

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 19th June, 2023 at 7.30pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

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

Public: 6

Also in attendance: Cllr Geoff Harvey

Clerk: Tracy Coston

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

Water leak in West Wratting Road: It has been discovered that there is a serious leak coming up from the ground near the Rectory but the source has to be found. Cambridge Water is trying to find the source. There maybe a secondary leak from the pond. The Diocese are aware of the issue.

Noise at the Bandstand: Local residents have complained that there has been people using the bandstand late at night and being really noisy.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th May, 2023:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

Boundary Commission: Changes to boundary to be decided and will be part of South Cambridgeshire.

Results of congestion charge has been published: 57% against and unanimous agreement that a better bus service is required.

EV Charger: Investigations have been made about having a EV charger near the pavilion. The next step is to get in touch with EDF to see what power is available. Geoff Harvey has spoken to Linton PC as they have discussed installing one.

Work to roundabout in Linton: Work has started and diversions will be in place for a few months.

Smoking of Charcoal at house in High Street: Environmental Health has informed the PC that a licence is required to sell firewood and produce charcoal.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Illumination and other improvements to the Prince Memorial:** The lighting quote hasn't been received but is progressing. Steve Thurgood is going to measure up to see how many flagstones will be required around the Prince Memorial. The flagstones will match the paving at the map boards. Stan Stinton will provide a quote to extend the length of the seats.
 - b) **Cleaning of war memorial:** The scaffolding will be erected at the beginning of July, then the war memorial will be cleaned and the repainting of the lettering. The Ploughmen would like to pay for the cleaning and the re-lettering, which the PC was very grateful for.
 - c) **Footpath from Barton's Close to allotments/Woodhall Lane allotments:** Rob Ellam hasn't carried out the work yet.
 - d) **Rookery trees report:** Two quotes have been received from Mercer Tree Services, £ 400 + VAT and Alex Talbot £ 650.00 (no Vat). Mercer Tree Services were approved as contractor. The Clerk will send the tree report to Dick Paden.

- e) **Telephone box refurbishment:** Handy Heroes have been to the telephone box and will return to repair the door.
- f) **Community orchard:** The grass in the middle and the grass around the end will be cut in the Community. Steve Thurgood was thanked for removing all the dead trees, there are two thirds of the trees left.
- g) **Purchase of dog bin:** The bin has been ordered and a post will be ordered as well.
- h) **Levelling of the edges at the car park:** Rob Ellam has been asked to carry out the work.
- i) **Bus shelter repainting:** The roof was last repaired in Feb 2021 and the bus shelter was repainted at the same time. Clerk to report how much money has been spent on the bus shelter and report back to the PC.

7. **Update on the Church Institute Lease:** The valuation is taking place on Friday. A survey won't be organised until the valuation has been received. The valuation is costing £ 1,000 + VAT and the cost will be split between the PC and the PCC.

8. **Allocation of S106 funds:** No information has been received from the Scouts.

9. **Planning:**

a) **For Discussion:**

Proposal: Change of use of 2 agricultural buildings to Use Class E (g)

Site address: Rectory Farm Cambridge Road Balsham

Reference: 23/01927/FUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/01927/FUL>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: Construction of a single storey garden room extension, demolition of existing garage/outbuilding and replace with an outbuilding and removal of the shutters.

Site address: 7 West Wrattling Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/01920/LBC / 23/01809/HFUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/01920/LBC>

PC Decision: No objections

b) **Decisions:**

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

SCDC: Approved

Proposal: Second storey on part of existing house to create two bedrooms.

Site address: 64 West Wickham Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 23/01350/HFUL SCDC granted permission.

10. **Allotment update:**

a) **Grasscutting at the allotments:** Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance will cut the allotment paths this week.

b) **Management of the allotments:** Nick Coates and Jennie Tipler to help Heather Pierce with the management of the allotments.

c) **Dogs on the lead signs:** Six new signs will be purchased to be installed to try and reduce the issues with the dogs on the allotments.

11. **Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

a) **Groups using the pavilion:** The PC discussed groups using the pavilion and it was

agreed that the areas would have to be shared and the sports clubs would have priority over other bookings if a way around it couldn't be agreed. The Cricket Club are also starting to play mid-week matches.

b) Blind mending: The Clerk is to meet the contractor to mend the blinds next week.

12. Highway Matters:

a) 20 is plenty campaign: The data is being gathered in. Clerk to ask Mike McCall where the signs can be erected between the Post Office and the Bell to monitor the traffic speed.

b) Water issue in West Wrattling and West Wickham Road: All discussed in Public Participation.

13. Correspondence: None

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 12/06/23 and any invoices/receipts received up until 19/06/23 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts (June)	
Allotments	£ 7.50
Total Receipts	£ 7.50
Payments (June)	
T Coston Salary £ 1,018.55 (Gross) Tax £ 34.00 Exp: £ 215.22 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,113.55
M McCall £ 258.00 (Gross) £ 51.60 (Tax) Expenses £ 5.40	£ 211.80
S Housden (Gross £) £ 154.00	£ 154.00
Drax Energy	£ 16.99
Cambridgeshire Pensions	£ 268.90
British Gas Lite	£ 203.85
Balsham Horticultural Society (Bird boxes)	£ 130.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance (Grasscutting)	£ 594.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance (Inner/Outer verges/Rec)	£ 942.00
Kleen Windows	£ 60.00
Point Contact	£ 105.00
Total	£ 3,800.09

Bank Balances as at 11/05/23

Community A/C:	£ 875.10
H.I. Account:	£ 142,286.91
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 42,490.67
Total	£ 185,652.68

15. Area Report:

a) Churchyard: The PC asked why the churchyard has been left uncut. The Chair will write to the PCC if there are any issues that they can help resolve.

b) Keys to new door at bottom of the ramp: Clerk to give a key to Steve Thurgood.

c) Floor cleaner: The PC asked if the floor cleaner machine is being used regularly in the pavilion. The Clerk will speak to Sam Housden.

d) Car in recreation ground car park: A silver golf KO06BWL has been left in the recreation ground car park. The tax expires on 01/07/23 and will be rechecked.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Meeting will be held on 17th July, 2023 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.36 pm.

Signed

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Date

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