



295/297 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common CV7 7EL

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Balsall Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7:30pm

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

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

3 members of the public attended.

MINUTES

1. **Public Forum** A resident asked why the Neighborhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) is not available for the Meriden ward on the list issued by Solihull MBC (SMBC). Chair explained that the CiL on the list is for the non-parished areas of the borough to apply for based on CiL collected against developments in their areas. SMBC distributes a proportion of CIL to parished areas assessed on size of developments they have had and whether there is a made NDP.
2. **Apologies**, Cllrs Ellender, Ward Cllrs Burrow, Howell & The Clerk
3. **Declarations of Interest** Cllrs Lloyd and Tindall Item 6.
4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2022 were approved.
5. **Ward Councillors** Cllr Burrows sent the following update by email as no Ward Councillors were available to attend the meeting:
 - a. **Work on park on Kemps Green Estate** The park is on Stoneton Drive close to Kemps Green Road. Work for significant pruning/clearing up will commence (weather permitting) in the week commencing 16th January.
 - b. **Disabled scooter access Birch Grove to Cedarwood drive to village centre** That was requested and dropped kerbs were to be installed in December. That work will now take place on 13th or 16th January
 - c. **Flooding in BC centre** As requested, SMBC have secured that the building owner/user at the pharmacy repaired their guttering and downpipe to stop rainwater dropping onto the pavement causing flooding. (There are other sources of such flooding that can only be sorted by a major pavement/road reconstruction such as the BC centre project). Work on road drains at the roundabout will be included in the 2003/4 Solihull work plan
 - d. **Solihull Local Plan** Council to note that the plan inspectors have rejected justification from SMBC for the housing numbers at the NEC. The examiner considers that 500 is a reasonable delivery plan versus the 2240 in phase 1 of the NEC site. The inspectors suggest that alternative sites be found. SMBC is considering their position.
 - e. **Disabled parking bay in BC centre** There was a proposal to move the current bay from outside the post office to a parallel parking position outside the hairdressers. Two

objections were raised by members of the public who said the proposal would not be compliant with current guidelines, which was true. That proposal will not be progressed despite the fact that most disabled driver/people (including the objectors) consider it an improvement. The biggest cost of such moves in the public consultation and whether another consultation can be undertaken is not clarified. There is an alternative proposal to move the current disabled space from the east side of the pedestrian build out to the western side. The space to the west is a meter wider than the one to the east and could provide a better space. Highways Dept is looking at the possibility but there is a cost of consultation and potentially the need to move a cycle parking hoop to consider."

6. Communications with External Organisations Resolutions

6a Verbal update on the Community Health and Wellbeing Group given by Cllrs Kirby and Slatter. The Working Group met on 5 January 2023 hosted by Balsall Parish Council (PC). Representatives attended from Balsall PC, Berkswell PC, Meriden PC, Ward Cllr, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) Public Health officers and Primary Care connect. There was no representative available to attend from the GP practice. Discussions shared present good practice taking place across the parishes Wider discussion took place regarding different ways of working with communities – schools, Here to Help web pages

- Social prescribers discussed - suggested inviting coordinator of GP practices to next meeting to see if engagement with the practice is more successful this way.
- Established that the health priorities in this area are
 - Mental Health
 - Hypertension
 - Diabetes
- Out of the discussions came 2 priorities:
 - Community Champions
 - Mental Health

Group agreed to meet in 6 weeks inviting people suggested and seeing how we can focus on the 2 identified priorities.

6b Council noted the update from Cllr Lloyd on HHAG. Struggling to wind it up as have been unable to get Chelmsley Wood PC agreement. The Group has £211 pounds to be redistributed. Council to review progress regularly.

6c Council noted the latest position on the Solihull Local Plan (ref email 6.1.2023) and Cllr Burrows update at 5d.

6d Council noted the information circulated by SMBC on the Local Elections on 4 May 2023, when all 10 Balsall Parish council posts will be up for election (ref email 6.1.2023). Council approved adding a link on its website to the Solihull election webpage. Council approved Cllrs Slatter and Kirby writing an article for the Bugle on being a new councillor. Council approved Chairman writing a joint article with Berkswell PC Chairman to encourage eligible candidates to stand.

7. Highways Resolutions

7a Council noted the correspondence from a resident on the parking on pavements on Kenilworth Road and near the centre shops (ref email RD 3.1.23). Council acknowledged that this is an on-going issue but unless SMBC enforces parking rules there is little that can be done to stop opportunistic parking.

7b Council noted that SMBC are formulating their own transport strategy, which is expected to include a strand of work specifically for the rural east to recognise the challenges in rural areas. Council accepted the lead officer's offer to meet with parish councils as part of the consultation process.

8. Administration Resolutions

8a Council noted that Cllr Kirby attended the *Cost of Living - Practical actions to support residents* WALC Members Briefing session on 10 January. Cllr Kirby

reported back that there was a huge amount of helpful information shared on what help is available for people looking for help with the cost of living increases. WALC have a huge amount of resources that they are making available on the Members area on their website. Clerks can use these resources to sign post people to help if required. WALC are encouraging councils to keep including Cost of Living challenges on their agendas. Council reviewed the Warm Hubs usage figures - Nov 125 and December 250. Cllr Kirby had visited some of the Warm Hubs and was able to report back on the benefits they are providing to residents who are accessing the hubs.

Council agreed to make a further grant award of £350 (ref Mtg 9.11.22 item 8e).

- 8b** Council noted that it had exercised its discretion under the Council's Temple Balsall Rules and Regulations to approve the burial of a non-resident at the resident rate in Temple Balsall cemetery on the grounds that there are "strong links to close family members already buried in the cemetery." (ref Clerk email 20.12.2022 and responses).

Concerns were raised about the decision process and details being circulated by email. Council noted there was a conflict between the Cemetery Rules and Standing Order 25. To remove the anomaly the Council amended the resolution and agreed to establish a Cemetery Committee and delegate to it the responsibility for exercising the Council's discretion on applying the residents rate. Cllrs Macdonald, Keeley, Slatter and Kirby agreed to be members. The Committee will operate under the Council's Standing Orders, with formal Terms of Reference to be agreed.

- 8c** Council:

1. Approved the Working Group recommended budget and precept for 2023/24; and
2. Authorised the Clerk to submit the precept to Solihull MBC by the end of January.

- 8d** Council:

1. Agreed not to renew the existing website contract when it expires at the end of March 2023.
2. Approved the appointment of Breakthrough Communications Council Hive Professional service at a cost £744 for an initial 12 months to assist in the development of the Council's new accessible compliant website, training, templates and improve its social media communications (ref 14 Dec 2022 meeting item 8c) .
3. Approved the appointment of the Shemeam.com to develop the Council's new accessible compliant website at a cost of £898.80 including VAT.
4. Amended the resolution and additionally approved the use of Hootsuite at a cost of £700.00 including VAT per annum.

- 8e** Council amended and agreed the 2023 future meeting dates and changed the venue to the Westlake Room; Council authorised the Clerk to make the bookings.

- 8f** Council reviewed its list of decisions and agreed those that are complete/been undertaken could be removed and noted those still in progress/pending. Council agreed this is a useful working document.

- 8g** Council did not agree to add to Standing Orders or a Subsidiary Procedure a requirement that persons requesting action by the Council to supply their residential or business address, and be informed that the information is needed to establish whether and how the Council can act on their behalf, and that the information will be safeguarded in accordance with the Privacy policy as it was considered unnecessary additional work for the Clerk, from recent experience could have abusive comments and under GDPRs would need to justify holding the data and stipulate its use.

9. Environment & Parks Proposals

9a Council noted and agreed the list of potential Green Belt Compensations under Policy P17a as detailed in the paper circulated by Cllr Drake. The information would be kept on file ready for when developments commence.

9b Council:

1. Noted that quotations were received from 3 businesses to undertake tree felling, pollarding, removing major deadwood and removal of all waste at Willow Park and Temple Balsall Cemetery. The quotations ranged from £6,000 to £27,000 ex VAT.
2. Noted that SMBC have confirmed that none of the trees in Temple Balsall Conservation Area will be subject to a TPO (Determination Of Application For Works To Trees Within A Conservation Area PL/2022/02381/TCA).
3. Approved the proposal for the Clerk to appoint the selected contractor, Fairways Contracting Limited at a cost of £6,000 plus VAT.

9c Council noted that the Chairman and Cllr Tindall collected the Arden Free Trees, Rosebourne Garden Centre have donated a further 2 eating apple trees and Friends of Willow Park (FoWP) have grown 3 seedlings for the Community Orchard. Balsall Primary School have indicated that they would like to be involved with the planting and FoWP have been in touch with Love Solihull to get additional support to plant the trees. Anyone interested in volunteering to plant the tree should contact the Chairman.

10. Accounts Resolutions

10a Council approved bank reconciliations (Unity Trust and Santander) and Cashbook for December 2022.

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

10c Council approved the December 2022 and January 2023 payments listed below:

Payments List (gross)

Invoices

Paid 20th December 2022

BC Village Hall	Room Hire	£30.00
WALC	Training Planning for Elections (3)	£108.00
EDGE	Annual IT support 01.10.22-30.09.23	£507.00
EDGE	Finance Webinair	£36.00
EDGE	Microsoft 365 annual 27.10.22-26.10.23	£659.00

January Payments

Pied Piper	December	£102.00
Fairways	Grounds Maintenance	£1,400.00
J Parry-Evans	December Temp Clerk	£1,006.25
T Carpenter	December salary	
SLCC	13th Edition Local Council Administration	£141.80
Arden Storage	Annual rental 2023	£1080.00
Council Hive (pro)	annual invoice	£893.70

DD/SO

Smart Pension	DD	Account Service Charge November	£18.00
Lloyds Bank	DD	Payment card November	£198.16
Conquira	SO	Office rent December	£600.00
Vodafone	DD	Charges November	£27.36

11. Consultations
Council agreed to set up a Working Group to draft a response to the Government’s *Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy* consultation (ref email 3.01.23). Cllrs Macdonald, Tindall, Slater and Kirby agreed to form the working group.

12. Planning Applications
Council considered and agreed responses to the following Planning Applications:

PL/2022/02339/MINFHO 54 Balsall Street East, Balsall Common CV7 7FT Front porch, garage and first floor bedroom remodeling works Awaiting decision.
No Comments

13. Communications Resolutions
Council noted the following communications:

- SMBC advised of a *New £3m Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund* and the information was forwarded to the Balsall Common Village Hall in case they had not had a direct notification.
- Birmingham Airport has sent the annual *Notice of Instrument Landing System Calibration* which is due to take place between 23:00 on Wednesday 11th January and approximately 04:00 on Thursday 12th January. Dates have changed due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Council to add an item on the March agenda to discuss the Heart of England Cooperative service provision.

Meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 8th February 2023, 7:30pm in the Westlake Room, 112 Station Road, Balsall Common CV7 7FF

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Councillor E Macdonald
Chairman

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Date