

***BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL***  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2025 at 7.30 pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

**Present:** Gordon Fiddy, Jennie Tipler, Kim Pearson, Lynda Henderson and Heather Pierce.

**Public:** 1

**Also in attendance:** Henry Bachelor

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jerry Wade, James Kiddy, Steve Wilcox, Nick Coates, Geoff Harvey.
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None.
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**  
**VE/VJ Day :** Gill Parry-Brown and Dick Paton are hoping that residents will support the event. There will be stalls, an exhibition, a bouncy slide and a train track display between 12-4pm. The picnic will be in the Church if the weather is wet. Insurance has been organised for the event.
4. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**  
Acorn Biodigester: The planning application is being discussed on Thursday and Officers recommendation was for refusal. Henry Batchelor is booked to speak at the Committee meeting, but due to all the objectors being allowed a total of 5 mins another person may use Henry Batchelor's time.  
The allotment improvement grant was discussed and it is a one off grant from SCDC.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** The work will be carried out by Rob Ellam.
  - b) **Trimming of Leylandii trees and cherry trees in High Street:**  
Speak to SCDC about Leylandii and get another quote. Clerk to arrange another quote for the work to be carried out.
  - c) **VE/VJ Day celebrations:** PC have asked for the invoice for the slide and insurance, which will be approved at the next meeting.
  - d) **Churchyard fence:** The fence costs have been reimbursed.
7. **Solar Farm**
  - a) **Formalisation of a creation of an Alliance of Parish Councils:** The PC agreed to be part of the PC Alliance but have made it clear that all decisions have to come back to the PC for approval.
  - b) **Updates from Kingsway Solar Farm action group:** The updates have been sent to PC members.
  - c) **Financial contribution towards costs of Action Group:** The PC have received an invoice for the insurance for the community event for £ 57.76, The PC will make a decision on funding when they receive an invoice for the printing as well.

## **8. Planning:**

### **a) For Discussion:**

Proposal: Replacement of the existing wooden double glazed windows with UPVC double glazed windows.

Site address: 1,2,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12 Orchard Close Balsham

Reference: 25/01982/FUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/01982/FUL>

**PC Decision:** No objections.

### **b) Decisions**

Proposal: New vehicular and pedestrian access from the property to the highway. Construct 2no. brick piers and hang inward opening gates. Close off existing access and construct/extend brick wall.

Site address: 108 High Street Balsham Reference: 25/01489/HFUL

**Granted permission by SCDC.**

## **9. Allotment update**

**a) Update on vacant allotments:** There are 2 full plots and 2 half plots available. Letters sent out to allotment holders that are not keeping their allotments up to the agreed standard.

The footpath from Woodhall Lane needs cutting back.

**b) Removal of bamboo:** The contractor will spray the bamboo.

**c) Community Orchard update:** The paths will be cut around the community orchard and the trees will be sprayed. The bags of rubbish will also be removed.

**d) Allotment improvement grant:** The Clerk will ask Cambridge Water for a quote for a new water connection at the Princes Close allotments, so it can be used for the grant.

**e) Hedge at Hawthorns:** The hedge will be cut in September.

**f) Allotment Path/Community Orchard paths:** The allotment and community orchard paths are to be cut every month.

## **10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

**a) Solar panel grant:** Gordon Fiddy and Tracy Coston met and completed the form it will be sent to SCDC with the quotes asap.

**b) Update on insulation at the pavilion:** The loft insulation and cavity wall insulation has been completed.

**c) Emptying of grass containers:** Clerk to chase up this being emptied.

## **11. Highway Matters:**

a) Update on water issue in West Wickham Road: Work is taking place and the road is currently shut.

## **12. Correspondence:** All emailed.

- 13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 11/06/25 and any invoices/receipts received up until 16/06/25 will be considered at the meeting.

**a)**

<b>Receipts</b>		
CCC	Grass cutting	£ 444.18
AG & E Consultancy – Churchyard fence	Churchyard Fence	£ 995.00
Balsham Singers	Pavilion hire	£ 250.00
Balsham Football Club	Pavilion facilities hire	£ 465.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£ 2,154.18</b>
<b>Payments (June)</b>		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,472.25 (Gross) Back pay £ 555.10 Tax/NA £ 274.15 Exp: £ 153.10 Pension £ 111.50	£ 1,794.80
M McCall	£ 405.00 (Gross) £ 81.00 (Tax) £ 20.45 (Ex)	£ 344.45
S Housden (Gross £)	£ 210.00	£ 210.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance	Grasscutting 3853/3834/3848	£ 1,464.00
British Gas Lite	Pavilion electricity	£ 178.15
Handyman Dan	Churchyard fence	£ 995.00
Cambridgeshire Pensions	Clerk's pension	£ 512.92
Structural Engineers Cambridge Ltd	Loft/roof survey for solar panels	£ 270.00
Robert Ellam	Bridge/Rosie Green Post	£ 449.80
Orion Energy Ltd	Loft and cavity wall insulation	£ 3,411.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 9,630.12</b>

**Bank Balances as at 10/06/2025**

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 2,549.00
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 129,045.70
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 43,871.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 175,466.21</b>

**b) Signing of Statement of Assurance and audit form:** The Clerk and Chair signed the Statement of Assurance and audit form.

**14. Area Report:**

**a) Street light on Cambridge Road:** The PC hope that the street light was repaired when the road works were there last month.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion.

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.

Signed

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Dated

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