

Balsham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 20th April, 2020
Remote meeting via Zoom at 7.30 p.m.

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

Public: 3

Also in attendance: Cllr Henry Batchelor, Geoff Harvey

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **PC Vacancy:** The PC has had one co-option application from Helen Ford. The PC unanimously approved the application and welcomed Helen Ford to the PC.
3. **Update on new regulations for Covid – 19:**
The new regulations are that the PC can meet remotely via Zoom. The public can join the meeting via an email link. The PC can also make decisions via email.
The Annual Meeting does not have to be organised and the PC agreed not to hold it.
The audit dates will be extended until September.
4. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None.
5. **Public Participation (15 mins):**
Bulbs: The grasscutters will be asked not to cut the areas with bulbs in until after June. The PC agreed to plant some more daffodil bulbs later in September.
COVID-19: The PC are so pleased that the village has rallied around helping each other in the crisis. The PC thanked Debbie Paton and Annie West for helping set up the foodbank. Foodbank, shopping etc.
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th March, 2020:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair. (The minutes will be electronically signed).
7. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
County Councillor: The County Council is starting up the committee meeting up and running as all their decisions are committee based. The Government has put forward £1.6m to the County Councils and discussions are taking place about how it is being divided up. County Council has set up an emergency line hub for each village.
Highways are catching up with a backlog of jobs and into a new financial year. The Local Highways Initiative for 20/21 has been extended indefinitely.
SCDC: Green Bin collection: Due to staff shortages the green bin collection was cancelled, collections should start during May. Food waste can be composted or put into the black bin.
SCDC: Shielding lists have been sent out by SCDC will try and help small businesses.
Planning: There is a new idocs system and hopefully it will be a more streamlined process.
8. **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - a) **Ditch at rear of Balsham Buildings:** The ditch was planned for 23rd March but it didn't take place. A letter has been sent to residents asking them not to dump rubbish over the fence into the ditch.
Clerk to ask Hills when the ditch clearance is scheduled for.

- b) **Bus survey:** All on hold and no further response has been received from Lucy Frazer (MP)
- c) **Street light contract:** The PC agreed a lighting contract from Haven at a cost of £ 1,299 per year. This was the only available quote but it was a saving on the cost of electricity from CCC.
- d) **Pond at Hunters Moon:** The pond is partially filled in and a response hasn't been received from planning. James Kiddy to email FWAG.
- e) **Update on information from Diocese regarding Church Institute lease:** Gordon Fiddy has sent a list of items to be raised to the Diocese. Clerk to make a list of grants that the PC have made to the Church Institute over the last 5 years
The letter will be sent from the PC to the Diocese.

9. Covid-19 support in the Parish

- a) **Setting up of a foodbank:** The PC thanked the Church Institute Committee for allowing the use of the Institute for the foodbank. Local people have been donating food to the foodbank and the Clerk has applied for a £ 2,000 grant from the Cambridge Community Fund and £ 500.00 from Tesco's.
The school is promoting the foodbank. Forms have been agreed and will be received by Steve Jordon. Helen Edwards at the Post Office has been absolutely fantastic.
There are a number of volunteers available to help deliver the food
The PC has received £ 280.00 in cash donations from local residents.

10. Planning:

- a) **For Discussion:** None
- b) **Decisions:** None

11. Allotment update:

- a) **Waiting list:** There are 5 people on the waiting list. A few plots are overgrown, but they are mainly rented by people from outside the village. Debbie Paton has emailed some tenants to see if they are going to continue working their plots and if not they will be passed onto the next person on the waiting list.

12. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

- a) **Conifer hedge cutting:** Clerk to contact Alex Talbot for a quote. The PC owns the wooden and the wire fence.
- b) **Play area:** All closed off.

13. Highway Matters:

- a) **Highway Issues:** All items to be sent to Clerk to be followed up.
- b) **Pedestrian crossing outside The Meadow School:** Clerk to remind CCC that the lights need to be covered at the pedestrian crossing.
- c) **Parking at the school:** The forms to apply for double yellow lines will be completed and sent to Highways.
- d) **Parking sign on Green for school parking:** The PC to pay for a sign to go on the Green. An application will be made to CCC.
- e) **Water on West Wrattling Road:** Clerk to inform Nicola Burden that although the road is dry now the water is coming from the pond, which is owned by the Diocese. It was suggested that the pond needs dredging.
- f) **Access line at the Old Butchers Café:** Clerk to chase up again.

14. Correspondence:

- a) **Woodhall Lane hedges:** The hedges have all been cut back by the PC contractor.
- b) **Pavilion:** The PC agreed that the sports club rents will not be charged this year.

15. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 15/04/2020 and any invoices/receipts received up until 20/04/2020 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Payments April 2020		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp £ 160.89	£ 1,087.07
	Pension £ 56.02	
M McCall (Gross £)	16 hours £ 2.70	£ 144.00
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 154.00	£ 154.00
Algek Flooring		£ 11,603.44
Age Uk		£ 900.00
Kleen Windows		£ 30.00
War Memorial Trust		£ 20.00
Zoom Subscription		£ 14.39
JRB (Dog Bags)		£ 259.20
Northamptonshire Pensions		£ 430.85
A J King		£ 852.00
Tree Surgery Services		£ 550.00
Steve Thurgood		£ 649.00
Opus Energy		£ 480.55
Total Payments		£ 17,174.50

Bank Balances as at 15/04/2020

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 6,721.42
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 29,357.65
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 42,490.67
Total	£ 78,569.74

16. Area Report:

a) **Footpaths:** A note will be put in the Review asking people to clear up after their dogs on the footpaths. Residents to be reminded to keep to the footpaths, although it is nice to see people walking.

b) **Hedge owned by Christopher Cottage:** Clerk to contact the owners and ask to cut back.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Meeting will be held on 18th May, 2020 at 7.30 pm Remote meeting via Zoom.

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm

Signed

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Date

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