

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 16th February, 2026 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Kim Pearson, James Kiddy, Jennie Tipler, Steve Wilcox, Jerry Wade, Nick Coates, Heather Pierce, Gordon Fiddy and Lynda Henderson.

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey

Public: 5

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** 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):**

Potholes: The pot holes in Church Lane have been filled, but not the pot holes near the School House.

Richard Pargeter spoke to the PC about the proposal made by Andrew Dutton at the last PC meeting. At the last call for sites six sites were put in for Balsham and all were outside the Development Framework boundary and Balsham remained a group village (allows limited extension within the Development boundary). The draft local plan has been sent out from SCDC and the position hasn't changed.

Endurance Estates, the developers promoting Old House Road are still active. Any development that does get permission will be an issue for other sites.

8 self-build houses off Fox Road and up to 20 off the High Street with 14 affordable houses.

The PC pointed out the issue about the lack of bus service and it was minuted in the 15/11/21 minutes that they would not support development without an enhanced bus service.

Pump Track: David Blackwell attended the PC meeting and the PC agreed that the Pump Track could be installed on the lower recreation ground near the basketball net if the funds are raised in grants. Planning permission will be required for the pump track.

Allotments: Mark Channells has offered to carry out some volunteer work at the allotments and community orchard. Mark Channells has offered to fill in the potholes in the gateway below the Scout Hut with some MOT1.

Mark has bought some fertiliser for under the trees and the PC will reimburse the cost.

The entrance to the Hawthorns will also be improved with the use of a digger, membrane and aggregate.

James Kiddy to help with a digger when the weather improves.

4. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th January, 2026:** The previous circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
County Councillor: Apologies
District Councillor:
Kingsway targeted consultation has closed. Potholes are a huge issue in Balsham and surrounding areas and more funding is required.

6. Matters arising from the minutes:

a) Refurbishment of the old map board cases on Mays Ave Green and Rosie Green Wood: Rob Ellam has installed the map boards and just needs to add the lead capping.

Rosie Green: Steve Thurgood to mend the frame and E & E Plumridge to print a new map. A quote will be organised for paving slabs around the map board.

b) Pump track project: All discussed in Public Participation.

c) Post at recreation ground car park: Clerk to remind Rob Ellam to remove the post asap.

d) Development off Fox Road/High Street update: Clerk to organise a meeting with Andrew Dutton when he has draft plans for the area.

7. Solar Farm

a) Approval/changes to the Terms of Reference to the Kingsway Alliance of Parish Councils: At the November meeting the terms of reference were discussed. Balsham PC were the only PC to make any comments about making sure that there aren't any conflicts of interest. The PC agreed to sign the letter from Richard Buxton Solicitors. The next expenditure is March/April. The PC agreed not to approve the terms of reference until the PC's questions are answered.

b) Updates from Kingsway Solar Farm action group: The AGM is taking place on 11th February. The main thing focus is the second consultation.

Two committee members have resigned and there is one new committee member. A film about the issues with the solar farm has been produced by Bob Coates which is a call to action 8 minute film. More engagement is required from local residents.

KSCA are confused why Kingsway are still going ahead as no further battery storage has been approved and they don't have a Gate 2 application. The connection application is continuing, but this area is oversubscribed.

8. Planning:

a) For Discussion:

Proposal: Demolition of the existing garage and side annex. Part single storey and part two storey side and rear extensions with new front porch.

Site address: 21 Princes Close Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/00374/HFUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/00374/HFUL>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: G1 - Beech. Lapsed hedge - Crown lift over drive to a height of 5m. Provide 1m clearance around UKPN cables.

T1 - Laurel - Fell and remove, oversized for location.

Site address: Bramblegate Church Lane Balsham

Reference: 26/0121/TTCA

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/0121/TTCA>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: G1 - Thuja (approximately 3 stems). Low value over grown hedge. Pollard at 2m to re-establish hedge.

G2 - Conifer (approximately 3 stems). Low value over grown hedge. Pollard at 2m to re-establish hedge.

Site address: Long Thatch Church Lane Balsham

Reference: 26/0119/TTCA

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/0119/TTCA>

PC Decision: No objections

(Gordon Fiddy declared an interest)

Proposal: Single storey rear/side extension, alterations to existing garage to include pitched roof and new door and alterations to fenestration to rear elevation.

Site address: 18 Horseshoe Close Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/00260/HFUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/00260/HFUL>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: 6-7 trees (ash, field maple, birch) crown raise the trees overhanging Fox Road to 4.5-5m above ground level.

Site address: 121 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/0068/TTCA

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/0068/TTCA>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: Tree shown in photo 1 - Remove tree to ground level as a new driveway is going to be built where the gate is situated in photo 2.

Cherry tree in photo 3 - Crown reduce by 1.5m to remove weight from tree and reduce overhang over driveway.(see photo)

Cherry tree in photo 4 - Reduce height by 2 metres and reshape/crown reduce tree to rebalance due to UK power removing one side of tree to clear power lines.

Site address: 108 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/0022/TTCA

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/0022/TTCA>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: Single storey side and rear extensions, refurbishments, change to fenestrations and installation of stained timber cladding to the annexe building. Alterations to the garage, to include replacement of existing windows and reconfiguration of garage door.

Site address: 34-36 High Street Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/00427/HFUL / 26/00428/LBC

Public Access Link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/00427/HFUL>

PC Decision: No objections

Proposal: TPO Fell: T7 (ash), T8 (ash), T9 (ash),T10 (elm), T11 (elm), T12 (elm), G13 (elm and ash) and G14 (elm, ash elder) and replacement of new trees.

Site address: Land Opposite 37 Fox Road Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/0153/TTPO

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/0153/TTPO>

PC Decision: No objections

b) Decisions

Proposal: Change of use from offices (Class E) to two four-bed dwellinghouses (Class C3), together with the installation of two air source heat pumps, two carports with PV solar panels, new boundary treatment, alterations to fenestration, and associated alterations.

Site address: 100 High Street Balsham Reference: 25/04814/FUL / 25/04815/LBC

Application withdrawn

Proposal: Erect single-storey front and side extensions, front porch, raised hipped roof and extractor flue. Alterations to exterior materials palette and fenestration.

Site address: 9 Nine Chimneys Lane Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 25/04621/HFUL / 25/04621/HFUL

Permission granted by SCDC

Proposal: G1 - Fell row of Leyland cypress and replant.

Site address: Balsham Recreation Ground Church Lane Balsham

Reference: 25/1329/TTCA

Permission not required.

9. Allotment update

a) Update on vacant allotments: Two full sized and one half sized plots have been let. 3 full sized plots and 6 half plots are still vacant. Rob Ellam to remove the rubbish off the allotments when the ground is drier.

b) Removal of bamboo: To be removed by the contractor.

c) Community Orchard update – volunteers: Mark Channells has volunteered and discussed in Public Participation.

d) Allotment improvement grant: Clerk to arrange the work with Chris Hall when the weather improves.

e) Covid memorial tree: The Clerk to chase up the tree as no information has been received from SCDC.

f) Road side hedge in Woodhall Lane: Clerk to arrange the hedge to be cut.

10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Electricity supplier information: The electricity contract with British Gas Lite does not include a get out clause. The contract ends in January 2027.

b) Update on cutting back/removing the leylandii hedge at Balsham Recreation Ground and replacing the fence and hedge: The fence is on order and the hedge will be planted next to the fence.

c) Replacement pavilion heaters: The heaters in the Green Room, and one in the corridor has been replaced with wi-fi heaters to make setting the heating easier.

d) Replacement fascia boards/guttering/downpipes quotes at the pavilion: Clerk to arrange another two quotes for the work.

11. Highway Matters:

a) School Lane: The lane has been swept and some debris was taken away. Highways haven't responded to the emails asking if they carried out the work. More work needs to take place as the surface has all broken up.

12. Correspondence: None

13. Finance:- Receipts and payments up to 10/02/2026 and any invoices/receipts received up until 16/02/2026 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts		
Allotment rents	Rent	£ 290.00
Annie West	Pavilion Hire	£ 20.00
Santander	Interest	£ 1,230.77
Total Receipts		£ 1,540.77
Payments (February)		
T Coston Salary (February)	£ 1,512.55(Gross) Tax/NI £ 129.96 Exp: £ 170.01 Pension £ 83.19	£ 1,469.41
M McCall	£ 345.00 (Gross) £ 69.00 (Tax) £ 21.18 (Ex)	£ 297.18
S Housden	Cleaner – Gross	£ 210.00
British Gas	Pavilion Electricity	£ 479.14
Price Right Roofing	Roof repairs	£ 4,385.00
HMRC	Tax/NI (3 months)	£ 1,130.92
EE	Broadband pavilion	£ 27.00
Kleen Windows	Bus Shelter cleaning	£ 30.00
JRB Enterprise	Dog waste bags	£ 292.80
Falcon Tree Surgery	Stump grinding 3217	£ 720.00
Falcon Tree Surgery	Leylandii hedge removal 3216	£ 2,460.00
TOTAL		£ 11,501.35

Bank Balances as at 11/02/2026

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£ 5,250.42
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£ 124,024.47
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£ 43,871.51
Total	£ 173,146.40

14. Area Report:

- a) **Road sign:** The road sign opposite Linton Road needs the post replaced. Report to Highways.
- b) **High Street Drain:** The drain needs to be cleared out near the barns opposite Lower Farm as it floods outside the business barn.
- c) **Balsham Charities meeting:** The charities need more people to apply for the grants available.
- e) **Street light No 34:** To be reported to Highways.
- f) **Hildersham Road:** The ditch on the left from Balsham needs to be cleaned out by Highways.

15. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 16th March, 2026 in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.48 pm

Signed

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Date

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