

Parish Council of Balsall

Approved Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 7.30pm at The Westlake Room, Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

Present

CLLr Will Heard (Chair), CLLr Marie-Louise Marsden, CLLr Mark Tattum, CLLr Sheila Cooper, CLLr Judy Lea, CLLr Lionel King, CLLr Raymond Ritchie and 3 members of the public

Headings are those set out on the Agenda

1. Apologies

Received and accepted from CLLr Liz Macdonald and CLLr Richard Lloyd

2. Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary

None

Non-Pecuniary

None

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 27th January 2016

Resolved – That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 27th January 2016 are approved subject to amendment of item 13.8 to add the following “CLLr Raymond Ritchie and CLLr Mark Tattum raised concerns over the proposed scheme.”

The Chair signed the amended Minutes as a true and accurate record

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

- 4.1. Letter sent to Caroline Spelman to raise concerns over HS2 Select Committee hearing listings. A reply has been received both from Caroline Spelman and the Clerk

Clerk provided details of the communication

5. Public Forum

Keith Tindall of the Residents Association asked if the Parish Council has made a decision regarding petitioning to the House of Lords on HS2. Chair advised that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would be required to deal with this matter. It was noted that SMBC have decided not to petition to the House of Lords. CLLr David Bell advised that the matter had been considered by SMBC and professional advice taken. The prospects of success were not good and petitioning was unlikely to have any effect. Given the significant amount of cost to be incurred would open SMBC to criticism over spending public money where nothing would be achieved.

Chair asked that this is co-ordinated with Berkswell PC who are also affected by HS2

6. **Power of General Competence** - To resolve that Balsall Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility detailed below and has the General Power of Competence

The General Power of Competence derives from The Localism Act 2011, Chapter 1 Part 1, sections 1-8. It gives local councils the power “to do anything that individuals may generally do”. It is intended to be a power of first resort.

The criteria to become an eligible parish council is set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (prescribed conditions) Order 2012/965. Parish Councils must:-

- Pass a resolution at a council meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility. The resolution can be passed at any meeting but a further resolution must be passed at every subsequent relevant annual meeting. At the time the resolution is passed the council must also;
- Have a qualified clerk
- Have a minimum of two-thirds of the members as being elected

RESOLVED – That Balsall Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility as set out above and has the General Power of Competence

7. **Correspondence**

- 7.1. Letter from 2nd Balsall Common Scouts to thank Parish Council for donation and details of expenditure
- 7.2. Letter from St Peters Toddler Group sending thanks to Parish Council and pictures
- 7.3. HS2 Ltd – confirmation to deposit amended bill and additional provisions at Balsall Common Library
- 7.4. Letter from Caroline Spelman to acknowledge receipt of letter concerning issues over HS2 Select Committee listing
- 7.5. Letter from the Clerk to the Select Committee concerning listing of Select Committee hearings

Clerk provided details of communication received

8. **Local Council Award Scheme** - To agree to take all steps to obtain NALC Local Council Award starting at Foundation Level

It was agreed to adjourn this to the next meeting as Cllr Liz Macdonald was not present at the meeting

9. **HS2** – Update - Report issued by Select Committee and request to Caroline Spelman MP by Councillors to seek amend the Bill

Cllr Sheila Cooper provided an update. Cllr Cooper advised that SMBC would not be petitioning to the House of Lords. Caroline Spelman has tabled an amendment to the Bill but this does not seem hopeful.

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan

It was agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting

10.1. To provide an update of the Presentation by Neil Pearce on the NDP process

Clerk confirmed that slides of the presentation have been circulated to Councillors and NDP members

10.2. To receive a report from the NDP Committee representatives – last meeting 16th March 2016

Chair provided a report of the agenda items discussed and decisions made at the meeting held on 16th March 2016

A discussion took place regarding the NDP Committee and the Solihull Local Plan Review. Councillors expressed their opinions.

A discussion took place regarding the NDP committee and the Solihull Local Plan Review. The clerk stated that it is the NDP that is the correct forum to take forward the Local Plan Review or alternatively any review of the sites because we have established a joint Parish Neighbourhood Area. This is the joint group that represents the Parish Council. It has the power and the scope to do that.

11. **Grant Application** – To consider grant application from Balsall Common Primary School for new play equipment

RESOLVED – That a grant to Balsall Common Primary School in the sum of £2,000 is approved

12. **New Road Names** – To consider proposed road names for new developments at Kenilworth Road – proposed names Bayley Brook and Hornbrook Close

It was agreed to wait for comments and suggestions from Cllr Lloyd who was not present at the meeting

13. Reports from Representatives & Committee members

13.1. Airport

A report was provided by Cllr Mark Tattum. An article has been written in the Bugle that outlines the developments. There have been changes in the way that planes are measured which means that where planes are not proceeding on track, this will be acted upon by the airport and by SMBC

13.2. Planning Committee

Cllr Sheila Cooper advised that she attended the Kenilworth Road sites. There is a concern over the trees being removed. This has been reported to SMBC

13.3. Finance Committee

No report as a meeting had not taken place

13.4. Residents Association

Cllr Judy Lea advised that the Police had provided a report and there have been an increase in thefts from Sainsburys. Clean for the Queen took place and there was a good turnout of volunteers. A Clean up of the Grange pond also took place and the next clean-up will take place on 14th April

13.5. Lant Trust

Cllr Judy Lea advised that very few people had applied for grants. Consideration is being given to supporting the Heart of England Year 8 pupils who receive a pupil premium to attend a trip. The Reading rooms are suffering from damp. Efforts are being made to raise funds for urgent repairs by holding plant sales. We may receive a request to help with the cost by way of a grant

13.6. Balsall Common Village Hall

Cllr Judy Lea advised that damp has been discovered in the main hall. Severn Trent has advised that this is a Village hall matter. The Village Hall are in contact with the insurers and are investigating the problem

13.7. Willow Park Working Group

Chair advised that as part of the Clean for the Queen effort, several bags of rubbish were collected from Willow Park

13.8. Parking on Pavements and Verges Working Group

Chair advised that the Working Group including Cllr Mark Tattum had attended a meeting with Dickens Heath Councillors. A meeting is now to be arranged with Paul Tovey of SMBC

Accounts & Governance

14. Training – Update of training events attended by Councillors and future training events booked by Councillors

Councillors attended the Annual Briefing Day by WALC. Councillors were encouraged to attend further courses

15. Accounts

15.1. PROPOSAL - To approve list of Orders to be placed and Payments for Approval and Payments Made as attached

RESOLVED – That the Orders placed and Payments for Approval and Payments made are approved

16. To agree to proceed with the meeting in private session and exclude members of the public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2)

To consider matters of a confidential matter relating to the Parish Council Office

RESOLVED – That the meeting proceeds in private session and exclude members of the public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 s.1(2) to consider confidential matter relating to the Parish Council office

An update of the position and actions was provided by the Chair and Clerk

Chair provided details of a meeting with SMBC library services held that afternoon. The meeting was to discuss proposals for moving the Parish Council office to the Library following the end of the Lease at the Police Shop at the end of the year.

The Police have now confirmed that the Parish Council Lease will end at the end of the year.

It was proposed to convert the conservatory at the Library to an office. This area is effectively an unused space so would not result in any space reduction to the public.

The agreement would be on the following basis:

- The cost of the conversion is in the region of £18,000 payable by the Parish Council upfront (The Parish Council has made a saving in the current rent payable at the Police shop of £9,000 so a sum of around £9,000 would have to be taken from reserves)
- SMBC Library services will offer a long term lease of 10 years with a break clause at 5 years
- The Parish Council will pay a nominal annual rent of no more than £2,000 per year
- The Parish Council will be required to provide volunteers to extend the current opening hours of the Library so that the community will see a benefit
- This will secure the future of the Library for the next 10 years

All Councillors supported the idea.

RESOLVED – This Parish Council supports the idea in principle of money to be spent to convert the conservatory at Balsall Common Library with a view to converting it into an office for Balsall Parish Council

17. Date for next meeting – The next Parish Council Meeting shall be the Annual Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 7.30pm at the Westlake Room, Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 21.10pm

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

Cllr Will Heard

Chair

Balsall Parish Council

Accounts for Payment 23.03.16

For year end 2015/2016

Transac	Amount	Cheque
No:		Number
50. Berkswell Parish Council (noise monitoring services - 50% share)	£197.49	003520
51. SMBC (Wilow Park – hedge cutting)	£115.08	003521
52. SMBC (Cemetery hedges and meadow)	£2,292.00	003522
53. U3A (NDP – display boards)	£50.00	003523
54. Acorn Printing (cemetery bench plaque)	£84.00	003524
55. Ian Piper (domain renewal)	£15.00	003525
56. HMRC (PAYE & NI Feb)	£292.12	003526
57. SMBC (Xmas lights)	£5,146.08	003527
58. Shoosmiths (HS2 legal fees)	£4,954.80	003528
59. Y A Domestic Services (emergency tree work –Cemetery)	£50.00	003529
60. WALC (Annual briefing day course)	£200.00	003530
61. West Midland Pension Fund (pension deficit 2016/2017)	£862.00	003531
62. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – rec grounds Jan)	£200.00	003532
63. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – Cemetery Jan)	£50.00	003533
64. Warwickshire Training Partnership (course fees Cllr Cooper)	£45.00	003534
65. Warwickshire Training Partnership (course fees Cllr Cooper)	£30.00	003535
66. Warwickshire Training Partnership (course fees Cllr Heard)	£30.00	003536
67. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – rec grounds Feb)	£200.00	003537
68. Y A Domestic Services (refuse collection – cemetery Feb)	£50.00	003538
69. Warwickshire Training Partnership (course fees Cllr Marsden)	£30.00	003539

70. W.Watson (clerk support)	£152.00	003540
71. Balsall Common Primary School (s.137 Grant)	£2,000.00	003541
72. B. Ball (mowing Cemetery – March)	£640.00	003542
73. W.Heard (Chair allowance)	£502.70	003543
74. S.Kauser (salary shortfall)	£	003544
75. L.King (allowance)	£252.00	003545
76. J.Lea (allowance)	£315.00	003546
77. R.Lloyd (allowance)	£252.00	003547
78. MLM Marsden (allowance)	£252.00	003548
79. R.Ritchie (allowance)	£252.00	003549
80. HMRC (PAYE & NI Mar)	£2401.55	003550

Direct Debits/Standing Orders

81. S.Kauser (salary Feb)	£
82. West Midland Pension Fund contributions Feb)	£327.63
83. Number not used	
84. Mainstream Digital (inv 725062 line rental 08/01 – 07/04)	£55.10
85. Mainstream Digital (inv 725061 call charges Jan)	£1.72
86. Mainstream Digital (inv 729961 Internet line rental 21/02 – 20/05)	£57.56
87. Mainstream Digital (inv 729849 call charges and line rental 12/02 – 11/05)	£55.92
88. Severn Trent Water (Cemetery)	£23.42

89. Fortress (waste collec Cemetery & rec grounds Mar)	£123.70
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90. S.Kauser (salary Mar)	£
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91. West Midland Pension Fund (contributions plus deficit - Mar)	£327.63
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Invoices Raised

Cemetery - invoices 15 - 23	£4,355.00
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Orders Placed

Remove No Dog signs and place by recreation ground (Willow Park)

Install bench at Oakley following request from residents

Income Received

Cemetery	£2,235.00
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