

***BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL***  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2025 at 7.30 pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

**Present:** Kim Pearson, Jennie Tipler, Jerry Wade, Nick Coates, Steve Wilcox and Heather Pierce.

**Public:** 2

**Also in attendance:** Henry Bachelor and Geoff Harvey.

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Lynda Henderson, James Kiddy, Gordon Fiddy
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item.** None
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**  
Complains were made about the potholes in Woodhall Lane and the path outside the Black Bull and the road outside the Manse.  
  
A member of the public said that the Community Orchard is looking good.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2025:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**  
Local Government reorganisation: SCDC are down to two options: Cambridgeshire City and East Cambridgeshire.  
Kingsway Solar application: Geoff Harvey and Pippa Heylings had a meeting with Kingsway and talked about Kingsway lack of engagement with planning and the public. It was noted that community benefits should be tied to the locality that is being effected, to encourage companies to build away from local communities.  
**County Councillor report:** The Anaerobic Digester was refused by CCC planning it was noted that there was a lack of information about accessing the Highway, landscaping and another issue.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** Rob Ellam is refurbishing the map board cases.
  - b) **Trimming of Leylandii trees and cherry trees in High Street:** The Clerk will obtain another quote and ask the opinion of the SCDC Trees Officer for their opinion.
  - c) **Report from VE/VJ Day celebrations:** The day was well organised and the PC thanked Jan Ellam, Dick Paden and Gill Parry-Brown for organising the event.
7. **Solar Farm**
  - a) **Formalisation of a creation of an Alliance of Parish Councils:** No further information has been received from Simon Chandler.
  - b) **Updates from Kingsway Solar Farm action group:** The statutory consultation is due September/October. KSCA has a new fundraiser on board and finances of up to £ 300,000 are required. The Kingsway Action Group are organising a information evening on 14<sup>th</sup> August in Balsham at the Pavilion, which includes a call for experts. KSCA are part of another group and are sharing information with Stop Oversized Solar Campaign.

Downing have been sold and bought by another company last week.

**c) Financial contribution towards costs of Action Group:** The PC agreed to fund the costs for printing 3000 walking leaflets at a cost of £ 168.00 and insurance of £ 57.56 for the walk. Clerk to be sent the invoices.

## 8. Planning:

### a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Installation of new air source heat pump.

Site address: 19 Linton Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 25/02540/HFUL /25/02541/LBC

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/02540/HFUL>

**PC Decision:** No objections

Proposal: T1 - Reduce lateral spread by approx 1-1.5m ensuring front side is cut back to hedge line and crown reduce to give a 0.25-0.5m clearance to BT cables - this is to maintain shape and to ensure crown is clear of BT wires.

Site address: 18 West Wickham Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 25/0651/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/0651/TTPO>

**PC Decision:** No objections

### b) Decisions

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 **SCDC Granted permission**

## 9. Allotment update

**a) Update on vacant allotments:** There is 1 large and 2 half plots all on the hawthorn area. The PC have been notified of another plot to be given up in September. An advert will be put into the Balsham Review in September.

The PC debated spraying unused allotments, but no decision was made.

**b) Removal of bamboo:** The Clerk will ask the contractor to spray and dig out the bamboo again.

**c) Community Orchard update:** The community orchard has been cut back.

**d) Allotment improvement grant:** The Clerk will submit the grant application by the end of August to provide water at the Princes Close allotments.

**e) Cutting of allotment paths and community orchard:** The paths were cut on 23rd June and they need to be cut again.

## 10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

**a) Solar panel grant:** The grant form has been submitted to SCDC by the Clerk and Gordon Fiddy. The outcome of the grant will be determined by SCDC by the end of August.

**b) Emptying of grass containers:** Clerk to remind the contractor to empty the grass container.

**c) Waste at the pavilion:** The PC discussed the increase in waste at the pavilion in the cricket season. The Clerk had obtained quotes from SCDC for larger bins and the PC agreed to increase the recycling bin to 360L capacity.

## 11. Highway Matters:

**a) Update on water issue in West Wickham Road:** CCC Highways have fixed the water issue on West Wickham Road and the road just needs to be resurfaced.

**12. Correspondence:**

**a) Plaque on a bench on the recreation ground:** The PC approved that a plaque for a resident could be put on a bench on the recreation ground but they would like the Clerk to approve the wording.

**13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 17/07/25 and any invoices/receipts received up until 21/07/25 will be considered at the meeting.

**a)**

<b>Payments (July)</b>		
T Coston Salary	£ 1,472.25 (Gross) Tax/NA £ 118.74 Exp: £ 157.08 Pension £ 80.99	£ 1,429.60
M McCall	£ 420.00 (Gross) £ 84.00 (Tax) £ 16.30 (Ex)	£ 352.30
S Housden	Cleaner – Gross	£ 210.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance	Grasscutting 3918/3914	£ 834.00
Kompan Ltd	Parts for play equipment	£ 90.96
ICO	Information Commissioners subscription	£ 47.00
Falcon Tree Specialists	Tree surgery Barton Close	£ 420.00
Cambridge Water (pavilion)	Water at pavilion	£ 228.54
Cambridge Water (allotments)	Water at allotments	£ 56.47
Three Counties Fire Protection	Maintenance of fire extinguisher	£ 302.68
Kleen Windows	Bus shelter cleaning	£ 30.00
Chris Hall (Water taps)	Maintenance of allotment taps	£ 281.00
Microsoft	Microsoft 365 subscription	£ 23.04
Cambridge Pensions	Clerk's pension	£ 372.50
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£ 49.66
Church Institute	VE/VJ Day expenses	£ 360.87
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 5,088.62</b>

**Bank Balances as at 16/07/2025**

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 1,133.41
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 119,045.70
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 43,871.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 164,050.62</b>

**14. Area Report:** None

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

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.

Signed

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Dated

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