

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 16th October, 2023 at 7.30pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present:, Jennie Tipler, Heather Pierce, Paul Anderson, Steve Wilcox and Kim Pearson

Public: 6

Also in attendance: Cllr Geoff Harvey, Cllr Henry Batchelor

Clerk: Tracy Coston

Jennie Tipler chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Gordon Fiddy, James Kiddy, Nick Coates, Steve Thurgood
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None.
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**
The Local Plan was discussed, and Geoff Harvey clarified that the current Local Plan will continue until 2030.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September, 2023:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by Jennie Tipler.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
District Councillor: The congestion charge wasn't approved. The need for better buses is appreciated in Balsham and the GCP bosses are investigating the need. Planning Service are undertaking a Statement of Community Engagement about how they interact with the public. Progress is being made as permanent staff are being about to be employed.
A National award has been received for climate.
County Councillor: The process for traffic wardens employed by SCDC the is moving forward and the plan to have them in place by the end of the year, but the Parliament has to sign off the application which could slow it up.
No 19 bus service was under treat but the funding has been secured for another 12 months.
Dean Road into Bartlow will be closed for a while and then no right hand turn will be allowed from Bartlow to Haverhill.
The application for the Bioenergy site has gone live on Suffolk CC website.
CCTV in village: It was clarified that no other parishes in the area has CCTV.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Ownership, Illumination and other improvements to the Prince Memorial:** A reply has been received from the lighting contractor. The battery will only last for around 7 hours and the PC would like to investigate if there are any alternative ways of powering the lights. Clerk to ask Quendon PC about the lights on their bandstand.
 - b) **Repainting and re-lettering of the war memorial:** There is a little more recutting to be completed which will be completed before November.
 - c) **Footpath from Barton's Close to allotments/Woodhall Lane allotments:** All completed.
 - d) **Rookery tree work:** The tree has been cut back in accordance with the tree survey.
 - e) **Levelling of the edges at the car park:** The work hasn't been completed yet.
 - f) **Bus shelter refurbishment:** Jennie Tipler has very helpfully painted the exterior paintwork before the weather turns and the contractor will complete the interior work.

- g) **Burning and smoking at High Street property:** The issue has been resolved as the resident has moved from the village.
- h) **Gigaclear information:** The size of the control box hasn't been given to the PC. Clerk to chase up the information from Gigaclear.
- i) **Solar farm presentation:** The company will be invited to the next meeting.

7. Update on the Church Institute Lease/Valuation:

Paul Anderson proposed a motion that the PC does not have the funds to purchase the Institute, as the valuation was £ 115,000, and to raise funds in grants/loans is not practical. The option of a short-term lease is not a practical option either, as a short-term lease will be costly and in 3-5 years' time the PC will be in the same position. The PC were in unanimous agreement that they will not renew the lease or purchase the building. The PC will offer advice and assistance to the Church Institute Management Committee if and when required. The motioned was seconded by Jennie Tipler and the PC were in unanimous agreement.

The PC will write to the PCC.

- 8. Allocation of S106 funds:** The Chair of the Scouts, David Weir attended the meeting. The water issue has been resolved at the Scout Hut. The scouts have requested additional funding for the office, extractor fans and work to the external doors.

9. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Detached oak framed garden room.
Site address: 95 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire
Reference: 23/03508/HFUL
Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/03508/HFUL>

PC Decision: No recommendation.

b) Decisions:

Proposal: Single Storey Rear infill extension to replace poorly constructed lean-to
Site address: 50 West Wickham Road Balsham Cambridgeshire
Reference: 23/03380/HFUL **Granted permission by SCDC**

Proposal: Demolition of existing agricultural building and replacement with one self-build dwelling, conversion of existing outbuildings to residential ancillary to the host dwelling, change of use of agricultural land to residential ancillary to the host dwelling along with associated works and infrastructure.

Site address: Mill Farm Buildings Linton Road Balsham
Reference: 23/02555/FUL **Refused permission by SCDC**

10. Allotment update:

- a) **Condition of allotments:** Heather Pierce will contact the contractor who may be able to clear some allotments, which has become overgrown.
- b) **Allotment payments:** The new allotment fees agreed at the last meeting will be sent to all allotment holders.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

- a) **Pavilion cleaner:** Sam Housden has decided to continue cleaning the pavilion.

b) Pavilion electricity contract renewal: The Parish Council has renewed the contract for one year with British Gas Lite as it was the cheapest contract.

c) Flood lights: The PC agreed that the flood lights will only be switched on for football training and not every night for the dog walkers.

d) Marquee for wedding: The PC have agreed to hire out the pavilion for a wedding in June 2024.

12. Highway Matters:

a) 20 is plenty campaign: The next round of the campaign is open in February 2024.

b) Water issue in West Wrattling/West Wickham Road/Linton Road: Water issues were discussed again. It was agreed that the Linton Road issues are caused by the High Street. Clerk to chase up with Highways.

c) Pothole in front of Old School House: The hole has been filled temporarily but Clerk to chase up a more permanent fix.

d) School Lane: Some parents have complained about the leaves and mud on School Lane which has been reported to Highways.

13. Correspondence:

a) CCTV request for Balsham: The PC discussed the request for CCTV in Balsham due to a vehicle being stolen from the centre of the village. The PC agreed that there are too many GDPR issues.

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 11/10/2023 and any invoices/receipts received up until 16/10/2023 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts (October)	
Allotments	£ 642.50
Precept	£ 25,381.50
Total Receipts	£ 26,024.00
Payments (October)	
T Coston Salary £ 1,018.55 (Gross) Tax £ 19.00 Exp: £ 190.27 Pension £ 56.02	£ 1,133.80
M McCall £ 243.00 (Gross) £ 48.60 (Tax) £ 101.00 expenses	£ 295.40
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
Drax Energy	£ 17.56
British Gas Lite	£ 72.38
Herts and Cambs Ground Maintenance SI-2676/2677/2675	£ 630.00
Jennie Tipler (Key cutting reimbursement)	£ 18.00
Amazon (feather duster)	£ 11.99
Cambridgeshire Pensions (Sept)	£ 268.90
Cambridgeshire Pensions (Oct)	£ 268.90
Rob Ellam (Allotment paths)	£ 2,642.86
Rob Ellam (Map board paving)	£ 885.00
Point Contact	£ 246.78
PKF Auditors	£ 504.00
TOTAL	£ 6,701.57

Bank Balances as at 11/10/23

Community A/C:	£ 2,772.59
H.I. Account:	£ 142,668.41
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 42,490.67
Total	£ 187,931.67

15. Area Report:

a) Street lights in the Rookery have been reported to be maintained.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Meeting will be held on 20th November, 2023 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed

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Date

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