

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 28th April, 2021 via Zoom at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: A West, P Anderson, G Fiddy, D Paton, K Reyes, J Kiddy, M Shaheer and M Shaheer.
3 Public

- 1. Apologies:** S Thurgood
- 2. Matters Arising:** None
- 3. Parish Council Chairman's report:** Annie West gave a report about the work of the Parish Council over the past year and thanked all the Parish Councillors for their hard work.
- 4. To receive Reports**
 - a) Chairman, Church Institute Management Committee:** A report was given by Dick Paden (attached)
 - b) Recreation Ground Committee:** Nothing to report.
- 5. To receive accounts**
 - a) Parish and allotments – T Coston/ Debbie Paton reported that all the allotment rents have been received and all allotments are rented out.
 - b) Balsham Charities – Ian Creek gave a report.
 - c) Church Institute – G Fiddy presented the accounts.
- 6. Discussion:**

A member of the public thanked the PC for the new play equipment and the fence, The play equipment is being very well used. The PC thanked Mr & Mrs Hatfield for their understanding.

The meeting ended at 8pm

Signed

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Date

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Report on Balsham Church Institute for PC AGM 2021

Dick Paden, Chair, Church Institute Management Committee

2020 in hindsight was a year like no other and so notes on activities are necessarily brief!

From January 2020 the normal use of the Institute with regular users proceeded without any disruption with 3 film evenings, the Bridge Club and the normal keep fit, dance and toddler groups making full use of the facility. This all came to an abrupt halt in the 3rd week of March when the COVID 19 pandemic struck with all its associated restrictions and safety protocols being applied. In effect the Church Institute has remained in lock down for the remainder of the year and indeed until now.

This has had a material effect on income which the Treasurer for the Institute, Gordon Fiddy will cover in his report on the accounts.

However, the time without regular users has allowed for some significant works to be implemented and these are detailed below although some have been completed in early 2021 but are presented for completeness. This was facilitated by grants from the HMG COVID Hospitality programme, S106 development money, Balsham Ploughmen and South Cambs. Community Chest with the Institute benefiting by over £18000.

Works executed in this period are:

1. Full decoration of walls and ceilings etc of all rooms to new paint colour scheme
2. Cleaning and fire proofing of all curtains
3. Professional cleaning and preparation of Main Hall floor followed by sealing.
4. Installation of New efficient Oil Boiler in external housing to replace old boiler (This will allow the restructuring of the toilets to provide for improved disabled access)
5. Relocation of WiFi Antennae for improved Main Hall coverage
6. Replacement of part of Back Room floor caused by water ingress into East wall base.
7. New cladding and insulation for East Wall and 6 new airbricks to improve underfloor ventilation. Removal of concrete path locally to prevent water problems in future.
8. Memorial Seat “Lest We Forget” installed in front of building for 75th VE Day/
9. New light diffusers in Main Hall and many tubes replaced.

In summary the Institute is in very good order to start admitting regular users again under the planned COVID relaxation protocols and I hope that the eagerness to return shown by most users will allow the Institute to return to be its normal busy venue very soon.

It must also be noted that the current 35 years lease to the PC from the PCC expires in Dec 31st, 2023 and steps are in hand to consider how the future relationship develops for the benefit of our enlarging village community and providing a social facility of which the village can be proud.

Dr Richard Paden
28th April 2021