



295/297 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common CV7 7EL

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Balsall Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 14th December 2022 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 (minutes), Cllr Marion Keeley.

6 members of the public attended.

MINUTES

1 Public Forum

There were no issues raised by residents:

2. **Apologies**, Cllrs Ellender, Howles, & Kirby. Ward Cllrs Burrow, Diccico & Howells, & The Clerk

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 10:

Cllrs Macdonald, Howles, Keeley, Drake & Lloyd – allowances.

Cllrs Macdonald & Tindall – expenses

4. **Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2022 were approved.

5. Ward Councillors

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

Kenilworth Road

The following were replies given to me by Highways

Average Speed Camera (ASE) Project – We don't yet have a confirmed programme for the ASE equipment. We are just in the process of commissioning the A34 Shirley ASE which is planned to be operational before Christmas, but we are waiting currently for some electrical supplies to be transferred to the new lamp columns, and this weather does not help at the present time. This will be our next ASE scheme but realistically, it will take at least 12 months to plan, design, procure and implement this type of scheme.

The team are currently working on the detail design of **A452 new crossing facility** by Lavender Hall Lane junction and the Hampton-in-Arden phase 2 traffic calming scheme. I understand from our design team that details of the A452 crossing will be shared with Ward Members shortly.

Flooding in village centre

Drains around and linked to the roundabout have been cleaned but a 2nd survey found extensive civils work needed to be done. That will be programmed in the new financial years when funds become available

An officer has visited the pharmacy to get them to repair/replace the damaged down pipe from their gutters which is causing flooding just to the west of the pharmacy

Kemps Green/Stoneton Crescent park work – I am still awaiting a date for this to commence.

Parking on Hallmeadow Road for the station– This is waiting adoption by SMBC. Phase 2 is expected to commence on 9th January when Western Power move their buried cables under where the parking will go

HS2 Haul route – no response to the HS2 planning appeal yet. However, HS2/BBV are stock piling material to build their proposed haul route across Barratts farm at the end of the greenway. Rather than haul this material through Balsall Common they have brought it down their off road haul route from Park lane and used a conveyor to get it across the WCML and are using 60 tonne vehicles to do the last hundred metres to the storage sites. This has reduced trucking volumes through Balsall Common.

Frog Lane park consultation – this is now closed and the web site has been taken down. I do however, have copy of the p[roposals as a PDF if anyone wants them. I am told that there was a good response.

6. Communications with External Organisations Resolutions

6a Council noted that the Clerk has received an unhelpful response from Solihull Community Housing on the ownership/lease arrangements of the Oakley playground and has escalated the issue to the Assistant Director of Stronger Communities at SMBC.

6b Council noted that Cllr Slatter attended a virtual meeting on 8 December 2022 with the Solihull Connect Customer Services team in relation to developing their digital offer and pilot creating a self-service account and reviewing the digital process. Initial use to be by Cllr Slatter who will draft a proposal on/how (and by whom) it is to be accessed and used.

7. Highways Resolution

7a Council noted that Solihull MBC has engaged consultants to undertake initial design work in relation to the Balsall Common Transport Package that is highlighted within the Draft Local Plan, in particular the relief road. Council agreed to thank Walter Bailey for his update and ask to be kept informed of progress.

7b Council noted the verbal report on the Highways Working Group Quarterly meeting with Solihull Highways on 7 December.

Council noted that the design of the Kenilworth Road toucan crossing should go for a Design Review in January, following which the information will be communicated to the affected residents with completion targeted for June 2023.

A452 Average speed cameras – see Borough Councillor's report.

8. Administration Resolutions

8a Council noted that the Clerk wrote to the Heart of England School to thank them for the use of the school hall for the National Moment of Reflection for HM Queen Elizabeth II in Balsall Common on Sunday 18 September and made the agreed £100 donation.

8b Council noted that the council was represented and laid wreaths for Remembrance Day at Temple Balsall cemetery 11th and St Peter's Church 13th November 2022.

8c Council noted that its website has been infected with malware and that it does not meet current public sector standards or good practice. Council authorised the Clerk to undertake an urgent redevelopment of its website to meet current standards, particularly accessibility and include a parish on-line facility, a cemetery on-line booking system, social media with an e-posting system to plan, adapt and post messages on all council social media and have the capability in the future to host e-planning. Council approved a project budget of £4000 for the site and training and on-going budget for hosting and support of £1500.

8d Council noted that the Clerk has made the burial register amendments agreed at the November meeting.

8e Council noted that the agreed £400 grant was made to Churches Together in Balsall Common and Berkswell to create Warm Hubs in Balsall and Berkswell with a request for monthly attendance figures.

8f Council noted that the Christmas lights switch-on took place on 25 November successfully. Council authorised the Clerk to write to thank the participants and Ward Cllr Burrows/local shops who provided refreshments. Council agreed to request closing Station Road for a short period to allow the 2023 switch-on to be safer and allow more room for residents to participate.

8g Council decided to make a grant of £2000 to the Berkswell and Balsall Rugby Club

8h Council approved an additional planter for the site on the pavement near the fish and chip shop where the tree was removed within a budget of £100.

Council authorised the Clerk to seek quotes and engage a contractor to maintain (minor repairs up to £500) clear, plant, water the Councils planters in the village centre starting with the summer 2023 season.

8i Council approved additional time and budget (£1,100 left in 22/23 storage budget) for clearance of the Storage Unit – manpower to empty, clerks time to sort, shred, dispose, scan, archive.

8k Council noted that the Working Group has reviewed the in-year budget/precept. The Working Group brought the proposed draft budget and precept for 2023/24 to the Council for consideration and comment. The Council agreed the policy to maintain the precept at the same level as 2022/23 and noted that there will be some further budget refinement. The precept and budget will come to the January 2023 meeting for approval.

9. Environment & Parks Proposals

9a Council noted that Fairways have caught up with some of the outstanding grounds maintenance contract work raised with them in November; the Clerk is still waiting for quotes for the previously requested additional work.

9b Council noted that our TPO application for trees in the Frog Lane development site has been partially successful with 4 trees approved and 1 rejected.

9c Council reviewed its November decision to have a seat and a bench in Willow Park as it is inconsistent with its decision at the meeting in October 2021 (item 7.2) and concerns raised by adjacent residents. After representations from local residents it was agreed to revert to the original decision of a single seat. Location to be agreed by the Clerk with local residents.

9d Council noted that the Clerk has sought quotes for the tree work and has had to give an extension of time to get these. The Clerk has applied for planning approval for the work in the cemetery as requested at the meeting in October 2022 (item 9a). Council agreed to defer any decision on further action to a subsequent meeting.

9e Council authorised the Clerk to use Warwickshire Conservation Volunteers to undertake epicormic growth, crown lifts and clearance work in Willow Park for max of 3 days at a budget cost of £300.

10. Accounts Resolutions

Accounts Resolutions

10a Council approved bank reconciliations and Cashbook for November 2022.

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

10c Council approved the December 2022 payments listed below:

December 2022 Payments List (gross)

Invoices

L Macdonald	Councillors Allowance Q3	£420
K Howles	Councillors Allowance Q3	£210.10
M Keeley	Councillors Allowance Q3	£210.10
R Drake	Councillors Allowance Q3	£210.10
R Lloyd	Councillors Allowance Q3	£210.10
Pied Piper	November	£102.00
Fairways	Grounds Maintenance	£1,400
Fairways	Christmas Trees	£456
J Parry-Evans	November Temp Clerk	£1,700
T Carpenter	November salary	
Ian Richards	Planters watering summer 22	£660
Keith Tindall	ACC meeting mileage	£9.00
T Carpenter	Christmas Choir Chocolate	£44.40
L Macdonald	Autumn plants, bulbs & compost	£256.18

DD/SO

Waterplus	DD	stw-inv000331338	£ 6.75
Smart Pension	DD	Account Service Charge November	£18.00
Lloyds Bank	DD	Payment card November	£18.17
Conquira	SO	Office rent December	£600.00
Vodafone	DD	Charges November	£31.12

11. Planning Applications

Planning Applications

11a Council considered the following Planning Applications:

PL/2022/02339/MINFHO 54 Balsall Street East, Balsall Common CV7 7FT Front porch, garage and first floor bedroom remodelling works Awaiting decision

Comment: Insufficient information to make a decision. Contact SMBC to ask for detail and restart the consultation period

PL/2022/02304 82 Meer Stones Road Balsall Common CV7 7HB Change of use for garage and yard area to handle dog boarding business as an ancillary use to the main building. Awaiting decision

Comment: Insufficient detail to make an informed decision and an inappropriate location for this enterprise. Council to object

PL/2022/02477/MINFHO60 Needlers End Lane Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7AB Demolition of existing orangery and erection of single storey rear extension. Expiry Date - Mon 26 Dec 2022.

No Comment

PL/2022/02492/LBC Ye Olde Saracens Head Balsall Street Balsall Common Solihull CV7 7AS Listed building consent to add a CCTV system.. Expiry Date - Tue 3 Jan 2023.

No Comment

Meeting closed at 9.45. The Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Date and Venue of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th January 2023, 7:30pm at the Village Hall, 112 Station Road, Balsall Common CV7 7FF

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Councillor E Macdonald
Chairman

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Date