

***BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL***  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 at 7.30 pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

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

**Also in attendance:** Geoff Harvey

**Public:** 2

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Henry Batchelor, Nick Coates , James Kiddy and Jerry Wade.
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None
3. **Russell Moore, Cambridgeshire Acre Housing Enabler** to discuss a housing needs survey: Unfortunately Russell Morre couldn't attend the PC meeting and will attend next month.
4. **Public Participation (15 mins):** Next month is the Annual Parish Meeting and the PC agreed to supply refreshments.. The Clerk will ask The Meadow and LVC for a report. Mark Channells is going to maintain the gateways to the allotments when James Kiddy can help with the digger work. Mark Channells will hire a wacker plate after the digger work.
5. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2026:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
6. **Report from District and County Councillor: Report sent.**  
**Apologies from County Councillor.**  
**District Councillor:** Cambridge Growth Company is rolling forward. Issues as there is a surplus of lab space. This would create 100,000 extra houses but a lot of growth is built into the existing local plan.  
Stephen Kelly (Director of Planning at SCDC) has offered to come and talk to PC's about Forest City. The proposers don't have any planning history.  
SCDC are introducing food waste collections. It has been trialled in Linton.  
The Government have a fund to help people in oil poverty.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases Rosie Green Wood:** The map board has been refurbished by Steve Thurgood and the new printed board has been ordered at E & E Plumridge.
  - b) **Pump track project:** The parents are organising quotes and funding.
  - c) **Parish Council election update:** The PC elections will be uncontested as only 7 Parish Councillors stood for 9 seats. The PC will advertise the two co-option seats.
8. **Solar Farm**
  - a) **Approval/changes to the Terms of Reference to the Kingsway Alliance of Parish Councils:** A Solar Farm Action meeting is organised on 21<sup>st</sup> April.
  - b) **Updates from Kingsway Solar Farm action group: Tony Day:** KSCA have spoken to David Carford, planning at SCDC, and they have been advised that the application is

imminent and PINS said it was still due 20<sup>th</sup> April. The adequacy of consultation has been poor and it has been reported to Kingsway. SCDC and CCC are not impressed with the quality of the consultation.

PINS have 28 days to decide whether it goes into examination.

Burwell South hasn't been agreed. The fundraising has been good and raised significant funds but more work needs to be done on engaging with the community to comment on the planning application.

## 9. 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: 26/01061/HFUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/01061/HFUL>

**PC Decision:** No recommendation

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 Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/01062/FUL / 26/01063/LBC

Public Access Link: <https://applications.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/01062/FUL>

**PC Decision:** No recommendation

Proposal: Part single, part two storey rear and side extension. Juliet balcony to rear elevation.

Site address: 6 Queens Close Balsham Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/00902/HFUL

Public Access Link: <https://applications.gretercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/00902/HFUL>

**PC Decision:** No recommendation

### b) Decisions

26/0153/TTPO|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.]

Land Opposite 37 Fox Road Balsham Cambridgeshire CB21 4EZ

**SCDC Decision: Application refused**

## 10. Allotment update

**a) Update on vacant allotments:** There are 3 full sized plots and 5 half plots available. Plot A5N has been strimmed and looks better. £ 2,115 rent has been received to date. The rubbish on the allotments has been removed by Rob Ellam and Andy Mitchell. The gate post and the leaking tap have been repaired. The overgrown hedge near Sleaford Close was discussed by the PC and it was agreed that the hedge should be taken out after the nesting season in September. The neighbouring property will be informed as promised.

**b) Removal of bamboo:** Clerk to remind the contractor to remove.

**c) Community Orchard update – volunteers:** The paths will be cut asap All trees have been mulched. The Covid 19 tree will be planted on the community allotment.

Community Allotment work parties have been successful, the PC thanked everyone for helping.

**d) Additional taps at the allotment and community orchard:** Quotes are being arranged for the additional taps and will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### 11. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

**a) Exporting energy from solar panels:** The PC will not be able to be paid to export the energy from the solar panels due to not having an export meter and British Gas Lite will not fit a meter. The contract expires in January 2027.

**b) Update on completion of work to the hedge at the recreation ground and setting up a watering system:** The project has been completed and the leaky hose system has been installed for the hedge. Jennie Tipler is organising putting the hose on once a week.

**c) Sale of pavilion heaters:** The Clerk has arranged the sale of the old heaters.

**d) Replacement fascia/downpipes/guttering quote:** The PC discussed the quote from Price Right Roofing and M. Lawrence Building Contracts Ltd and approved the quote for £ 8,750.00 from Price Right Roofing. The PC thanked Matt Lawrence for quoting.

#### 12. Highway Matters:

**a) Potholes:** All reported.

**b) Application for 20mph:** The application has been submitted.

**c) Traffic calming report from Balsham Speedwatch Group:** The Clerk will email the request for traffic calming to Highways.

#### 13. Correspondence:

**a) Parish Council elections 7<sup>th</sup> May. 2026:** Discussed in 7c)

**14. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 15/04/2026 and any invoices/receipts received up until 20/04/2026 will be considered at the meeting.

**a)**

<b>Receipts</b>		
Allotments	Deposits	£ 100.00
Pavilion Heaters	Smith/Fraser/TB Construction	£ 330.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>£ 430.00</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
T Coston Salary (March)	£ 1,512.55(Gross) Tax/NI £ 129.96 Exp: £ 167.45 Pension £ 83.19	£ 1,466.85
M McCall	£ 420.00(Gross) £ 84.00 (Tax) £ 52.80 (Ex)	£ 388.80
S Housden	Cleaner – Gross	£ 210.00
British Gas Lite	Pavilion Electricity	£ 112.19
Falcon Tree Surgery	Recreation Ground Trees	£ 1,440.00
Santander	Bank charges	£ 4.99
EE	Sim for pavilion	£ 27.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds	INV 4314/4320	£ 834.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds	INV 4297/4294/4283	£ 1,334.00
Herts and Cambs Grounds	INV 4271	£ 534.00
Kleen Windows	Bus shelter	£ 30.00
Falcon Tree Surgery	Fence at Recreation Ground	£ 2,989.72
Cambridgeshire Pension	1 x month	£ 388.73
Tracy Coston	Amazon for water hose etc	£ 182.93
NBB Recycled Furniture	Recreation Ground bin	£ 606.00
SCDC	Refuse bins	£ 1,063.40
Glasdon	Dog waste bin lid	£ 69.17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 11,681.78</b>

**Bank Balances as at 15/04/2026**

<i>Community A/C:</i>	£	3,566.67
<i>H.I. Account:</i>	£	101,045.47
<i>3 month notice account (Lloyds)</i>	£	43,871.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>148,483.65</b>

**c) Consider subscription to Council Wise Training:** Clerk to circulate the information and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

**15. Area Report:**

**a) Highway signs:** All reported

**b) Overgrown hedge at Rectory:** Clerk to report to the Diocese.

**c) Thank you:** The PC thanked Gordon Fiddy and Nick Coates for all their work on the PC over a number of years.

**16. Date of Next Meeting:** The Annual Parish meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 and will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 8pm in Balsham Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

**Signed**

.....

**Date**

.....