

Parish Council of Balsall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.30pm at The Westlake Room, Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

Present

Cllr Raymond Ritchie (Chair), Cllr Richard Lloyd, Cllr Elizabeth Macdonald, Cllr Marie-Louise Marsden, Cllr Judy Lea, Cllr Douglas Money and 3 members of the public to include Keith Tindall (Chair, Residents Association)

Headings are those set out on the Agenda

1. Apologies

Cllr Peter Trend and Cllr Peter Lea

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Richard Lloyd declared an interest in item 7 as Chairman for HHAG

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 12th November 2014

Resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 12th November 2014 are approved as a correct record and the Chair signed the Minutes

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

Clerk confirmed that a request had been made to SMBC for traffic information on the A452 but no response has been received. A meeting had been arranged with Highways and SMBC but the Highways department failed to attend. A further meeting is now scheduled with the Chief executive. Clerk confirmed that the Meriden Garden City proposals had been discussed at the Planning meeting. Clerk has written to WALC for information on Councils affected by airports but the response has referred us to local Parish councils that we are already aware of.

5. Public Forum

A member of the public raised concern over the pavement along Station Road from the Old Bakery heading towards the Medical Centre and train station. The pavement slopes considerably and is particularly dangerous on frosty mornings. Many residents have encountered difficulty due to the camber of the pavement.

The pavement is a vital route to access the surgery from the village and the severe slope makes it impossible with anyone with a disability scooter or buggies. Councillors agreed with these comments and stated that this was a serious issue.

Councillors asked what could be done to improve the situation. It was agreed that action must be taken to avoid a serious injury due to the awkward camber and gradient of the pavement.

ACTION – Clerk to notify SMBC and request that they inspect the pavement and ensure that relevant standards have been met and for action to improve the safety of pedestrians.

Concern was raised by a member of the public over the proposed closure of Natwest Bank. This is due for closure in March. Residents were very concerned at the loss of another facility in the village. Also, there was concern over the proposed use of the building. David Felthouse advised that the History group are looking at the matter. The building dates back from 1929. It is an iconic building and has formed a part of the village for many years.

Concern was raised over the state of the library car park since the Tesco development began. The current state is unacceptable. The area must be re-surfaced to a good standard.

ACTION – Clerk to write to SMBC and request that the car park is returned to a high standard.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1. e-mail regarding parking issues in the village
- 6.2. e-mail regarding parking issues at the school
- 6.3. e-mail concerning closure of Natwest Bank

Clerk provided details of the correspondence received. The parking issues have resulted in the meeting with SMBC and the Chief executive.

7. HS2

7.1. Update

Cllr Liz Macdonald and Cllr Richard Lloyd provided an update following the presentation before the Select Committee on 9th December 2014. We were pleased with the work undertaken by our legal advisors and the case was presented very well.

An announcement has been made by the Select Committee and the Chairman will be making a further report before the election.

Chair thanked Cllr Macdonald and Cllr Lloyd for their hard work and effort.

8. **Precept** – To receive recommendation from Finance Committee and agree Precept for 2015/2016

Resolved that the Precept for 2015/2016 is £94,870 with an additional support grant. This represents a Band D property increase of 1% to £35.83

9. **Traffic concerns in Village** – Report back following meeting with Chief Executive of SMBC and to agree further action

Chair provided an update regarding this meeting. Nick Page, Chief Executive of SMBC had to cancel the meeting and this is to be rearranged. Presently, no date has been fixed.

10. **Willow Park** –Update from Working Group

Working Group confirmed that a meeting had not yet taken place. Cllr Judy Lea advised that she had received some responses to her article in the Bugle.

Clerk reported to eh Council that the entrance gate had been pulled off its hinges. The gate has been repaired on several occasions and the Clerk is now looking at the supply and installation of a new gate. The current gate is old and not robust to deal with everyday stresses. It was agreed that this was a sensible course of action.

Clerk also reported that one of the swings has deteriorated and is currently padlocked. It is due for repair once SMCB have delivery of the new cradle seat.

Resolved that the remit of the Working Group is extended to looking at the history of Willow Park and whether the Parish Council should continue to take responsibility for the Park. Working Group to look at all options available to the Parish Council.

11. **Meeting with SMBC regarding the Library** – update

Clerk provided an update of the meeting with the libraries department. There was concern over the reduction of people borrowing books from the library. It was agreed that the services offered by the library were not publicised and that an article in the Bugle will help.

Cllr Macdonald suggested that the Parish Council could fund a reading challenge or award a prize to the child reading the most books.

ACTION – All ideas to increase awareness and participation in the library are sent to Cllr Judy Lea to be placed in the next article.

ACTION – Clerk to contact library services to provide an article for the Bugle to make readers aware of the resources offered

12. Reports from Representatives & Committee members

12.1. Airport

Cllr Lloyd advised that the next meeting of the ACC has been put back to February 2015

12.2. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Liz Macdonald confirmed that she has spoken to Kay Howles and will be looking at setting up a meeting soon. The Plan is intended to cover the whole Parish

12.3. Jubilee Committee

Cllr Raymond Ritchie advised that he attended the last jubilee Committee meeting. A new kitchenette is due to be fitted. This work was intended to be carried out by Tesco shopfitters but due to asbestos being discovered, the delay resulted in Tesco being unable to offer a contractor.

A kitchen has been purchased and this is due to be installed.

Councillors questioned that the Jubilee Committee have been given specific money by the Parish Council for a youth worker. The accounts show that they have significantly underspent over the last 2 years. Therefore, until they have spent that money, no further money should be given.

It was also recommended that our internal auditor inspects their books annually to ensure that the grant is being used for the purpose awarded.

Cllr Ritchie advised that there was an expectation of a high level of transparency and accountability but he has reservations as to whether this is being achieved. There appears to be a lack of clarity of what the responsibility of the Committee is. Cllr Ritchie advised that he has made it clear to the Committee that the information provided is not clear.

It was agreed that this was not an acceptable situation.

12.4. Planning Committee

Clerk reported on the planning applications and matters put forward in the Ward Action Plan. A response to the Meriden Garden City proposal has been prepared by Cllr Macdonald and will be sent in response to the consultation

12.5. Residents Association

Keith Tindall advised that the Police attended the last meeting and provided a report. There have been 6 burglaries in Balsall Common over the last 2 months. Business crime is up mainly due to the new Sainsbury's although this is now declining as Sainsbury's have taken measures. They also have a good CCTV system. There is concern over the loss of another PCSO. The village is now left with one PCSO and the Sergeant will soon be leaving reducing the numbers further.

ACTION – Clerk to write to Police and raise concern over loss of a further PCSO and lack of Sergeant and ask for resources to be put back in the village

12.6. Lant Trust

Cllr Judy Lea advised that the last meeting discussed awarding grants. A number of older people in the Balsall and Berkswell obtain grants from the Lant. An award has also been made to the local secondary school to help fund school trips for those children unable to pay the voluntary contribution required. An explanation of pupil premium was given by Cllr Ritchie.

13. Accounts & Governance

13.1. **PROPOSAL** - To approve list of Orders to be placed and Payments for Approval and Payments Made

Resolved that a grant to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the sum of £25.00 is approved

Resolved that the accounts for payment as attached are approved

14. **Date for next meeting** – The next Parish Council Meeting shall be the Parish Council meeting to be held on 11th March 2015 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.09pm

Signed..... Dated.....

Cllr Raymond Ritchie

Chair

Balsall Parish Council

Accounts for Payment 14.01.15

Transac			Cheque
No:			Number
50.	Chadwick End Parish Council (paid)	£1,666.66	003352
51.	HMRC (PAYE & NI) Nov (paid)	£286.74	003353
52.	S.Kauser (reimburse for 2 train tickets to London –HS2 hearing)	£294.15	003354

53. Ian Richards (cutting back large hedge– willow park)	£330.00	003355
54. Warwickshire Training partnership (course 07/11)	£30.00	003356
55. Solihull MBC (mowing recreation grounds)	£1,727.40	003357
56. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection Cemetery)	£50.00	003358
57. Royal British Legion Poppy appeal (donation to be agreed)	£25.00	003359
58. Solihull MBC (supply and install litter bins-willow park)	£1, 780.73	003360
59. Y A Domestic Services (clearing leaves at Cemetery)	£70.00	003361
60. Y A Domestic Services (weekly refuse collection – rec grounds)	£150.00	003361
61. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – cemetery)	£50.00	003361
62. Y A Domestic Services (weekly litter pick – willow park)	£100.00	003361
63. Diane Malley (Internal Audit)	£105.00	003362
64. Arden Self Storage Ltd (storage of documents)	£1,080.00	003363
65. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – Cemetery)	£50.00	003364
66. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – rec grounds)	£200.00	003364

67. Y A Domestic Services (clearing leaves for new year and Xmas)	£70.00	003364
68. HMRC (PAYE & NI) Dec	£286.74	003365
69. 2gee design (website)	£22.23	003366
70. Balsall Common Village Hall (hire of room)	£238.00	003367
71. B.D Ball (winter planting)	£450.00	003368
72. Liz Macdonald (expenses – see claim form)	£23.00	003369
73. S.Kauser (expenses & mileage – see forms)	£168.35	003370
74. Viking Direct (stationery)	£121.22	003371

Direct Debits/Standing Orders

75. Clerks salary (Nov)	£	
76. West Midlands Pension Fund (Nov)	£286.90	
77. Mainstream Digital (inv- 658419 – quarterly phone line Nov-Feb)	£57.96	
78. Mainstream Digital (inv-658290 – quarterly CCTV line Nov – Feb)	£56.95	

79. Fortress (Waste removal – Cemetery/recreation grounds Nov)	£123.70
80. Clerks salary (Dec)	£
81. West Midlands Pension Fund (Dec)	£286.90
82. Fortress (Waste removal – Cemetery/recreation grounds Dec)	£123.70
83. Mainstream Digital (inv 662982 – call charges Dec)	£1.26
84. Fortress (Waste removal – Cemetery/recreation grounds Jan)	£123.70
85. Clerks salary (Jan)	£
86. West Midland Pension Fund (Jan)	£286.90

Invoices Raised

Cemetery	£210.00
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Orders Placed

Litter collection at Cemetery Oct – March – Y A Domestic Services

Clear leaves at Cemetery for Christmas - Y A Domestic Services

Repair of swing at Willow Park (rotten in part) – SMBC

Repair of CCTV cameras – Status Alarms

Income Received

Cemetery – various

£4,275.00

Cemetery – various