

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 7 August 2017 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: M Bryan, S Lomas (Chairman) C McGregor, R Powley & L York

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: None

**40.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made

**41.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Cllr J Baker (ill health) & R Coulson (other commitment)

**42.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance

**43.0 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**44.0 THE WHITE HART**

Cllr York arrived during this item on the agenda

The communication from HDC was noted and discussed briefly. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Wellington Pub Company to ask what their plans are in connection with the building not that it is listed as an Asset of Community Value. Once this information was available consideration should then be given to a public meeting to ascertain the community's views.

- Resolved
- 44.1 That the communication from HDC regarding listing and sale of an Asset of Community Value is received and noted
  - 44.2 That prior to a Public Meeting being held a letter is written to the Wellington Pub Company to ask what their plans are in connection with the building now that it is listed as an Asset of Community Value.
  - 44.3 That no discussion should take place at the current time to consider the future options for the property

**45.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES**

Cllr McGregor arrived during this item on the agenda

Cllr Bryan reported that he had attended the safety seminar in July and considered that it was well run and informative. He indicated that the Council should have a formal inspection system in place and list any concerns against each tree on a log. The information provided at the event indicated that the person appointed to carry out the inspections on behalf of the Council should have common sense to look out for issues such as fungal growth, rotting and splits in the trunk along with other common faults but did not need to be qualified to inspect trees.

Concern was raised by the Clerk that she was not willing to be in overall responsibility as the Council's Health and Safety Officer unless a fully qualified arboriculturalist carries out as a minimum 3 or 5 year fully documented inspections on the trees. Some Cllrs also expressed the view that inspections should be carried out by someone qualified to do so.

Cllr McGregor was requested to provide an inventory of the trees within the village that are the responsibility of the Council in the first instance to allow the Clerk to obtain quotes for a full documented inspection to be carried out.

- Resolved
- 45.1 The verbal report for Cllr Bryan is received and noted
  - 45.2 Cllr McGregor provide an inventory of Council trees and arrangements are made to get an arboriculture officer to undertake a full review of the trees.

Chairman's  
Initials

Cllr McGregor reported that following the complaints received about the overgrowth from the hedge on the footpath "Church Walk" between the villages of Alconbury Weston and Alconbury, that is designated National Cycle Path No. 12, he had visited the offending section during the day and had taken photographs. The issue has occurred as the grass has overgrown the footpath reducing the width to about half what it should be and now the hedge is not being cut back as far as is necessary. At least 2-3ft needs to be cut off the hedge and the overgrown grass below also needs to be cleared. A discussion took place on who would be responsible as the land either side is Church Commission land and therefore ownership was not clear.

Resolved 45.3 The verbal report for Cllr McGregor is received and noted  
 45.4 The Clerk contact CCC, provide copies of the photos taken by Cllr McGregor, requesting that they return and finish cutting Footpath 4 to ensure it is passable as soon as possible.

A discussion took place on the planting of new Oak Tree and it was agreed the best time to do this would be early to mid-October. Cllr McGregor agreed to liaise with a local farmer to make the necessary arrangements.

Resolved 45.5 Cllr McGregor make the arrangements for the new Oak Tree to be planted during early to mid-October.

#### 46.0 ALCONBURY WESTON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Cllr Bryan provided a verbal update on the Natural flood management group meeting and gave a summary of the communication provided by the EA.

Discussion took place on the suggestion of additional demountable flood barriers and the risk that by reducing the risk of flooding for some properties could increase the risk of flooding for other properties.

As soon as the power supply for the CCTV camera in Alconbury is resolved the camera in AW will be installed. The AW camera will be solar powered and it may be that this is the option for Alconbury ultimately.

Resolved 46.1 The communication from the EA on the Flood Defence work is received and noted  
 46.2 The verbal report from Cllr Bryan is received and noted

Cllr Powley commented that work remains in progress on documenting an emergency plan to respond to flooding, with a first draft now in circulation within the team producing it. The team is currently hoping to finalise the plan by the end of September. They do need to appoint a Flood Co-Ordinator and 3 other volunteers one of who is not affected by the flooding.

Since the last meeting, the Environment Agency (EA) has indicated that, subject to formal approval:

- It might be possible to fine-tune the criteria for issuing Alerts and Warnings to Alconbury Weston, although negotiations were ongoing and a positive result could not yet be guaranteed.
- The EA might resource the siting of a depth marker board on the footbridge by the ford (work that would include establishing the AOD level of the ford). However, they recommend delaying until early 2018, when Cambridgeshire CC are planning to remove the bridge and install a replacement.

Resolved 46.2 The verbal report is received and noted  
 46.3 That following the decision by EA to resource the siting of a depth marker the £300 allocated at the last meeting to fund the survey to allow a new marker board providing measurements in AOD is ringfenced and earmarked for this project in the 2018/19 Estimates of Income and Expenditure.

Cllr Bryan suggested and other Cllrs supported that CCC are requested to provide drains to drain flood water on the East side of the Great North Road next to the old cemetery, opposite Highfield Avenue. There is a difficulty for cars travelling along the road due to the flooding.

46.4 That CCC are requested to provide drains to drain flood water on the East side of the Great North Road next to the old cemetery, opposite Highfield Avenue

#### 47.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Lomas reported that he had inspected the play area on 29 May, 4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> August with only general litter being present.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July whilst inspecting he found a child's motorised scrambler being used and informed them that the area was not suitable for motorised vehicles. It was agreed that signs should be erected informing the public of this fact

Resolved That the report is received and noted

Chairman's  
Initials

A quote is requested for a sign to be put up in the play area stating that it is not suitable for motorised vehicles unless undertaking maintenance of the area.

#### 48.0 PLANNING

The following applications were noted to have been received and commented on by the Clerk between meetings:-

APPLICATION REF: 17/01329/HHFUL - Front porch. 5 Wheatsheaf Road Alconbury Weston.

RECOMMEND: Approval – suitable development for the site

- Resolved 48.1 That the above response made by the Clerk in respect of planning application received between meetings are ratified
- 48.2 That Cllrs Powley and York are booked to attend the CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough workshop “Understanding the Planning System and responding to planning applications” on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 9am – 1pm, at St Ives Corn Exchange
- 48.3 That the enforcement action being taken by HDC in relation to unlawful development at Buckworth Lodge is received and noted

#### 49.0 HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2036 - DRAFT

The information circulated in respect of the Huntingdonshire Draft Local Plan 2036 was considered by Members. It was felt that no response was necessary on behalf of the village.

#### 50.0 POLICE REPORT

Members noted that the following items relating to crime in Alconbury Weston had been reported on the Police Neighbourhood Alert Crime updates since the last meeting:-

- (i) 06.07.2017 - Recycling Centre - Unknown offender(s) have cut through the fence to the centre. It is not known if anything was stolen
- (ii) 16.07.2017 - Recycling Centre - Unknown offender(s) have broken into the centre. It is unknown if anything was stolen.
- (iii) 18.07.2017 - Recycling Centre - Overnight burglary of Waste and Recycling Centre. Surrounding fence has been damaged to allow entry. The front doors of office and containers have been forced open using what appears to be power tools. Scrap metal and batteries were stolen.
- (iv) 22.07.2017 - Recycling Centre - Unknown offender(s) have cut the padlock to the front gate and attempted to force the lock on one of the containers but were unsuccessful.

Members raised concern that the ongoing and regular break ins at the Recycling Centre would be having a detrimental impact on the crime statistics for the village overall which could affect the likelihood and cost of insurance cover for properties and make the village a less desirable place to live. It was agreed that HDC should put more security in place to reduce the opportunity for break ins. There should be security in place. HDC should be taking more responsibility Keith Baker – what is being done to improve the security of the site?

- Resolved 50.1 That the above crime reports are received and noted  
Letter is written to HDC Cllr Baker requesting an update on what actions are being taken to secure the property to reduce the frequency of the break ins at the Recycling Centre.

Consideration was given to the email from Cambridgeshire Constabulary Speedwatch Scheme Co-ordinator requesting the Parish Council consider supporting the scheme and purchasing equipment for the use in the village. Members agreed in principle that it is a good idea and it was noted that each camera costs about £3000 and are retained by the police. It was noted that Alconbury shares cameras with 2 other councils already.

A further discussion took place on the pros and cons of this initiative with the view expressed that it was not the speeding in the open roads that was the issue but more to do with not taking into account the road conditions when driving through the estate streets with cars parked along each side of the road.

- Resolved 50.2 That the email from Cambridgeshire Constabulary Speedwatch Scheme Co-ordinator requesting the Parish Council consider supporting the scheme and purchasing equipment for the use in the village is received and noted and responded to positively indicating that the Parish Council is interested in pursuing this initiative.

#### 51.0 FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT EVENING

Cllr Bryan reported that at the present time the proposed Family Entertainment evening on Saturday 30 September on the Village Green, by the Funday Committee in aid of Alconbury Primary School is on hold due to the costs for marquee hire and associated other costs are making it unviable to raise any funds as intended.

Chairman's  
Initials

**52.0 REPLACEMENT OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS WITH A PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION NOTICE**

Resolved That the consultation is received and noted.

**52.0 ANNUAL CLERKS & CHAIRMAN CATCH UP DAY**

Resolved 52.1 That the information relating to the CAPALC Annual Clerks & Chairman Catch up Day to be held on 22 September at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall is received and noted  
52.2 That the Clerks attendance is supported as the Chairman is unavailable.

**53.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

The following payments made between meeting were ratified

Four Seasons – Grass cutting (replacement chq as invoice did not specify who chq should be made payable to)	£1320.00
A Benfield – June Salary	£312.18

The following payments were noted as requiring to be made:-

Four Seasons – Grass cutting	£660.00
A Benfield – July Salary	£226.77
A Benfield – June/July Expenses	£21.30
Alconbury Thursday Club - Donation	£305.00
Alconbury Pre-School - Donation	£305.00
HDC – Tree Seminar	£52.00

Resolved That the above payments are agreed and made.

**54.0 BANK RECONCILIATION**

Resolved That the June and July bank reconciliations as circulated are received and noted

**55.0 BUDGET REPORT**

Resolved That the Budget Report as circulated are received and noted

**56.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

No reports had been received for either District or County Cllrs in advance of the meeting

**57.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

Actions undertaken by the Clerk between meetings:-

Resolved 57.1 That it is noted that the Clerk had not undertaken any actions between meeting that required ratification.

Comments from Councillors regarding matters affecting the village:-

- Offer to undertake Archaeological survey of the White Hart received by the Chairman

Resolved 57.2 The Chairman responds to the member of public and confirm that the Council would appreciate the survey being undertaken and receiving the results when available.

Matters for the next agenda

Resolved 57.3 The Clerk provide a report regarding online banking and interest bearing bank accounts for consideration of Members.

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

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

Chairman's  
Initials