

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 18th July, 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 Church Institute Committee are upgrading the electricity supply. This will be funded by the Church Institute funds.

The toilets will also be upgraded (see minute 8)
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June, 2022.** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

District Councillor: The recent bus survey was very supported. The Local Highways Initiative (LHI) is opening again in September. Shelford Close sign has been replaced but Field End is still needing maintenance. Some residents are concerned about the unsightly garages in Princes Close. The PC reminded Geoff Harvey that they had responded to emails from SCDC regarding possible private purchase.

There has been a 9.2% growth in population in SCDC. The Local Plan has been delayed.

County Councillor: The PC were asked to chase up Josh Rutherford from CCC to meet about the LHI Scheme.

The Combined Authorities are organising a traffic consultation.

There is a Joint Parishes meeting on 27th July at 7pm. Gordon Fiddy and Paul Anderson to attend for Balsham.

If temporary traffic lights aren't working residents are asked to contact the Emergency Highways number for traffic lights or 101.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Map project signs, including update on planning permission/planting of an oak tree:** The final drafts being agreed for the map sign and when approved the maps will be printed. The Clerk has confirmed with SCDC that planning permission isn't required for the maps.
 - b) **Cleaning of war memorial:** The Clerk is waiting for a quote from the specialist cleaners and the repointing/re-lettering company.
 - c) **Field End sign:** Geoff Harvey has chased up with SCDC.
 - d) **Footpath from Barton's Close to allotments/Woodhall Lane allotments:** The quote is still to be received from Rob Ellam.
 - e) **Hedge in Fox Road:** Clerk to arrange for the contractor to cut the hedge back.
 - f) **Tree root in ditch at recreation ground:** The Clerk is waiting for a response from the owner.

7. Update on the Church Institute Lease: The PC are waiting for the lawyer to come back with costs.

8. Allocation of S106 funds:

Church Institute upgrade of disabled toilets: The Church Institute Management Committee have received three quotes for the toilet upgrade, which range from between £ 11,510 to £ 15,000.

The Management Committee would like to accept the lower quote of £ 11,510.00 and include the cost of a radiator making the total cost £ 12,110.00. The PC also agreed a 10% contingency if the money was required. This would provide a disabled toilet, conventional toilet, false ceiling with security lighting and reflooring from the main door in both toilets.

The PC agreed the fundings because the S106 funds have to be spent to benefit the whole village.

The total account of S106 funds available is £ 19,460.98, which will leave a balance of £ 7,350.98.

9. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

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 Wrattling Road Balsham

Reference: 22/0688/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/0688/TTPO>

PC Decision: No objections.

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.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/0689/TTCA>

PC Decision: The PC objects to the tree being felled and would prefer it to be trimmed back.

b) Decisions:

Granted permission: T1 Sycamore - section fell to ground level as stem had gone over neighbours boundary wall and into their property.

Site address: 49 High Street Balsham Cambridge Reference: 22/0592/TTPO

Granted permission: First floor side extension

Site address: 50 Fox Road Balsham Reference: 22/01885/HFUL

10. Allotment update: CCTV cameras

Water issues: An email has been sent out to all allotment holders to ask them only to fill up water butts with their hose pipes and not water their allotments.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Adult gym equipment: The PC agreed to approve the quote from The Great Outdoor Gym Company. The Clerk will ask for an amended quote for £ 17,000 and for grasscrete matting around the equipment and not wet pour.

The Clerk will look at applying for resubmitting a windfarm grant for a path from the gateway to the equipment.

b) Blinds for the pavilion: Interlace have changed the faulty blinds and the PC will pay the invoice for installation.

c) Acoustic boards in the pavilion: Clerk to investigate further.

d) Electrical check at the pavilion: The electrical checks have been completed.

e) Hiring of the pavilion: The Church Institute are completing a small survey of the cost of other venues in the area and they will share the information with the PC.

f) Emptying the grass container: The PC thanked James Kiddy for emptying the container.

g) Broken window: Clerk to arrange for the window to be mended and a quote for a new door at bottom of slope and blown windows.

12. Highway Matters:

a) Parking sign on Green for school parking: Clerk meeting a sign company to discuss the sign.

b) Movable speed sign computer: The sign is working well.

c) Combined Parishes meeting (Highway focus) – 27th July: Paul Anderson and Gordon Fiddy to attend.

d) Highways Improvement Scheme (next round of bids): The PC will put in a re-bid.

e) 30 mph sign in West Wickham Road: Nick Coates to send the Clerk a photo to report.

f) Old School House: The drainage cover in the pavement in pushed down at an angle. Clerk to report to Highways.

g) Balsham Road closure: The road to Balsham is going to be closed for two weeks from Wednesday 27th July.

13. Correspondence:

a) Traffic speed: The PC has received a complaint about the speed of traffic in the High Street following an incident that a wing mirror was knocked off a vehicle parked on the road. The PC discussed and will pass the information on at the meeting with Highways.

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 15/07/22 and any invoices/receipts received up until 18/07/22 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts (July 2022)		
Balsham Plough Monday Club		£ 933.54
Total Receipts		£ 933.54
Payments (July 2022)		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp: £ 199.53 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,032.86
M McCall (Gross £) 23 hours & £ 2.70 exp		£ 223.50
S Housden (Gross £) £ 154.00		£ 154.00
Opus Energy		£ 55.22
Pennon Water		£ 116.25
Pennon Water (Allotments)		£ 42.79
Kleen Windows		£ 30.00
Environment Agency		£ 23.60
Herts and Cambs		£ 1,266.00
ICO		£ 35.00
HP Computer		£ 538.87
Chris Hall		£ 207.95
J Bradnam & Sons		£ 345.00
Jarvis Electrical		£ 144.00
Interlace		£ 4,084.80
Roger Scotland Building Services		£ 180.00
Total Payments July 2022		£ 8,479.74

Bank Balances as at 13/07/22

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 2,738.54
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 171,622.22
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 42,490.67
Total	£ 216,851.43

15. Area Report:

a) Benches: The benches have been delivered for the recreation ground and two to be installed by the Ploughmen in other areas of the village. The PC thanked the Ploughmen and Indoor Bowls club for purchasing four benches for Balsham.

b) Allotment grass: The cutting of the allotment grass will be added to the grasscutting schedule from next year.

16. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Meeting will be held on 3rd October 2022 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Signed

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Date

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