

BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Monday 8th June, 2026 at 7.30 pm
in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)

Present: Kim Pearson, Jennie Tipler, Lynda Henderson and Heather Pierce.

Public: 1

Also in attendance: Geoff Harvey, Henry Batchelor

Clerk: Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** Steve Wilcox, James Kiddy, Jerry Wade.
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda, and to declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):** The PC thanked James Kiddy for helping with the digging at the Hawthorn gate and Woodhall Lane track
The PC thanked Jennie Tipler, Lynda Henderson and Mark Channells for watering the trees at the Community Orchard a number of times.
4. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May, 2026:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**
District Councillor: The Development Corporation has been formally announced. Forest City: A meeting was held at SCDC, and all District Councils have written a joint letter. MPs are all against it. Food waste collection will start soon in Balsham.
County Councillor: The Development Corporation has been set up. Government-appointed civil servants and the level of public input are not yet known. SCDC is uncertain about what impact it will have.
A Zero Carbon Communities grant is available. An electric charging point was discussed, and the Clerk will speak to the Clerk at Cottenham and Guilden Morden PCs to obtain information.
6. **Matters arising**
 - a) **Old map board cases at Rosie Green Wood:** The map is still being printed by E & E Plumridges.
 - b) **Pump track project survey:** A very good response has been received. The survey is still open.
 - c) **Quote for paving slabs around the map boards in the High Street:** The PC approved the quote from Rob Ellam for the slabs around the map board at a cost of £1,760.00.
 - d) **PC vacancies:** The PC has had interest from one person.
 - e) **Update PC responsibilities**
 - Allotments: Jennie Tipler/Heather Pierce/Lynda Henderson
 - Trees: James Kiddy
 - Charities: James Kiddy/Steve Wilcox
 - Highways: Kim Pearson
 - Rec Grd/Pavilion: Jerry Wade
 - Church Institute: Steve Wilcox
 - f) **Housing Needs Survey discussion:** The PC agreed to organise its own Housing Needs Survey and not through Cambs Acre due to the cost of £5,000.00.
 - g) **Thanks to Clive Bennett for updating/developing the Balsham website:** The PC apologised for not thanking Clive Bennett for updating the village website at the Annual Meeting. The PC is very grateful to Clive Bennett for all his voluntary work.

7. Solar Farm

a) Approval/changes to the Terms of Reference for the Kingsway Alliance of Parish Councils: The Clerk is to circulate the login details for the website to all Councillors.

b) Updates from the Kingsway Solar Farm action group and the planning process:

The planning application has been submitted, and no documents are available until the application has been accepted by the Inspector.

The KSCA Group is raising awareness about what is coming next. Workshops and talks are to be run. KSCA has booked the pavilion on 22nd July at 6.30 p.m. The registration process will open within three months of the application being accepted.

8. Planning:

a) For discussion: None

b) Decisions

Proposal: Tree 1 - Magnolia Grandiflora - Fell and remove entirely

Tree 2 - Yew, Taxus Baccata - Crown reduction by 2.5 metres

Site address: 45 High Street, Balsham, Cambridgeshire

Reference: 26/0426/TTCA

SCDC *approved* the tree work.

9. Allotment update

a) Update on vacant allotments: One full-sized plot is available. Some of the vacant plots are being trimmed by volunteers. Letters have been sent out to eight plot holders as their plots are not being managed. The overgrown hedge blocking the path has been cut back again by the residents.

More plans are to be delivered to the Woodhall Lane track and the Hawthorns gate.

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

c) Community Orchard update – volunteers: The PC approved ordering five bags of mulch, and the PC thanked Jennie Tipler, Lynda Henderson and Mark Channells for watering the allotment trees. The trees are looking much better.

d) Additional taps at the allotment and community orchard: The land search has been carried out and when the results are back the work can be started.

10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) Replacement fascia/downpipes/guttering work: The work has been completed.

b) Cricket Club update: An invoice will be sent to the Cricket Club. The Cricket Club has asked if it is able to put up a permanent net along the ditch for the whole season, but the PC has said that this would be too problematic with grass cutting, wildlife and dogs at the recreation ground.

c) Showers: The PC approved a quote from A Randall to refurbish the showers at the pavilion at a cost of £2,320.00.

d) Playground inspection report: The Clerk is to check if all the issues have been dealt with.

11. Highway Matters:

a) Drains: The drains have been overflowing at Balsham Place.

12. Correspondence: All emailed.

- 13. Finance:-** Receipts and payments up to 03/06/2026 and any invoices/receipts received up until 08/06/2026 will be considered at the meeting.

a)

Receipts		
Balsham Singers	Hire of pavilion	£ 525.00
Allotment deposit	Deposit cashed	£ 50.00
Proceeds from plant sale		£ 407.60
Total Receipts		£ 982.60
Payments		
T Coston Salary (June)	£ 1,512.55(Gross) Tax/Ni £ 129.96 Exp: £ 167.45 Pension £ 83.19	£ 1,431.90
M McCall	£ 405.00(Gross) £ 81.00 (Tax)	£ 340.30
S Housden	Cleaner – Gross	£ 210.00
Santander	Bank charges	£ 9.98
EE	Sim for pavilion	£ 28.50
Stuart Gillibrand	Pre-payment for guttering/downpipes	£ 3,000.00
Mark Channells	Allotment expenses	£ 119.38
Viking	Stationery	£ 41.13
The Play Inspection Co	Play equipment inspection	£ 115.80
Handyman Dan	Mending play equipment	£ 50.00
Herts & Cambs Ground	SI-4373/4370/4366/4391/4377/	£ 1,704.00
Environment Agency	Drainage	£ 24.22
Jilly Cunningham	Repay allotment payment	£ 50.00
Kleen Windows	Bus shelter cleaning	£ 60.00
Defib 4life	2 x defibrillator batteries	£ 528.00
Three Counties Fire Protection	Fire extinguishers in pavilion	£ 317.91
TOTAL		£ 8,031.12

Bank Balances as at 03/06/2026

Community A/C:	£ 6,949.95
H.I. Account:	£ 128,045.47
3 month notice account (Lloyds)	£ 43,871.51
Total	£ 178,866.93

- 14. Area Report:** Nothing to report.

- 15. Date of Next Meeting:** The next PC meeting will take place on Monday 13th July, 2026.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed

Dated

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