

**BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 7.30 pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

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

**Public:** 2

**Also in attendance:**

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Steve Wilcox, 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):** None
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2025:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**  
**District Councillor:** Not present.  
**County Councillor:** Henry Batchelor confirmed that the TTRO has been approved for 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May for West Wickham Road. Pippa Heylings has sent an email from Highways.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** Dick Paton is organising the work with Rob Ellam.
  - b) **Trimming of Leylandii trees in High Street:** Clerk to arrange quotes for tree work at the Leylandii hedge and cherry trees in the High Street.
  - c) **VE Day celebrations:** Celebrations are being organised on 5th July, there is no cricket on 5<sup>th</sup> July. The celebrations will include an exhibition in the Institute and a picnic on the recreation ground. If anyone would like to help please contact Dick Paten or Gill Parry-Brown.
  - d) **Churchyard fence:** Dan Holman is organising a quote for the replacement of the fence which will be paid by the person that accidentally caused the damage.
7. **Solar Farm**
  - a) **Formulation of a creation of an Alliance of Parish Councils:** No updates have been received from Simon Chandler about the setting up of the alliance.
  - b) **Updates from Kingsway Solar Farm action group:** At the AGM Committee members and the constitution was agreed. Chair/Vicechair: Vicky Moss / Tony Day. Secretary: Ellen Collier, the Research group is led by Kathy Day. The step into Nature campaign has been well received. National Walk that East Pye Solar Farm are co-ordinating on 8<sup>th</sup> June. Hopefully walks in all Parishes will be organised. The statutory consultation will be sent out later in the summer but no confirmed dates. Crowd funding is taking place. Support will be needed from experts and the PC. The KSAG is a closed group on Whatsapp and they are asking for people to become members.
  - c) **Access request form and Land Interest questionnaire to be completed:** Clerk to charge Thurlow Estate for the rent of the land and complete the questionnaire and return to Kingsway.

## 8. Planning:

a) **For Discussion:** None

b) **Decisions:** None

## 9. Allotment update

a) **Update on vacant allotments:** There is 1 full plot and 3 half plots for rent.

b) **Removal of bamboo:** The bamboo has been removed and it will need to be sprayed to kill it off.

c) **Report from Community Orchard meeting:** The Allotment meeting took place on 18<sup>th</sup> March and a meeting of some of the Allotment committee at the Community Orchard on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

It was decided that it would not be practical to water the Community Orchard. Herts and Cambridge Grounds maintenance will be asked to spray 1 metre around every tree and mow as much as possible.

There are 90 trees in the Orchard that are alive.

An email has been sent out to all allotment holders reminding them to closing the padlocks correctly and that the water from the tap Email sent out about closing padlocks and water isn't allowed to wash cars.

The PC have been asked if an allotment holder can fence an allotment by it was agreed that permission would not allowed.

## 10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) **Solar panel quotations:** Three quotes have been received. A comparison table will be put together will all the prices and specifications. SCDC will open the grant applications on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

b) **Quotes for insulation at the pavilion:** The PC have received a quote from Orion. Despite Interglow visiting the pavilion a quote has not been received and they have been reminded. The PC approved the quote from Orion.

c) **TAC Cricket Club:** The invoice will be sent by the Clerk. All grounds works are being carried out by the cricket club.

d) **Emptying of grass containers:** Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance will empty the grass containers.

e) **Replacement tiles in the men's toilets:** Handyman Dan has completed the tiling in the men's toilets and Dan Holman will replace the two doors in the toilet.

## 11. Highway Matters:

a) **Water issue in West Wickham Road:** The road will be closed from 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May for the work to be carried out.

b) **Highway survey results:** The PC were pleased with the 140 replies on the road survey and the information will be used for the 20 mph application.

c) **Fingerpost Hildersham crossroads:** The missing fingerpost has been reported to CCC again.

d) **Bridge at allotment field:** Clerk to ask Rob Ellam to make the entrance and exit from the bridge accessible for a wheeled chair.

## 12. Correspondence: All sent out via email.

**13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 09/04/25 and any invoices/receipts received up until 14/04/25 will be considered at the meeting.

**a)**

<b>Payments (April)</b>		
T Coston Salary £ 1,432.60 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 107.57 Exp: £ 176.20 Pension £ 78.80		£ 1,422.43
M McCall £ 247.50 (Gross) £ 49.40 (Tax) £ 38.44 (Ex)		£ 247.50
S Housden (Gross £) £ 210.00		£ 210.00
British Gas Lite		£ 875.22
SCDC		£ 934.44
Cambridgeshire Pensions		£ 1,108.66
Microsoft		£ 23.04
JRB Enterprise		£ 292.80
Kleen Windows		£ 60.00
Falcon Tree Specialists		£ 420.00
E & E Plumridges		£ 48.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance (3689, 3781,3782,3783)		£ 4,596.00
Viking Stationery		£ 93.36
Dell (Laptop)		£ 193.00
Amazon (Computer Docking Station)		£ 66.15
Engie Power		£ 168.62
Rialtas Business		£ 64.28
Drainage Spares		£ 63.00
Rialtas Business		£ 42.00
The Play Inspection Company		£ 113.94
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance		£ 162.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 11, 204.44</b>

**Bank Balances as at 10/04/2025**

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£	5,955.93
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£	95,045.70
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£	43,871.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>144,873.14</b>

**14. Area Report:**

**a) Street lights:** The street light opposite the Rookery will be reported as not working to CCC.

**b) Parking on the grass at 110 High Street:** The PC asked the Clerk to write to the residents to ask them not to park on the grass outside their property as the grass cannot be cut.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** The Annual Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 in Balsham Pavilion.

The meeting ended at 21.05 pm.

Signed

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Dated

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