room, Balsham Pavilion, Balsham.

15. Confidential Item: Pavilion

Meeting finished at 10.50 pm

Signed

Date

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