

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 15th April, 2024 at 7.30pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Gordon Fiddy, Jennie Tipler, Heather Pierce, Kim Pearson, Paul Anderson and Jeremy Wade.

Public: 4

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor.

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Steve Wilcox and 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):** None.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March, 2024:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
County Councillor: Report sent out.
Both the Anaerobic Digester applications in Haverhill and Streetly End have been asked for additional information by the County Council and no decisions have been made.
District Councillor: The new round of the Zero carbon communities grant was discussed. Electric charging point were discussed, and it was agreed that the electricity supply at the pavilion is not at a level required for the charging points. Gordon Fiddy agreed to contact some companies that supply solar panels with a battery at the pavilion.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Improvements and permission to the Prince Memorial:** Gordon Fiddy and the Clerk met with Rob Ellam at the Prince Memorial. The paving will be replaced inside the Prince Memorial and a new paving path using grey sandstone slabs will be installed around the Prince Memorial. The Clerk will ask Martin Chamberlain if he would make some new metal seats to increase the seating area and Stan Stinton has agreed to replace the wood on the seats. Rob Ellam has booked the work in for June.
 - b) **Levelling of the edges at the car park:** Rob Ellam will complete this job in June.
 - c) **Bus shelter refurbishment:** The work hasn't been completed and the Clerk has chased up the contractor. It was agreed to drill two holes at the back left corner of the bus shelter as water collects in the corner. Clerk to speak to the window cleaners about sweeping the leaves from the bus shelter.
 - d) **Tree work at the rear of Anvil Close:** The Management Company are refusing to pay for the work to the trees. The Clerk will speak to Warwick Estates again to try and reach an agreement as the trees are owned by Warwick Estates.
 - e) **Meeting with Buttercups Playgroup:** Gordon Fiddy, Steve Wilcox and the Clerk attended a meeting with 3 of the Buttercups committee members. The PC suggested that the Committee tried to resolve the issues of the increase of rent and maintenance with the Academy Trust.
 - f) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases:** The PC agreed the quote to refurbish the old map board cases and the Clerk will speak to Dick Paden. It was discussed to move the old map board to the new map boards but a member of the public objected to more map boards on the Prince Memorial Green.

g) Defibrillator at May's Ave: The PC are concerned that there isn't a defibrillator at May's Ave. The PC agreed to ask SCDC for permission to purchase a defibrillator and box for installation at the Community Room at Mays Ave.

h) Bridge at the recreation ground and allotment field: The Clerk is waiting for CCC Public Right of Way to respond.

i) Balsham website updating: Clive Bennett has kindly taken on the volunteer role of updating the website. The PC agreed that they do not wish to have their photographs on the website.

7. Allocation of S106 funds

a) Information from Scouts: The PC approved the quote for the extractor fans and have ask for a second quote for the fitting out of the office.

8. Report from the Solar Farm meeting and updates:

The PC agreed to make a designated page on the solar farm on the website. The Chair of West Wrating Parish Council, Simon Chandler agreed that Balsham PC could link back to the West Wrating website that has a page about the solar farm.

Members of the public discussed setting up a group to oppose the solar farm.

9. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Alterations to existing ground floor utility room and separate WC to create a shower room with WC and a smaller utility area including the demolition of an internal non-load bearing wall and the construction of a new stud wall at right angles to the existing wall and the insertion of a doorway into the existing rear wall of the conservatory to access the new shower room.

Site address: 4 West Wickham Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 24/01128/LBC

PC Decision: Approve

Proposal: One and half storey rear extension.

Site address: School Cottage 4A High Street Balsham

Reference: 24/01125/HFUL

PC Decision: No recommendation

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a loft extension with rear box dormer and rooflight to front elevation.

Site address: 37 Plumian Way Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 24/01249/CL2PD

PC Decision: No recommendation

b) Decisions: None.

10. Allotment update:

a) Condition of allotments: All of the allotments have been rented. Heather Pierce and Jennie Tipler are checking the condition of the allotments regularly.

11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Correspondence from Cricket Club regarding adult gym equipment: The PC has purchased a net for the Cricket Club to use in front of the adult gym equipment to stop the cricket balls rebounding off the equipment.

b) Playground inspection report: The inspection report will be circulated to all Parish Councillors.

12. Highway Matters:

a) 20 is plenty campaign: The application has been submitted.

b) Water issue in West Wrattling and West Wickham Road: A spring has sprung up in the centre of West Wickham Road, Highways have costed out the repair and Gordon Fiddy has chased up the report. The pothole outside The Manse has been reported to Highways.

13. Correspondence: All circulated.

14. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 10/04/2024 and any invoices/receipts received up until 16/04/2024 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts (April)	
Allotments	£ 15.00
Total Receipts	£ 15.00
Payments (April)	
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 132.97 Exp: £ 163.82 Pension £ 78.80	£ 1,384.65
M McCall £ 290.25 (Gross) £ 58.00 (Tax) £ 2.70 expenses	£ 234.95
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
Herts and Cambridgeshire	£ 470.00
Drax Energy	£ 16.43
Kleen Windows	£ 30.00
British Gas Lite	£ 544.38
Networld Sports (Cricket Net)	£ 181.44
Pest Control Services	£ 65.00
Herts and Cambridge Grounds Maintenance (Inv 2146/3141/3144)	£ 1,458.00
Environment Agency	£ 24.11
Rialtas (Account software support)	£ 57.60
The Play Inspection Company	£ 102.00
Total payments (April)	£ 4,778.56

Bank Balances as at 10/04/2024

Community A/C:	£ 3,041.47
H.I. Account:	£ 124,887.69
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 42,490.67
Total	£ 170,488.14

b) Age UK: The PC have received an invoice for £ 900.00 for the Small Warden Scheme. The PC have asked for a report about how many people from Balsham are using the scheme before payment is made.

c) Bank signatures: The bank signatories require updating. Gordon Fiddy, James Kiddy and Jennie Tipler will be added as bank signatories.

15. Area Report:

a) Fox Road: The PC were asked who cleared some vegetation in Fox Road, but they do not have any information about who cleared it.

16. Date of Next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 20th May, 2024 at 7.30 pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

Signed

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Date

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