

**BALSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 7.30 pm**  
**in Balsham Pavilion (Green Room)**

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

**Public:** 1

**Also in attendance:** Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor

**Clerk:** Tracy Coston

1. **Apologies for absence:** James Kiddy.
2. **Councillors are required to review the agenda and declare any pecuniary interest in any item:** None declared.
3. **Public Participation (15 mins):**  
The PC discussed watering arrangements for the community orchard with a member of the public.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026:** The previously circulated minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **Report from District and County Councillor:**  
**District Councillor/County Councillor:** The Kingsway application has been withdrawn, and residents need to register and set out their concerns about the scheme. PINS gave Kingsway a list of issues that need to be resolved with the application. Kingsway has indicated that it intends to resubmit to PINS very soon and may resubmit as many times as it wishes.  
**Forest City proposal:** The planning professionals, including Steven Kelly at SCDC, believe that the proposal is not well thought out. The Local Plan is going through its final stage of consultation next month.  
The **Grange Farm** proposal is in the plan. It has been reduced to 4,500 houses, which has an effect on the density. Building will not start until 2034 because the new reservoir will not be built until then.  
**Local Plan:** Developers have challenged the Council's five-year land supply. The major test is coming up at an appeal in Abington on a site that is outside the village boundary.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) **Refurbishment of the old map board cases at Rosie Green Wood:** The printing is to be completed by E & E Plumridge as soon as possible.
  - b) **Pump track project survey:** The PC has received 160 responses to the questionnaire, both online and in hard copy. The survey results will be used when the group applies for grant funding and will be published as soon as possible.
  - c) **Progress of paving slabs around the map boards in the High Street:** Rob Ellam will lay the paving slabs as soon as possible.
  - d) **PC Vacancies:** The PC still has two vacancies.
  - e) **Housing needs survey discussion:** The PC agreed to put together a Housing Needs Survey for agreement in September/October.

## **7. Solar Farm**

**a) Approval/changes to the Terms of Reference of the Kingsway Alliance of Parish Councils:** The terms of reference have been agreed by Balsham PC.

**b) Updates from the Kingsway Solar Farm action group and details about the application withdrawal:**

A committee meeting was held on Wednesday, which was the first meeting after the withdrawal of the application. The committee discussed how to keep residents engaged, focusing on the size and proposed capacity of the solar farm. The PINS letter has been analysed. A few surveys are missing, and the planning inspector was concerned that there was not enough time to complete the examination.

Approaches will be made to Andy Burnham. KSCA has written to Pippa Heylings, but no response has been received. Geoff Harvey will follow up with Pippa Heylings.

## **8. Planning:**

**a) For Discussion:**

Proposal: S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 25/00784/HFUL (demolition and replacement of existing annexe) for the addition of one window.

Site address: 19 Linton Road, Balsham. Reference: 26/02384/S73 / 25/00785/LBC

PC Decision: No objections.

Proposal: T1 – old Acer/Maple – fell.

Reason: The tree has been heavily pollarded over the years and is showing signs of decay; felling is recommended.

Site address: Albany, Bartons Close. Reference: 26/0675/TTPO

PC Decision: No objections.

**b) Decisions:** None.

**c) Appeal notification:**

Notification of a planning appeal under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Reference: 26/01062/FUL

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, alterations to fenestration, and associated alterations.

Site address: 100 High Street, Balsham.

Appellant: Mr J Pitt. Inspectorate Ref: 6011881/6011880 (listed appeal).

Appeal start date: 8th July 2026.

## **9. Allotment update**

**a) Update on vacant allotments:** One full-sized plot and three half plots are available. Andy Mitchell, David Withers and Jennie Tipler have trimmed two vacant plots. More planings will be ordered for the allotment paths.

**b) Removal of bamboo:** The bamboo has been sprayed and some of it has died.

**c) Community Orchard update – volunteers:** The volunteers have watered the trees again. Tree guards have been added. The PC thanked the volunteers for their help.

**d) Additional taps at the allotment and community orchard:** The taps had a leak, and the contractor has fixed it. Allotment holders have been reminded that hosepipes cannot be used to water directly.

**e) Shed for tools and PC/allotment committee:** The PC discussed purchasing a shed for the community allotment.

## 10. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

**a) Spraying of weeds near the laurel hedge:** The contractor has been asked to spray the weeds and keep the area cut back.

The ditch will be cut out again. The PC agreed that the laurels can be watered with a hosepipe because the plants have recently been planted.

**b) Tree reports:** Falcon Tree Contractors have completed all the tree surveys, and the required work will cost £1,200 plus VAT. The quote was approved by the PC. The tree work to the tree on the footpath at the rear of Anvil Close was approved for £120.00.

**c) Disabled toilet/Ladies toilet/kitchen sink:** The PC agreed that the disabled toilet, ladies toilet and kitchen sink all need to be refitted. The Clerk will arrange two quotes by the next meeting.

## 11. Highway Matters:

**a) PROW:** The PC has received complaints that the footpath opposite Frog Hall has had its direction changed without permission and that all the trees have been cut down. The Clerk will make enquiries with CCC.

## 12. Correspondence:

**a) Invite to the S.A.V.E. meeting at Great Abington on 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Kim Pearson and Jennie Tipler will attend the meeting.

## 13. Finance: Receipts and payments up to 9th July 2026 and any invoices/receipts received up to 13th July 2026 were considered at the meeting.

**a)**

| Receipts                 |                                                                       |                    |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Allotment deposit        |                                                                       | £ 50.00            |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>    |                                                                       | <b>£ 50.00</b>     |
| Payments                 |                                                                       |                    |
| T Coston Salary (July)   | £ 1,512.55(Gross)<br>Tax/Ni £ 130.16<br>Exp: £ 135.69 Pension £ 83.19 | £ 1,434.89         |
| M McCall                 | £ 405.00 (Gross) £ 81.00 (Tax)<br>£ 26.30 (Ex)                        | £ 350.30           |
| S Housden                | Cleaner – Gross                                                       | £ 210.00           |
| Santander                | Bank charges                                                          | £ 9.98             |
| EE                       | Sim for pavilion                                                      | £ 28.50            |
| Stuart Gillibrand        | Completion of guttering/fascias                                       | £ 5,795.00         |
| Tracy Coston             | Airtags for defibrillators                                            | £ 89.00            |
| British Gas              | Pavilion electricity                                                  | £ 8.86             |
| Cyril Denny              | CI hedgecutting                                                       | £ 75.00            |
| Falcon Tree Specialists  | Mulch for trees                                                       | £ 390.00           |
| Herts and Cambs Ground   | INV 4412                                                              | £ 546.00           |
| Cambridge Water          | Pavilion water                                                        | £ 436.28           |
| Cambridge Water          | Allotment water                                                       | £ 70.25            |
| A Randall                | Showers at pavilion                                                   | £ 2,320.00         |
| Cambridgeshire pensions  | Clerk pension (2 months)                                              | £ 777.46           |
| Santander                | Bank charges                                                          | £ 4.99             |
| Information Commissioner | Subscription                                                          | £ 47.00            |
| Herts and Cambs          | Inv 3861/3921/3972                                                    | £ 1,590.00         |
| Herts and Cambs          | Inv 4447                                                              | £ 672.00           |
| Falcon Tree Specialists  | Taps at allotments and orchard                                        | £ 3,576.00         |
| Falcon Tree Specialists  | Tree survey at Rosie Green                                            | £ 420.00           |
| Kleen windows            | Bus shelter cleaning                                                  | £ 30.00            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             |                                                                       | <b>£ 18,881.51</b> |

**Bank balances as at 8th July 2026**

|                                         |          |                   |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| <i>Community A/C:</i>                   | £        | 5,252.68          |
| <i>H.I. Account:</i>                    | £        | 113,045.47        |
| <i>3 month notice account (Lloyds):</i> | £        | 43,871.51         |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>£</b> | <b>162,169.66</b> |

**14. Area Report:**

**a) Queens Close:** Openreach and EE have installed fibre broadband to some of the premises.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** The next PC meeting will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed

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Dated

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