

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 1 April 2019 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, P Baker, M Bryan, J Evans, R Powley (Chairman) and L York

Clerk: A Benfield

Absent: Cllr S Brine

**131.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made

**132.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received

**133.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident raised the matter of the fallen trees along Footpath 4. Although some work has been done more is needed. It was also commented that the contractor had disposed of the cut sections on private land.

**134.0 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**135.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES**

Cllr P Baker confirmed that he was aware of the fallen trees along Footpath 4 and that he was working to get them cleared as soon as practicable. He commented that there was also a larger fallen tree further up the route and this would also be cleared.

It was noted that the work on Footpath 2 and 2a was in progress and it was agreed that the map of the area should be attached to these minutes to become an historical record.

In respect of the route between the villages, Cllr P Baker reported that, having contacted CCC for upkeep and repair some time ago, there was finally some forward movement. A meeting had taken place between representatives of Alconbury Weston PC, Alconbury Pc and the County Highways Team. The view of CCC was that the route is a footway, for which they are responsible for the upkeep of the surface, and surrounding hedges and trees. As a result, he suggested that there was no benefit for the Parish Council to push for it to be designated as a right of way. He further commented that, although the tarmac section into the village was currently just acceptable, pressure should be maintained to have this resurfaced in the future. Adjustments to the definitive maps were to be provided so that maintenance was included in the future, although at the time of the meeting, these were still outstanding

In respect of the matter of fallen trees and other maintenance matters, it was noted that there was a landscape maintenance contractor resident in the village

**Resolved** 135.1 That the verbal report from Cllr P Baker be received and noted  
135.2 That the Parish Council pursue the issue of the map for future maintenance.

**136.0 PLAY AREA**

Cllr Bryan reported that he had inspected the play area on 18 March 2019 when he had noted that a hole had been cut in the willow tree by an animal. The first grass cuts of the season had been carried out on 21 March and again on 1 April; no issues had arisen from this.

Cllr York reported that he was still waiting for information from Cambridgeshire Community Fund (CCF) and that he was still to work with local residents to establish what play equipment was required before submitting an application for funding. It was agreed that Cllr Evans would work with Cllr York going forward to progress the project to conclusion.

**Resolved** 136.1 That the verbal report from Cllr Bryan on the state of the play area be received and noted  
136.2 That the verbal report from Cllr York regarding the new play equipment project be received and noted  
136.3 That Cllrs Evans and York work together to establish what play equipment to bid for..

**137.0 VILLAGE NOTICEBOARDS**

It was noted that a discussion on the location of a new notice board had taken place previously with a view to relocating it closer to the bridge corner; however, a number of utilities are located underground in the vicinity and concerns were raised that this may cause difficulties with the erection of posts.

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However, it was also considered that there was merit in the proposed location due to the overhead street light. It was agreed that a site meeting should be held in advance of the next meeting to consider the location further.

It was further noted that Cllr Bryan had sought costings for a board last year that would have been located in the same position as the existing one so there would not have been costs associated with new posts. Comment was made regarding a local carpenter who was providing an oak notice board for the village church. It was noted that this was open whereas the one priced by Cllr Bryan from the original supplier had been closed, so more sustainable and suitable for the display of parish notices.

- Resolved** 137.1 That in principle a replacement notice board be purchased costing up to £600.  
127.2 That Cllr Bryan organise a site survey to determine the most practical location for a new notice board and obtain a new quote for a like-for-like replacement assuming that the new board on the village green will not be located in the same position as the present one.

### 138.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker reported that the first cut had taken place and that the cuttings were removed. The Clerk passed the schedule of dates for the year to Cllr P Baker.

Speedwatch – Cllr Brine was not present and no report was given

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported on the discussions that had taken place on Nextdoor to do with the budget and on the positioning of the village notice board. It was agreed that the Clerk be registered on Nextdoor so that she was aware of local discussions in future.

Flood Planning – Cllr Powley reported that the flood plan could still not be finalised because of issues over road closures. Cambridgeshire Highways had now advised that road closures should be undertaken only by their contractor, who would be contactable, even out-of-hours, via a discrete phone number. However, the number would be released only to the Environment Agency (EA), in the expectation that the latter would call out the road closure team at an appropriate time during flooding. The EA, however, were currently unwilling to take on this responsibility and negotiations were ongoing with them to try to resolve the issue.

It was noted that the EA had been trimming hedges and clearing the banks along the Brook both within and between the 2 villages (Alconbury and Alconbury Weston) and it was not clear whether they were planning any further work. Cllr Bryan commented that he was not aware of any further plans and he was requested to raise this matter at the next Brook liaison meeting.

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker presented a map that highlighted the development from the main entrance roundabout to where the school was located. She reported that the Key Stage 1 section was progressing well in general. However, the planned completion in 2022 of a secondary school, possibly complemented by a special school, might be deferred until 2025 with the special school possibly being housed in temporary accommodation beforehand. The school will cater for all school ages up to 6<sup>th</sup> form once fully operational.

Members agreed that they would appreciate a Weald site visit being arranged, rather than being briefed in the village.

A14 Legacy Fund – Cllr York reported that he had so far been unable to make contact. It was agreed that Cllr P Baker work with Cllr York work with a new contact within the A14 Project Group to apply for a grant for measures to reduce speeding through the village. It was suggested that a chicane on Vinegar Hill would be a good option. The Chairman agreed to contact Cllr Brine to review the possibility and practicality of putting something on each end of the village on North Road with the priority being Vinegar Hill.

Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan reported on the meeting held on 18 March 2019. No residents attended and in the previous 6 months there had been no reports of litter or smells. Next meeting was scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> September

- Resolved** 138.1 That the verbal reports be received and noted  
**Resolved** 138.2 That the Clerk be signed up to receive Nextdoor notifications  
138.3 That Cllr Bryan raise the issue of additional works along the Brook with the EA at the next liaison meeting  
138.4 That Cllr J Baker make arrangements for an Alconbury Weald site visit for those Cllrs who wished to attend  
138.5 That Cllrs P Baker and York work together on establishing the procedure for bidding for A14 Legacy Fund money.

- 138.6 That the Chairman invite Cllr Brine to review options, together with indicative costs, for speed reduction measures along North Road in preparation for a possible submission to the A14 Legacy Fund.

### 139.0 PLANNING

Cllr Bryan reported on the Planning Forum he had attended on 26 March. He commented that the only development sites available in Huntingdonshire were green field sites. Also, there was a shortage of available staff to deal with the high number of planning applications currently being submitted which was causing delays.

**Resolved** 139.1 That the report from Cllr Bryan be received and noted.

### 140.0 Tour of Cambridgeshire

Cllr J Baker reported that plans were proceeding well for the village Funday to coincide with the Tour of Cambridgeshire bike race in June. The village had been designated as a Pit Stop and would therefore have toilets and other facilities provided. Any profits from the Funday would go to the Brownies and Scouts.

It was agreed that the parish council would cover the cost of the insurance for using the scouts' marquee on the day for a cost of no more than £50

**Resolved** 140.1 That the verbal report be received and noted  
140.2 That the Clerk arrange for insurance cover for the scouts' marquee for the day at a cost of no more than £50.

### 141.0 FLOODING BEHIND CHEQUERS CLOSE

Cllr P Baker reported that he had spoken to the resident who agreed to clear the ditch.

**Resolved** 140.1 That the verbal report be received and noted  
140.2 That this item be removed from the agenda going forward.

### 142.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The following payments were noted as being paid between meetings: -

Payroll & HMRC – March Salary	£231.19
Payroll expenses – S R Howell	£60.00
Bank charges – Unity Trust	£18.00

The following payments were noted as requiring to be paid now: -

Payroll & HMRC – April Salary	£270.08
Grass cutting - BEAM	£285.00
AskIT – Webhosting & email	£123.60
AskIT – website maintenance	£43.20

**Resolved** 142.1 That the above payments made by the Chairman and Vice Chairman between meetings be ratified.  
142.2 That the above payments listed as due be paid  
142.3 That Cllrs Powley and P Baker to be nominated to authorise the payments currently in process with Cllrs Bryan and J Baker nominated to authorise salary and HMRC when processed.

### 143.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

**Resolved** That the bank reconciliation up to 28 February 2019 be received and noted

### 144.0 BUDGET REPORT

**Resolved** That the Budget Report up to 31 March 2019 be received and noted.

### 145.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bryan reported that he had met Cllr White who indicated he would attend as and when required. It was commented that the intervention of a County Councillor may be needed to resolve the deadlock over the road closures during flooding.

### 146.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There were no matters other than those listed in the minutes above requested for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

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