

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Kim Pearson, Jennie Tipler, Jerry Wade, Nick Coates, Steve Wilcox and Lynda Henderson.

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey.

Public: 1

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Nick Coates and Henry Batchelor.
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 21st July, 2025:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**

Kingsway briefing attended by Geoff Harvey: The Kingsway consultation is starting on Wednesday. The area for infrastructure is significantly reduced to 1250 hectares and 35% will be solar panels and associated infrastructure, it wasn't clear if this included the pylon route.. The battery storage will be 300m from properties. The proposed pylon route is more in the middle of A, B & C. The panels have been pulled back further away from housing.

The lease will be for 250 hectares less land and there are some plans to farm some pieces of land. There were lots of questions about wildlife access through fences and combined agriculture and the solar panels.

During the 6 weeks consultation and important to point out the issues and the problems with the plans.

Geoff Harvey asked about the transport plan and the £ 300,000 per year community benefit.

Reorganisation of Local Governments: One of the most likely will be South Cambs and Cambridge City and Huntingdon, Fenland and Peterborough.

It is looking likely that Grange Farm in Abington will be the favourable site for a new settlement and the transport hub to connect the new bus to Addenbrookes and up to 5000 houses.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood:** In hand with Rob Ellam.
 - b) **Trimming of Leylandii trees and cherry trees in High Street:** Two quotes have been received from Mercer Tree Surgery and Falcon Tree Surgery. The quote from Falcon Tree Surgery was approved and they are applying for planning permission to remove the trees and the Clerk will ask when the tree work to the cherry trees is booked in.

7. Solar Farm

a) Report from the Fundraising meeting to discuss the Alliance of Parish Councils:

Jerry Wade and Kim Pearson attended the first meeting in August and was well attended by other PC's. The Committee are looking at fundraising ideas and the PC Alliance and the fundraising group are going to be kept separate.

b) Updates from Kingsway Solar Farm action group: Kathy Day gave the PC an update about the solar farm action group. There is concern about apathy in Balsham about the solar farm, but it was noted that there are a number of committee members that live in Balsham.

c) Report from the meeting of the Parish Council Solar Farm working party: The PC discussed that the main issues are that they have still not received the Terms and Conditions for the PC Alliance and therefore cannot make an decision about donating any funds for the legal costs. An email will be sent to the Fundraising Group with the concerns. West Wrattling have engaged a solicitor and they hold the contract with the solicitor. The next meeting is on 23rd September at Reading Room, Weston Colville. Kim Pearson to attend.

8. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Red Horse Chestnut - C1 - Pollard to 5m from ground level, crown is dying and the tree is in decline.

Site address: 95 High Street Balsham Reference: 25/0868/TTCA

PC Decision: Approve

Proposal: Conversion of existing granary, cart-lodges, and shelter sheds into a two-storey self build dwelling.

Site address: Worsted Lodge Farm London Road Old A11 Babraham

Reference: 25/03417/LBC / 25/031416/FUL

PC Decision: Approve

Proposal: Proposed first floor side extension

Site address: 56 Fox Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 25/03383/HFUL

PC Decision: Approve

b) Decisions

Proposal: Installation of new air source heat pump.

Site address: 19 Linton Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 25/02540/HFUL / 25/02541/LBC **Granted permission from SCDC**

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 **Granted permission from SCDC**

9. Allotment update

a) Update on vacant allotments: There are 2 large and 2 small plots available. There isn't a waiting list and has been advertised in the review.

11 volunteers from AstraZeneca came to Balsham on Friday and started clearing plot B1b and the triangular plot. The rubbish has been generated and put on a vacant plot and then will be removed.

b) Removal of bamboo: The householder will allow the bamboo to be removed from the allotment side.

c) Community Orchard update: Lynda Henderson and Jennie Tipler cut back 1/3 of the trees and removed guards and cut trees back.

d) Allotment improvement grant: The Clerk has applied for an allotment grant from SCDC.

e) Cutting of allotment paths/community orchard/hedges: The PC approved the Herts and Cambs quote of £ 2,650.00 for cutting the hedges around the allotments. The Community Orchard will be cut in May, July and September.

f) Allotment picnic: 20 people attended and enjoyed the picnic. Another picnic will be arranged in May. The allotment cup was presented to the most improved allotment who is Katharina Lorenz.

10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Solar panel grant: The PC has been awarded a grant for £ 9,769.00 from SCDC. The Clerk is going to look at changing electricity supplies to Octopus Energy.

b) Emptying of grass containers: Clerk to chase Herts and Cambs.

c) Plaque on a bench on the recreation ground: The wording hasn't been supplied by the family.

d) Cutting back/removing the leylandii hedge at Balsham Recreation Ground: Herts and Cambs have quoted to remove the leylandii hedge at the recreation ground at a cost of £ 3,600.00, to remove the stumps and grind them out will be an additional £ 1,300.00. To cut the hedge all around will cost £ 2,500.00. The PC discussed the options and agreed that as the hedge was dead at the back, it would be more cost effective to remove the hedge but this would have to be discussed with the residents in Church Lane that gardens back onto the recreation ground.

11. Highway Matters:

a) Church Lane: Chase up the repairs with CCC Highways.

12. Correspondence: All emailed.

13. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 10/09/25 and any invoices/receipts received up until 15/09/25 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts		
Allotment rent		£ 330.00
CCC	Grass cutting grant	£ 454.62
Resident	Loan of pavilion tables	£ 10.00
HMRC	VAT repayment	£ 4,917.38
HMRC	VAT repayment	£ 4,890.60
Total Receipts		£ 10,602.60
Payments (August/Sept)		
T Coston Salary August	£ 1,472.25 (Gross) Tax/NI £ 186.48 Exp: £ 165.90 Pension £ 80.99	£ 1,438.42
M McCall	£ 322.50 (Gross) £ 64.40 (Tax) £ 14.90 (Ex)	£ 273.00
S Housden	Cleaner – Gross	£ 210.00
T Coston Salary September	£ 1,512.55(Gross) Backpay £ 201.50 Tax/NI £ 186.48 Exp: £ 155.70 Pension £ 94.27	£ 1,589.00
M McCall	£ 412.50 (Gross) £ 82.60 (Tax) £ 20.00 (Ex)	£ 349.90
S Housden	Cleaner – Gross	£ 210.00
Herts & Cambs Ground Maintenance	SI-3997/3944/4005/4027/3944	£ 2,700.00

JRB Enterprises	Dog waste bags	£ 292.80
E & E Plumridge	Solar Farm leaflets	£ 168.00
HMRC	Tax/NI	£ 1,241.92
Kingsway Solar Action Group	Leaflets/Insurance	£ 57.76
Dunn	Allotment deposit repay	£ 50.00
British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£ 53.18
Handyman Dan	Male toilet doors replacement	£ 305.00
Cyril Denny	Hedgecutting at CI 2 cuts	£ 150.00
Kleen	Bus shelter	£ 60.00
Cambridgeshire Pensions	Clerk Pension x 2	£ 802.20
Balsham Scouts	Scout Hut hire	£ 20.00
Nextnorth	Website hosting	£ 210.00
British Gas	Pavilion electricity	£ 49.66
Church Institute	VE/VJ Day expenses	£ 360.87
TOTAL		£ 10,591.71

Bank Balances as at 10/09/2025

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 10,704.16
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 114,045.70
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 43,871.51
Total	£ 168,621.37

14. Area Report:

a) Church Institute Committee: Steve Wilcox attends the committee meetings. Steve Wilcox reported that the hall had financial reserves, but they are proposing to increase the room rents. The regular users will be changed at £ 10.00 an hour and £ 15.00 for one-off users. The solar panels are working well. The audio visual equipment is being donated to the CI users.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 20th October 2025 in Balsham Pavilion.

The meeting ended at 8.47 pm.

Signed _____

Dated