



295/297 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common CV7 7EL

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## Balsall Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7:30pm**

**Balsall Common Village Hall, 112 Station Road, Balsall Common CV7 7FF**

Present - Chairman Cllr Liz Macdonald, Cllr Kay Howles, Cllr Keith Tindall, Cllr Richard Lloyd, Cllr David Slatter Cllr Sara Kirby (minutes), Cllr Marion Keeley.

3 members of the public attended.

### MINUTES

**1. Public Forum** 3 Members of the public present.

Issues raised by residents:

Resident requested an update on management around parking on grass verges around the village – particularly on Needlers End Lane - informed there would be an update during the meeting – 7B on the agenda.

Resident also asked for an update regarding a concern he had raised previously regarding the GP surgery. Informed that a Community Health and Wellbeing Working Group had been formed with Berkswell and Meriden Parish Councils and contacts had had been made with the surgery practice manager and with Solihull Public Health management have been made. Updates on progress of this group will be included at Balsall Parish Council meetings. A copy of the terms of reference can be found attached to Balsall Parish Council October 2022 Minutes available on the BCP website.

**2. Apologies**, Cllr Ellender, Ward Cllr Diccico, Ward Cllr Howells, Ward Cllr Burrows, Cllr Richard Drake and The Clerk

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Macdonald, Cllr Howles, Cllr Keeley, Cllr Drake, Cllr Lloyd – claiming allowances.

**4. Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Minutes approved subject to correction of spelling at 8h change "Councillors" to Councillor's"

**5. Ward Councillors**

Cllr Burrows sent the following update by email as no Ward Councillors available to attend the meeting:

**i. 87 and 88 Bus services**

There is no truth that these services will close or significantly change. They fit within the green section of the TfWM economic analysis meaning that there is no economic case for ceasing them. In addition, they are seen as critical parts of the network and as such the presumption is always that they will stay. It should be noted that all TfWM subsidised routes will be subject to competitive tender at the year end because HM Government requires this to ensure best value for the government subsidy grant given to all commissioning authorities. Cllr Macdonald to check on the 87A service with Cllr Burrows to check this is included.

**ii. 89 Bus service**

This service will cease at year end. It will be replaced by an enhanced on demand service. That service is bookable and will in future accept cash rather than residents needing to hand over card details. (Exact cash only). Special arrangements will be made for Heart of England school children who use the 89 bus. In practice, they will use the on demand service using their bus passes as present. However, the on demand facility will enable them to get home, for example if they need to leave school later as long as they pre-book. That is an improvement on the current position.

**iii. Flooding in Balsall Common shopping area**

Mark O'Connell has confirmed that an engineer will look at it.

**iv. Mobility Scooter Access from Birch Grove to Cedar Wood Drive**

I have made a request for a dropped kerb to facilitate this

**v. Stoneton Crescent Greenspace**

A significant volume of work will be undertaken to improve this greenspace by undertaking horticultural work. Residents wanted this. The balance will be between restoring it to what it was 20 years ago and wildlife retention. I am leaving that balance to experts. A dual waste and dog bin will replace the existing dog bin.

**vi. Heritage Trail**

The web site receives around 20 hits per week from new people and around the same number of returning people. This is considered a useful flow of interest following the initial peak of 300 per week. The trail has been removed from the SMBC website at the windmill owner's request. Cllr Keeley updated that the local History group have given talks to local groups, including Scouts and plan a talk at Harper Fields informing them about the Heritage trail.

**vii. Solihull Plan**

The examiner has challenged the plan assumption of houses possible by the NEC. If that view holds the greenbelt release will need to occur elsewhere in the borough to make up the shortfall (e.g. Balsall Common). SMBC is challenging the examiner's assumption asking for the evidence that justifies it.

**6. Communications with External Organisations Resolutions**

**6a** Council to note that a response was submitted on the Solihull Housing Strategy. Thanks given to Cllr Macdonald for the work put into this.

**6b** Council agreed to write to Solihull to challenge them on the Frog Lane footpath consultation arrangements and to offer a meeting with those organising this consultation.

**6c** Council received a verbal feedback on the SAC meeting on 27 October.

**6d** Council agreed that the Council would demonstrate White Ribbon Day Nov 25 by publicising it on its website on the day.

**6e** Council agreed we should support the request from the Solihull Connect Customer Services team to pilot a self-service account, Cllr Slatter to lead on this item. Clerk to write to advise the team.

**6f** Council decided it would not feed in to the DLUHC Committee Funding Inquiry.

## **7. Highways Resolution**

**7a** Council agreed to write to Solihull Highways drainage team about the continued flooding of sections of the Kenilworth Road and adjoining footways and to Highways and the Street cleaning team about the leaves, nuts and sludge in the road gutters and on the footways and/or invite them to attend a future meeting. Cllr Burrows had updated the council there is a plan for leaf sweeping. Much gets done on the normal road sweeping but key roads get a dedicated team and time. Balsall Common is down for week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Tindall updated the meeting on the work he has been doing to address the issue of flooding outside the Italian restaurant. He has spoken to the SMBC staff who were working there and was told that the area requires new drainage infrastructure.

**7b** Council noted the Solihull Highways responses on parking on grass verges. Cllr Tindall updated that SMBC are speaking to the Community Housing Association regarding consulting on finding money for parking bays. It is on SMBC's agenda so they are aware of the issue.

**7c** Council considered the issue of parking on Balsall Street East near Welby Gate causing problems for local residents and whether to raise with Solihull Highways and request double yellow lines. Council agreed that double yellow lines were not appropriate but that they would raise the issue at the Highways quarterly meeting that there is an issue.

## **8. Administration Resolutions**

**8a** Council agreed to write to the Heart of England School to thank them for the use of the school hall at short notice for the National Moment of Reflection for HM Queen Elizabeth II in Balsall Common on Sunday 18 September and make a £100 donation to the additional expenses. Clerk to process.

**8b** Council noted the wreaths have been purchased. Noted the Remembrance Day Services (Temple Balsall cemetery 11th and St Peter's Church 13th November) and attendance at each arranged.

**8c** Council agreed to explore using social media on its website and to obtain quotes to update and develop the website. Cllr Slatter to lead.

**8d** Council noted that our Code of Conduct demands that we are always respectful in communications with our residents. The council proposed that this also applies to communications between ourselves both in public and in emails. It was agreed that proper disagreement on issues is normal but sniping at each other achieves nothing and reduces our integrity in the eyes of our electorate.

**8e** Council agreed to delete the burial register details for grave B002 and transfer all to grave B005 in Temple Balsall Cemetery, at no charge. The reason for this change is that an historic register error has been identified with an incorrect location in 1965. The register for grave B005 is currently recorded as unused and therefore the amendment can be made. B002 will subsequently be identified as unused. Council agreed that the cemetery records could be amended as proposed at no cost to the grave owner.

**8e** Council approved a 2 stage grant subject to usage to Churches Together in Balsall Common and Berkswell to create Warm Hubs in Balsall and Berkswell church buildings from 1 November 2022 to 31 March 2023, Monday – Friday. Grant details as per application. Some concerns raised by Cllrs around how well these hubs would be used. Agreed for an initial £400 grant but require a

monthly report on the number of Balsall parish residents using the facility. Council would review at its January meeting to see whether to make a further £350 grant.

**8f** Council agreed to set up a Finance Working Group - members Clerk, Cllrs Drake, Macdonald, Slatter, Tindall to review the in-year budget and develop a draft budget and precept for 2023/24 to bring to the January Council meeting for approval. Council noted that the Clerk is in the process of restructuring the BPC accounts to provide it with more meaningful information.

### **Environment & Parks Proposals**

**9a** Council noted that the Clerk and Chairman met with Fairways new Quality Control Manager on 2nd November to discuss issues with the grounds maintenance contract.

**9b** Council noted that our application to the Arden Free Tree Scheme has been partially successful and the Council has been allocated 6 fruit trees.

**9c** Council agreed to purchase the Streetmaster seat and bench, colour green. The Council was advised that the price might have increased since the original quote (£945 ex vat) and recognised that the cost of fitting would need to be added to the budget (as this is a capital item the costs could be charged to CIL income).

### **10. Accounts Resolutions**

**10a** Council approved bank reconciliations and Cashbook for October 2022.

**10b** Council noted the payments approved at the October meeting were made.

**10c** Council approved the September and October 2022 payments listed below:

#### **September and October 2022 Payments List (gross)**

##### Invoices November

HMRC	PAYE Q1	£2,165.99
L Macdonald	Chairmans Allowance Q2	£420.00
K Howles	Councillors Allowance Q2	£209.90
M Keeley	Councillors Allowance Q2	£209.90
R Drake	Councillors Allowance Q2	£209.90
R Lloyd	Councillors Allowance Q2	£209.90
HMRC	PAYE	£679.15
SLCC	CiLCA Clerk	£410.00
Pied Piper	October	£102.00
WALC	CiLCA units 2 & 3	£54.00
WALC	Risk Assessments LM	£24.00
Fairways	Grounds Maintenance	£1,400
J Parry-Evans	October Temp Clerk	£1,293.75
T Carpenter	October salary	
Heart of England School	Donation	£100
EDGE	Laptop cleanups inv 36345	£72
L Macdonald	Re-imburement (plants)	£154.97

##### DD/SO

Waterplus DD	stw-inv00040194	£11.68
Smart Pension DD	Account Service Charge October	£18.00
Lloyds Bank DD	Payment card October	£18.17
Conquira SO	Office rent November	£600.00
Vodafone DD	Charges October	£31.12

## 11. Planning Applications

**11a** Council considered and agreed responses to the following Planning Applications:

PL/2022/01988/PPFL 6 Foxes Way Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7QU

Erect new detached 3 bedroom dwelling to land adjacent to 6 Foxes Way. Expiry Date – Tue 08 Nov 2022. **Comments: In breach of Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) BE2 and H1 and considered to be over development on an established housing estate.**

PL/2022/02098/PPFL Holly Grange, Holly Lane Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7E Extension to existing warehousing facility for storage of electric car parts. New driving tuition track and formation of nature pond. Expiry Date - Wed 09 Nov 2022. **No Comments**

PL/2022/02169/MINFHO 584 Kenilworth Road Balsall Common CV7 7DQ. Erection of solid garden boundary wall rendered white (proposed), formation of front balcony with glass balustrade, raising rear extension flat roof height with skylights reduce first floor study side window and increase first floor landing side window (Retrospective). Approved drawings (PL202101439MINFHO 30-06-2021). Expiry Date - Mon 14 Nov 2022. **Comments: Breaches NDP BE2**

PL/2022/02204/MINFHO 19 Coplow Close Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7PQ Single storey rear extension. Expiry Date - Mon 28 Nov 2022 **No comments**

PL/2022/02133/VAR Cornerways Balsall Street East Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7JH

Vary Condition No. 1- Approved plans on planning approval PL/2017/00939/PPFL - Demolition of existing bungalow and replace with a single 2 storey building comprising 6 No. apartments approved on 15-08-2017. Namely; relocation of the approved bin store and cycle store via Site plan on drawing 30694 02 REV B to be superseded by WD01 SITE.

Expiry Date - Wed 30 Nov 2022 **No comments**

PL/2022/02239/MINFHO 91 Kemp's Green Road Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7QF Two storey side and single storey rear and side extension. New oak porch. Remodel to existing layout and front elevation. Existing 1.8m fence moved. Expiry Date - Thur 1 Dec 2022 **No Comments**

PL/2021/02726/MINFHO 755 Kenilworth Road Variation of matching brick part rendering of brick work from original application. **No comments**

Meeting Ended 21.35

## 12. Date and Venue of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7:30pm at the Village Hall, 112 Station Road, Balsall Common CV7 7FF

Signed .....

Elizabeth Macdonald  
Chairman

Date .....