

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 3rd October, 2022 at 7.30pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Gordon Fiddy, Steve Wilcox, Steve Thurgood, Paul Anderson, Heather Pierce, Jennie Tipler, Nick Coates and Kim Pearson.

Public: 4

Also in attendance: Cllr Geoff Harvey, Cllr Henry Batchelor.

Clerk: Tracy Coston

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

The trees need to be assessed on the amenity area of The Rookery. Clerk to arrange and discuss with Stewart Lambert.

Development in Old House Road: The PC agreed that they didn't require a presentation until the developer contacts the PC again. The PC agreed to write in support of opposing any development in Balsham without an improved bus service. The PC are in support of the larger developments.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th July, 2022 and 24th August, 2022:**

The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

District Councillor: Cuts have been made to the bus service, which is extremely restricting in a rural area and the Mayor and the combined authority will have to act now. There will be a 'City Access Consultation' coming out soon that everyone is encouraged to take part in.

County Councillor: The Local highways improvement bid opens at the end of the month for bids. Criteria for scoring the bids are going to change and going to separate out due to complexity of the schemes.

Contact Josh Rutherford: for Highways input.
Highways: Bradley
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Map project signs, including update on planning permission/planting of an oak tree:** Clerk to contact Dick Paden for an update. Clerk to source an oak tree which will be planned on the allotment land through the footpath from Hay House. Clerk to organise a metal protection guard and a plaque.
 - b) **Cleaning of war memorial:** A quote has been received and the Clerk will organise what permission is now required.
 - c) **Field End sign:** SCDC have repaired the sign.
 - d) **Footpath from Barton's Close to allotments/Woodhall Lane allotments:** Herts and Cambs Contractors will be asked for a quote..
 - e) **Hedge in Fox Road:** The hedge has been cut.
 - f) **Tree root in ditch at recreation ground:** Jim Potter has been asked to remove the tree root as the ditch doesn't have much water in it and room for the water to flow around the trunk. Jim Potter also suggested that the PC should be leaving a 5m margin around the lower recreation ground.

The PC has taken advice from Herts and Cambs Contractor and they will trial leaving a corner area at the bottom left-hand corner of the recreation ground next year for wildlife. The PC will obtain a price to remove the tree root from Herts and Cambs Contractor.

7. **Update on the Church Institute Lease:** The solicitor hasn't replied, and Gordon Fiddy has chased up.
8. **Allocation of S106 funds:** The PC discussed the allocation of S106 funds. The Clerk will contact the scouts to inform them that there is £ 7,350.98 left in the funding and ask them for a breakdown of costs.

9. **Planning:**

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: 1 x Ash tree and 1 x Sycamore, Reduce back away from the pub garden by 4-5m. Reason: Dropping leaves and birds sitting on the branches defecating on the garden furniture and customers below.

Site address: 2 Managers Accommodation West Wickham Road Balsham

Reference: 22/0844/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/0844/TTPO>

PC Decision: Approve to cut back NOT to fell.

Proposal: Re-submission of previous approval - S/1629/16/FL - Change green area outlined in red on the plan in to an additional parking area due to very limited parking availability and neighbour disputes

Site address: Grass Area Dolls Close Balsham

Reference: 22/03852/FUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/03852/FUL>

PC Decision: The PC cannot see the gain in parking and the loss of grass for the children to play on.

b) Decisions:

Proposal: T1: Ash - Re-pollard to sound wood 8m-10m approx.

T3: Ash - Pollard to sound wood 8m-10m approx. T4: Elm - Dead, fell

T6: Ash – Fell T7: Ash - Disease, reduce by 10m T8: Ash - Disease, reduce to 6m

T12: Ash - Monolith to 4m T13: Ash – Fell T14: Ash. Aerial inspection required +

deadwood T15-T18: Ash – Fell T19: Ash - Cavities throughout, Retrenchment pruning to 6-8m T20: Ash - Reduce to 12m height

G1-G4: Elms - Dead, fell

G5: mixed species - Semi mature trees to be cleared to reinstate natural spring

Site address: Clerks Meadow West Wratting Road Balsham

Reference: 22/0688/TTPO

Granted permission by SCDC

Proposal: Silver Birch (T1) fell to ground level and grind out stump. situated at front of property close to footpath. Mature birch roots are lifting area around base and towards footpath and parking area, also starting to impact on the drainage system, foul and surface water drainage.

Site address: 2 West Wickham Road Balsham Reference: 22/0689/TTCA

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/0689/TTCA>

Granted permission by SCDC

Site address: 22 Queens Close, Balsham

Reference: 22/01961/CL2PD

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for the installation of a boundary hedge
SCDC did not grant the certificate.

10. Allotment update:

a) Damage at the allotments: The police were investigating but they have closed the file as there is no CCTV. The PC are very unhappy with the way the case has been handled by the police and a complaint will be lodged.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Adult gym equipment: The equipment has been ordered and it hoped to be installed by the end of October.

b) Acoustic boards in the pavilion: Clerk to speak to the choir leader for advice.

c) Hiring of the pavilion: The PC agreed to remain at the same prices and assess the cost of the electricity.

d) Broken window and quote for new door: The PC approved the quote.

12. Highway Matters:

a) Parking sign on Green for school parking: The sign has been made and just waiting for an installation date.

b) Movable speed sign: The speed sign is to be returned to the company as the Bluetooth doesn't work and it is in warranty.

c) Highways Improvement Scheme (next round of bids): The bid information will be sent around and the Clerk will try to arrange a meeting with an engineer.

13. Correspondence:

a) 46 High Street: Planning: The PC have raised the issues at a planning meeting and the planning officer is going to check the permissions.

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 25/09/22 and any invoices/receipts received up until 03/10/22 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts (September 2022)		
SCDC		£ 25,000.00
Allotments		£ 550.00
Balsham Singers		£ 325.00
Total Receipts		£ 25,875.00
Payments (August/September 2022)		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp: £ 199.53 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,038.84
M McCall (Gross £)	23 hours & £ 2.70 exp	£ 263.65
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 154.00	£ 154.00
Drax energy		£ 0.36
Opus energy		£ 56.90
Balsham Institute		£ 12,100.00
Herts and Cambridge Groundwork		£ 456.00
Kleen windows		£ 30.00
Avast		£ 52.99
First Aid kit		£ 37.44
Balsham Map project		£ 1,000.00
HMRC		£ 812.76
Opus Energy		£ 43.71
Point Contact		£ 198.81
Cambridgeshire Pension		£ 275.01
Saffron Signs		£ 879.43
Drax Energy		£ 17.56
Cambridgeshire Pension		£ 275.01
Kleen Windows		£ 30.00
Amazon		£ 35.16
Saffron Security		£ 120.00
Nextnorth		£ 180.00
Herts and Cambs		£ 384.00
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp: £ 228.02 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,031.55
M McCall (Gross £)	24 hours	£ 230.40
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 154.00	£ 154.00
Herts and Cambs		£ 1,002.00
LGS Services		£ 114.00
Cyril Denny		£ 70.00
Opus Energy		£ 40.66
Amazon		£ 23.94
Roger Scotland		£ 180.00
Total		£ 21,288.18

Bank Balances as at 25/09/22

Community A/C:	£ 3,279.44
H.I. Account:	£ 169,622.22
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 42,490.67
Total	£ 215,392.33

b) Accounts update: To be discussed at the next meeting.

15. Area Report:

a) **Telephone box near Nine Chimneys:** The telephone needs some work on the door, cleaning and painting. Clerk to ask for a quote from Handy Hero's.

b) **Website:** To be updated.

c) **Hedge cutting at Church Institute:** The PC pay for the hedgecutting but the PC will discuss whether it is a PC responsibility.

d) **Gigaclear:** The PC hasn't had any further information from Gigaclear following the presentation.

e) **Light in Plumian Way:** The light isn't working. The number to be given to the Clerk to report.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting will be held on 17th October 2022 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at: 10 pm.

Signed

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Date

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