

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Gordon Fiddy, Steve Wilcox, Jennie Tipler, Jerry Wade, Kim Pearson, Lynda Henderson and Heather Pierce.

Public: 3

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Henry Batchelor and Nick Coates
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item.** None
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**
Members of the public thanked the PC for organising the volunteers to lay the path near from Hay Close to the allotment field.
Orchids: The orchids have been marked in the lower field by a member of the public so that they can be seen by the mowers.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th February, 2025:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
District Councillor: CCC planners have organised a joint meeting with all the PC's effected by the Solar Farm on 25th March on Zoom. All Councillors have been sent the invite.
Details for the West Wickham road closure hasn't been received. Clerk to email Henry Batchelor to chase up.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** The carpenter that Dick Paden had arranged to carry out the work has retired. Clerk to ask Rob Ellam if he can carry out the work or suggest someone else.
 - b) **Trimming of Leylandii trees in High Street:** The Clerk has tried to find out who owns the leylandii trees as they need trimming back further.
7. **Solar Farm**
 - a) **Formulation of a creation of an Alliance of Parish Councils:** The PC has received an email from Simon Chandler about the PC Alliance. No progress has been made on setting up the alliance.
8. **Planning:**
 - a) **For Discussion:**
Proposal: Demolition and replacement of existing annexe.
Site address: 19 Linton Road Balsham Cambridgeshire
Reference: 25/00785/LBC Reference: 25/00784/HFUL
Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/00785/LBC>
PC Decision: Approve

Proposal: Conversion of 1 No. Barn to residential use (Class C3) and new roof.
Site address: Worsted Lodge London Road Old A11 Babraham
Reference: 25/00615/FUL 25/00616/LBC
Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/00615/FUL>
PC Decision: Approve

b) Decisions: None

9. Allotment update

- a) Update on vacant allotments:** There have been 3 responses to the advert in the magazine for allotments. There are 5 half plots and 1 full allotment.
- b) Removal of bamboo:** The Clerk will remind Justin Willmott about the bamboo removal.
- c) Report about the Volunteer group visiting Balsham:** The PC were very pleased with the volunteer group of 15 from AstraZeneca who laid a path from Hay Close to the allotment field and put mulch around the trees in the Community Orchard and cleared some allotments.
The 90 trees will require further pruning work, some tonne bags removed and netting replaced. Clerk to ask Martin from Falcon Tree Surgery for a quote to carry out the work required.

10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

- a) Solar panel quotations:** Two quotations have been received and the third from Cambridge Solar is being arranged.
- b) Quotes for insulation at the pavilion:** One quote had been received another quote has been organised with Interglow.
- c) TAC Cricket Club:** TAC have given a list of fixtures and are organising ground maintenance and equipment from Balsham Cricket Club. The PC will send an invoice for the season.
- d) Emptying of grass containers:** Justin Willmott is going to empty the grass container at the recreation ground.
- e) Tiles in the men's toilet:** The tiles in the men's toilets are coming off the wall. The Clerk will organise a quote for replacement.

11. Highway Matters:

- a) Water issue in West Wickham Road:** The PC is concerned that the road closure hasn't been applied for. Henry Batchelor will investigate. Highways are checking the condition of the road in West Wickham Road weekly and carrying out interim repairs.
- b) 20 mph:** Kim Pearson has organised a traffic survey which will be sent out to residents online.

12. Correspondence:

- a) Fence at Churchyard:** A lady visiting the church accidentally drove into the churchyard fence. The Clerk will speak to the Church about ownership and organising quotes for repair.

- 13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 11/03/2025 and any invoices/receipts received up until 17/03/2025 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts	
Allotments	£ 170.00
Indoor Bowls	£ 160.00
Total receipts	£ 330.00
Payments (March)	
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 107.77 Exp: £ 165.20 Pension £ 78.80	£ 1,411.23
M McCall £ 247.50 (Gross) £ 49.40 (Tax) £ 38.44 Ex	£ 247.50
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00	£ 210.00
British Gas Lite	£ 1,420.94
Rob Ellam	£ 427.20
Cambridgeshire Pensions	£ 1,108.66
Daines Lowe Ltd	£ 402.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	£ 292.80
Kleen Windows	£ 30.00
Falcon Tree Specialists	£ 420.00
Tracy Coston (volunteer refreshments)	£ 27.09
TOTAL	£ 6,040.62

Bank Balances as at 11/03/2025

Community A/C:	£ 793.66
H.I. Account:	£ 110,045.70
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 43,871.51
Total	£ 154,710.87

14. Area Report:

a) Bus timetables: Current bus timetables will be advertised in the Review and on the website.

b) VE Day: A member of the public made a suggestion about an afternoon tea for VE and VJ Day including an exhibition in June/July. The PC agreed to support with funding and help if volunteers were available.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 14th April, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion.

The meeting ended at 20.46 pm.

Signed

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Dated

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