

***BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL***  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 7.30pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

**Present:** Gordon Fiddy, Jennie Tipler, Heather Pierce, Steve Wilcox, Nick Coates, Kim Pearson and Jeremy Wade.

**Public:** 4

**Also in attendance:** Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor.

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Anderson, 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):**

**Footbridge:** A member of public reported that the footbridge from the allotments to the field footpath access is eroded on both sides and the bridge from the recreation ground to the horse field footpath. Clerk to find out who is responsible for the footpath bridges and for putting in kissing gates with access keys to allow entrance for disabled scooters.

**Blocked drains:** The drains in Church Lane and Nine Chimneys Lane are blocked and have been reported. There are also issues with blocked drains in High Street/Linton Road.

**Website:** The website is showing an error. Clerk to sort out and update minutes and information about the bellringers.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

**Civil Parking enforcement** is up and running in SCDC. Problem areas have been reported in.

**District Council:** Website for improving energy efficiency and grants for heat pumps.

**Local Plan:** Lots of changes are being made by the Government.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Improvements and permission required for the Prince Memorial:** The new quotes haven't been received. Clerk to check permission for carrying out the work from CCC Highways.
  - b) **Levelling of the edges at the car park:** Clerk to chase up the work with Rob Ellam.
  - c) **Bus shelter refurbishment:** The work will take place in 2 weeks.
  - d) **Projector Screen for the Green Room:** The Clerk will order a projector screen to be installed on the wall in the pavilion for all users to make use of.
  - e) **Tree work at the rear of Anvil Close and Rookery hedge:** The tree work and ditch work have been quoted for by Herts and Cambs and the work will be carried out before the nesting season. The Clerk will speak to the management company about covering the cost of the ditch clearance work.
  - f) **Solar farm information and presentation:** Kingsway Solar Farm is attending the next PC meeting to present about the proposed Solar Farm which is being planned on the Balsham boundary, out to the Hildersham Road, Six Mile Bottom Road and A11.
7. **Allocation of S106 funds**
  - a) **Information from Scouts:** No further information has been received.

## 8. Planning:

### a) For Discussion:

Proposal: T1 - Field maple. Lapsed pollard - re pollard at previous pruning points.

Leaving a pollarded stem of approximately 4m.

Site address: 41 Plumian Way Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 24/0138/TTCA PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: Holm Oak tree, Remove. The tree is causing the boundary wall of the property to crack significantly. As the tree continues to grow and high winds continue to make the tree move, the damage to the wall increases and risks collapsing onto the public highway.

Site address: 42 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 24/0214/TTPO PC Decision: No objections

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 (Re-submission of 23/02555/FUL)

Site address: Mill Farm Buildings Linton Road Balsham

Reference: 23/04543/FUL **PC Decision**: Approve

Proposal: Sycamores: S1 to S8 - Re-pollard to previous pollard points (last undertaken in 2019)

Chestnuts: C1 & C2 - Re-pollard to previous pollard points (last undertaken in 2019)

Site address: 118 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 24/0175/TTPO PC Decision: Approve

### b) Decisions: None

## 9. Allotment update:

a) **Condition of allotments:** There are a number of allotments available. A letter will be sent to an allotment holder to either vacant or carry out work on the allotments by the end of April.

## 10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) **Correspondence from Cricket Club regarding adult gym equipment:** The Cricket Club sent through some options of nets to stop the cricket ball rebounding off the adult gym equipment. The PC agreed that the second option was the best and the PC offered to purchase it. The decision will be sent back to the Cricket Club for their agreement.

## 11. Highway Matters:

a) **20 is plenty campaign:** The PC agreed to submit the application and then arrange a consultation. Heather Pierce and Kim Pearson to email the application form to all Councillors for approval and organise the consultation.

b) **Water issue in West Wratting and West Wickham Road:** At the moment part of West Wickham road is clear of water but water is coming through the emergency repair. No further information has been received from Highways concerning the water issue on the West Wratting Road:

## 12. Correspondence:

a) **Ditches along the road:** A letter was received from a resident concerning the ditches along the Cambridge Road. The PC will pass the letter onto the landowner.

- 13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 14/02/2024 and any invoices/receipts received up until 19/02/2024 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

<b>Receipts (February)</b>		
Balsham Youth Club		£ 400.00
Parish Nurse refund		£ 1,500.00
Allotments		£ 42.50
Balsham Plough Monday Club – Cleaning of War memorial		£ 1,390.00
HMRC VAT refund		£ 10,896.11
Bank Interest		£ 1,219.28
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£ 15,447.89</b>
<b>Payments (February)</b>		
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 140.06 Exp: £ 169.17 Pension £ 78.79		£ 1,382.92
M McCall £ 364.50 (Gross) £ 73.00 (Tax) £ 5.40 expenses		£ 296.90
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00		£ 210.00
Cambridgeshire Pensions		£ 1,164.78
British Gas Lite (January)		£ 434.22
P & C Electrical (pavilion light)		£ 173.22
Cambridgeshire Pensions		£ 323.24
HMRC		£ 329.25
Balsham Feast (Donation)		£ 800.00
Stuart Gillibrand (Pavilion roof)		£ 2,695.00
P& C Electrical (PC light on Church Institute)		£ 120.25
Elan City (Bracket)		£ 20.00
British Gas Lite (February)		£ 1,104.19
<b>Total payments (February)</b>		<b>£ 9,053.97</b>

**Bank Balances as at 14/02/2024**

Community A/C:	£	3,241.15
H.I. Account:	£	133,887.69
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£	42,490.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>179,619.51</b>

**b) Request for funding from Buttercups Playgroup:** The accounts have been received and the PC are concerned that the playgroup is making a loss. There is concern that the rent charged by the Meadow School is so high. The Clerk will set up a meeting with the playgroup to discuss the funding issues.

**14. Area Report:**

**a) Church Institute Committee:** Steve Wilcox has offered to represent the PC on the Church Institute Committee. The Church Institute has been applied for a grant for solar panels to run with a battery back up.

**b) Touch Rugby:** It was noted that the touch rugby team had cancelled a session due to the recreation ground conditions.

**15. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 7.30 pm in Balsham Pavilion.**

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

**Signed**

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**Date**

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