

**Minutes of the Meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 25th June 2012 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Councillors present: Mrs. J. Baker (Chairman), Mr. R. Coulson, Dr. C. McGregor, Mrs. H. Mobius & Mr. L. York.

Also present: District Cllr. K. Baker, County Cllr. L. Kadic, County Cllr. P. Brown & Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. S. Lomas & Cllr. M. Bryan.

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Baker declared a prejudicial interest in item 12d, as a close relative attends the Thursday Club.

3. Public participation: There were no members of the public present.

4. To agree Parish Council policies for: Management of records, Complaints, Data Protection, Freedom of Information requests – internal review, Recruitment and Training.

The Clerk had circulated copies of all of the policies prior to the meeting. Cllr. Mobius proposed that Alconbury Weston Parish Council should adopt the policies as circulated with one addition to the Training Policy regarding payment of travel expenses for councillors. Seconded by Cllr. Coulson, unanimously agreed.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2012: The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from the minutes:

a) Alconbury Airfield – The Clerk had attended a Liaison meeting on 12th June. The new name for the site will be Alconbury Weald. The masterplan application will be submitted for outline planning permission in 3-4 weeks time. The group were also shown draft plans of the first incubator building in the Enterprise Zone. Plans for this will be submitted for full planning permission also in 3-4 weeks time. There had been a long discussion on the proposals for the new Huntingdonshire Local Plan and how this might effect the site. Urban and Civic held an exhibition for residents of the Alconburys on 20th June in the Memorial Hall and had members of their team available to answer questions.

b) Diamond Jubilee tree planting - Carried forward to the next meeting.

c) Parish Council website – Cllr. McGregor advised councillors at the last meeting that the current free website was not very user-friendly, being difficult to navigate around. The Parish Council could pay for a custom made website or investigate other free options to see if they were more suitable. Councillors agreed to do some research and bring ideas for content etc. to the next meeting for discussion.

d) Repairs to the pot hole in the footway on Vinegar Hill – Cllr. McGregor to check whether this has been completed.

e) Repainting of pump, railing and bollards on Hamerton Road – delayed due to poor weather. Clerk to chase Highways.

7. Consultation on the new Huntingdonshire Local Plan.

The Clerk forwarded details to councillors by e-mail and circulated a hard copy. Councillors agreed that without an appropriate infrastructure plan, they could only opt for the low growth scenario, preferring plan B which shared the growth amongst the larger villages to help sustain local facilities, as well as a large number of homes to be built at Alconbury Weald. Clerk to respond.

8. Proposed changes to the Stagecoach no. 46 bus route.

County Cllr. Kadic had alerted Alconbury and Alconbury Weston Parish Councils that Stagecoach were planning to withdraw the bus service through the Alconburys with effect from 22nd July. Over 300 parishioners had attended a public meeting held on 19th June at the Sports and Social Club and heard from Stagecoach that only 25 people used the bus daily, making it not commercially viable. As the route is not subsidised by CCC and competition rules mean that the service cannot be operated at a loss, Stagecoach intend to withdraw the service. County Councillor Kadic advised that she will be asking Stagecoach to leave the bus service in place whilst she seeks suitable alternative provision.

9. Parish Paths.

Cllr. McGregor reported that he had received a number of complaints about overgrown footpaths. The footpaths officer at CCC has advised that the rapid growth is due to the weather conditions but has also said that due to cutbacks, the footpaths will only receive 2 cuts this year, in May and mid/late August, instead of the usual 3. Cllr. McGregor felt that if landowners could be persuaded to cut the side growth, that this might help to make the footpaths passable. Cllr. Baker agreed to provide details of the landowners to Cllr. McGregor. Councillors also agreed that the Parish Council should pay for an additional cut to be made to The Slype and footpath 17, which were a particular problem. Cllr. Coulson proposed that Cllr. Baker should contact Mr. Steel for a quotation and be authorised to spend up to £150 to get these two areas cut. Seconded by Cllr. Mobius, unanimously agreed.

10. Play Area.

No reported problems.

11. Planning - Update on planning enforcement case.

0300179ENBCOM - Commercial building on Hamerton Road.

District Cllr. Baker had no further news and the Clerk advised that Mr Swaby was unavailable until 9th July.

12. Financial report.

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Coulson proposed retrospective approval of payment of item (1) and approval of payment of items (2) to (5). Seconded by Cllr. Mobius, unanimously agreed.

(1) Chellwood Rosettes - £43.20, prizes for Diamond Jubilee Celebration Cq. No. 100909

(2) Mrs. D. Benham - £ 319.44, wages and expenses of Parish Clerk for May. Cq. No. 100910

(3) CAPALC - £35.00, training costs. Cq. No. 100911

(4) Alconbury Over 60's Club - £100.00, Section 137 donation. Cq. No. 100912

(5) Alconbury Thursday Club - £125.00, Section 137 donation. Cq. No. 100913

b) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments was handed to each councillor. A copy will be attached to the minutes.

c) Request for a donation from Alconbury Over 60s Club.

The Clerk had received further information regarding the request for a donation towards the club's August outing. Cllr. York proposed that a Section 137 donation of £100 should be made. Seconded by Cllr. McGregor, unanimously agreed.

d) Request for a donation from the Alconbury Thursday Club.

Cllr. Mobius proposed that a Section 137 donation of £125 should be made to pay for a replacement wheelchair. Seconded by Cllr. Coulson, unanimously agreed. Cllr. Baker left the room whilst this item was discussed, having previously declared a prejudicial interest.

13. Police matters.

April crime report shows 1 recorded crime in Alconbury Weston - vehicle crime close to Wheatsheaf Road.

14. Correspondence.

- a. New litter bin on Vinegar Hill – The Clerk reported that there had been some difficulties getting HDC to empty the bin and that this had resulted in a complaint from a parishioner living nearby. The situation appeared to have now been resolved and the bin should be emptied every Friday. Cllr. McGregor agreed to make regular checks and to let the Clerk know of any problems.
- b. Letter of complaint from parishioner regarding the village grass cutting. Clerk to respond.
- c. Cllr. York had received an enquiry from a parishioner concerned about a large quantity of hardcore which had arrived at the SJH Plant Hire business on Buckworth Road. County Cllr. Laine Kadic had made investigations and found that the hardcore had been used to repair the yard which had sunk due to the heavy machinery stored there. County Cllr. Kadic had advised that the space used had not been increased. Cllr. York to respond to the parishioner.
- d. Willow tree at the play area – e-mail from Brian Ogden (Tree Officer HDC) advising that the hollow willow tree would benefit from pollarding again. Clerk to obtain quotations for the work to be done in the late autumn.

15. Reports from councillors.

County Cllr. Kadic advised that she was still dealing with a complaint about the footpath at the top of Vinegar Hill and that the request for a bus shelter at Hiltop was in abeyance following the planned removal of the bus service.

Cllr. Mobius advised that the village Diamond Jubilee celebrations had gone really well and wished to record the Parish Council's thanks to the Scouts for providing a tent. An article will be placed in the Parish Pump and will include thanks for the donations that were made by local businesses.

Cllr Baker advised that a parishioner wished to pass on their thanks for the new bench on the Village Green and the new litter bin on Vinegar Hill.

16. Parish Clerk's appraisal.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman had completed and signed the Clerk's annual appraisal. The Clerk had not wished to add any comments or raise any issues and had also signed the document, which will be held by the Chairman.

17. Date of next meetings:

Monday 6th August, Monday 17th September, Monday 29th October, Monday 10th December.
All meetings will start at 7.30pm at the Alconbury Memorial Hall.

Signed..... Date.....

