

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 15th May, 2023 at 7.30pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

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

Public: 2

Also in attendance: Cllr Geoff Harvey, Cllr Henry Batchelor

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:** Gordon Fiddy and James Kiddy.
2. **Signing of the Declaration of Office forms:** Gordon Fiddy signed the declaration of office form.
3. **Apologies for absence:** None
4. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None.
5. **Public Participation (15 mins):**

Lighting at the Prince Memorial: Some residents questioned what the PC were going to do at the Prince Memorial. The PC explained that they wanted to make more of a feature of the Prince Memorial. The residents will be consulted when the PC has more information. The lighting idea is small LED lights and 4 spot lights.

New flag stones and extend the seating in the bandstand.

There is concern about the production of charcoal at the Old White Lion. Environmental Health have been out to visit and instructed the resident of the correct rules.

The pedestrian gate at the recreation ground is very noisy when closed and a silencer is required.
6. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th April, 2023:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
7. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

County Councillor: Annual report and monthly report.

Congestion charge zone: The results have been promised in June as there have been some delays.

Resurfacing of side roads, Trinity, Sleaford Close and The Brambles have been resurfaced. Highways have separate pots for resurfacing and maintenance. The PC will publish the response from CCC in the magazine.

District Councillor: Zero carbon communities grant closes on 2nd June. The 4 day week for SCDC staff trial has been successful. An electric car charger was discussed, and Geoff Harvey and Helen Ford offered to look into costs and report back to the PC.
8. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Illumination of the Prince Memorial:** The PC approved the cost of £ 92.50 for the cost of a consultant to supply a quote for the lighting.
 - b) **Cleaning of war memorial:** The PC has completed all the application with the Diocese and paid the administration charge. The PC is now waiting for the Chancellors decision, which should be imminent.
 - c) **Footpath from Barton's Close to allotments/Woodhall Lane allotments:** Rob Ellam is going to carry out the work as soon as possible.

- d) **Rookery trees report:** The Clerk has asked tree surgeons for quotes.
- e) **Telephone box refurbishment:** The contractor has been chased up again.
- f) **Community orchard:** Only one volunteer has offered to help. Steve Thurgood will remove the dead trees.
- g) **Purchase of dog bin and post:** Another dog bin will be ordered for the road up to Rosie Green Wood.
- h) **Levelling of the edges at the car park:** Rob Ellam will add the task to his list.

9. Update on the Church Institute Lease:

The PC and the PCC are meeting on 30th May to discuss the Church Institute lease.

10. Allocation of S106 funds: The PC hasn't heard back from the scouts.

11. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 3 No. Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion.

Site address: Dotterell Hall Cambridge Road Balsham

Reference: 23/01613/PRIOR

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/01613/PRIOR>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: T1 - Sycamore, Prune back from neighbours drive by 3m and prune to clear GPO wires by 2m.

Site address: 86 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/0438/TTCA

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/0438/TTCA>

PC Decision: Approve

Proposal: Horse chestnut 1 (T1) - crown lift to first true branch at 4.5m, reduce limb over neighbours property back to previous pruning point (2m lateral reduction of limb) - tree is causing excessive shading to rear of property

Horse chestnut 2 (T2) - crown lift to 3m

Sycamore - remove tree to near ground level - poor form, suppressed growth affected by large adjacent horse chestnut (T1), tree is growing with a significant lean over adjacent garden/shed.

Site address: 16 Dairy Way Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/0411/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/0411/TTPO>

PC Decision: No objections

b) Decisions:

Description: S73 application to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) and remove condition 8 (Boundary Treatment) of planning permission S/4176/19/VC (Variation and removal of conditions 2 (Approved plans), 3 (Materials), 4 (Traffic Management), 6 (Access), 14 (Contamination), 15 (Surface Water and foul water drainage) and 16 (Written scheme of investigation) pursuant to planning permission S/4477/17/FL) to allow for a 1.5m high brick wall on the front boundary and to include details of other boundary treatment.

Address: 97 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/00484/S73

12. Allotment update:

5 allotments are still available. There are issues with dog waste on the allotment. A reminder will be posted in the Balsham Review that dogs should be on leads on the allotments.

The PC agreed to remove the noticeboard at the allotments due to the condition of it.

13. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Adult gym equipment – Path to the gym equipment: The PC agreed that the path is not required.

b) Blinds: The Clerk has contracted the company to see if they can mend the blind.

14. Highway Matters:

a) 20 is plenty campaign: Heather Pierce and Kim Pearson are working on the application and would like input from the public and school.

Mike McCall will be asked about positioning of the speed camera from the Bell to Church Lane/School Lane.

b) Resurfacing of roads in Balsham: All discussed in Public Participation.

15. Correspondence:

a) Bird box: The PC agreed to donate £ 130.00 for materials for bird boxes at the Horticultural Society event.

b) Grasscutting at the allotments: The PC agreed to move the allotment grasscutting to part of the grasscutting contract to streamline all the grasscutting. Roger Scotland will be thanked for cutting the allotment grass.

16. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 11/05/23 and any invoices/receipts received up until 15/05/23 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts (May)		
Allotments		£ 15.00
Total Receipts		£ 15.00
Payments (May)		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,018.55 Exp: £ 232.50 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,156.73
M McCall (Gross £)	£ 228.00 Ex £ 2.70	£ 185.10
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 154.00	£ 154.00
Drax Energy		£ 9.30
Cambridgeshire Pensions		£ 268.90
British Gas Lite		£ 547.01
HMRC		£ 726.65
Environment Agency		£ 23.81
SCDC (Bin)		£ 722.80
Herts and Cambs		£ 804.00
Ely Diocese (War memorial)		£ 317.00
Balsham Institute (Electrics)		£ 2,382.87
Steve Thurgood (Petrol)		£ 35.00
Andy Coston (Cleaning bus shelter)		£ 50.00
Total		£ 7,416.87

Bank Balances as at 11/05/23

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£	1,371.16
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£	147,286.91
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£	42,490.67
Total	£	191,148.74

17. Area Report: Nothing to report.

18. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Meeting will be held on 19th June, 2023 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.36 pm.

Signed

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Date

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