

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 20th May, 2024 in Balsham Pavilion at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Gordon Fiddy, Steve Wilcox, Steve Thurgood, Jennie Tipler, Heather Pierce and Kim Pearson.

Public: 10

Also in attendance: Cllr Geoff Harvey,

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. Apologies: Cllr Henry Batchelor

2. Matters Arising: None

3. Parish Council Chairman's report:

I want to thank all of my fellow councillors for their support throughout the year.

With particular thanks to:

Heather Pearson and Jennie Tipler for the management of the allotments.

Steve Wilcox for his contribution as a member of the Church Institute committee.

And of course to Tracy for keeping us all on the straight and narrow.

We welcomed Jerry Wade onto the parish council.

Thank to Steve Thurgood for continuing to maintain the millennium wood/Rosie green.

Thanks to Mike McCall and Steve Thurgood for moving the speed signs to various locations in the village.

With good financial management we were able to set the precept for 2024/2025 that forms a small part of the council tax, to a minimum. This in turn means that we have to spend wisely and take advantage of grants which might be available.

Thanks to the efforts of Kim Pearson and Heather Pierce we have submitted an application for a grant to install 20 mph areas through the village High Street. If successful we will conduct a survey within the village.

Despite many hours in discussion we were not able to agree a lease for the Church Institute acceptable to both parties. The institute is an asset to the village and will continue to be managed and used as before.

In conjunction with the Balsham Ploughmen we have agreed the cost and programme to refurbish the Prince Memorial. The plan is to

Replace the flooring flagstones as per the current design

Install additional wood seating

Cleaning of stonework

Install stone edging at the base on the memorial

Hopefully the work will be completed by the end of June

The war memorial was cleaned and the lettering repainted.

Following meetings with West Wickham Parish Council we objected to the increased number of truck movements created by the proposed anaerobic digester at Land at Streetly End Farm. This application is with Cambridgeshire County Council for consideration.

We held a well-attended public meeting on the proposed solar farm. Since that meeting we have heard nothing from Kingsway Solar the developer for this proposal.

I want to thank all of those people who give up their time to run clubs and activities during the year and the volunteers without whom nothing would get done!

4. To receive Reports:

a) Recreation Ground Committee: The Committee hasn't met for a few years. The Clerk will organise a meeting with other PC members to speak to the users and gather in information from them.

b) District and County Councillor Annual report: A report was received from Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey.

5. To receive accounts:

a) Parish and allotments – T Coston: The Clerk/RFO presented the accounts for the PC and the allotments.

b) Balsham Charities – Ian Creek: Ian Creek presented the Balsham Charities report and accounts.

6. Discussion:

A member of the public raised issues with the pavements in Trinity Close. There are 16 households are OAP's and 2 visually impaired. The residents have worked hard and tried to stop the parking on the pavements. Clerk to report with photos to CCC.

Signed

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Date

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