

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 5 March 2018 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, M Bryan, R Coulson, S Lomas (Chairman), R Powley & L York

Clerk: A Benfield

Others:

**141.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Baker declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 150.0 due to personal development plans.

**142.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Cllr C McGregor (personal)

**143.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present at the meeting

**144.0 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**145.0 SUMMER PLANTING**

Following discussion on the summer bedding planting at the last meeting Cllr Bryan provided information on the planned maintenance of the planting and potential sponsorship

He commented that as sponsorship had not been achieved he was now proposing the purchase and ongoing planting on the four entrance points to the village and a cost of £800. This included the initial outlay for the purchase of the barrier planters and was a one-off cost. He confirmed that 4 volunteers had been found who were willing to water the planters throughout the flowering period.

Comment was made regarding the ongoing maintenance year on year and it was acknowledged that it was not possible to provide definitive answer as it was dependant on volunteer enthusiasm. Nevertheless, it was agreed that it was worth implementing the planters this year and hopefully more people will step forward to assist with maintenance when they see positive enhancement to the village entrances

Members considered where the funding for this project would be found as it was not agreed in the estimates considered in December. It was agreed that it should be funded from the Footpath/Tree budget with any overspend being vired from General Reserves

**Resolved** 145.1 That the verbal report was received and noted  
145.2 £800 is allocated from the Footpath/Tree budget to purchase and stock 4 barrier planters to be erected on the entrance signs into the village  
145.3 Any overspend on the Footpath/Tree budget is vired from General Reserves.

**146.0 THE WHITE HART**

Members noted that the property now registered will remain listed as an asset of community value until 22 May 2022. A brief discussion took place on the future of the building and what the owners are or are not doing to actively lease the property.

**147.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES**

No report was received from Cllr McGregor as he was not at the meeting.

The Tree Survey commissioned and completed in January 2018 was received and noted. Following discussion, it was agreed that quotes should be sought for all work recommended for both year 1 & 2 but that this work should be priced separately to enable a decision to be made once the costs are known whether all work is completed in one go or scheduled over 2 years

**Resolved** 147.2 That the Clerk source quotations for all work highlighted ready to be considered at the next meeting

**148.0 ALCONBURY WESTON FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

Cllr Bryan provided a verbal update was provided on the activities of the Alconbury Weston Flood Management Group.

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He informed the meeting that the last meeting was held on 11 January 2018 with natural flood management techniques being outlined. Currently local farmers in the brook flood plain were being visited and informed what natural flood techniques are about and the grants that are available to carry out the changes.

He also commented that more flow gauges are being installed in the Brooks to monitor the flow. Funding has been allocated but the business case is being written. A Consultant has been appointed to review the work after 1998 flood with three suggestions being looked at

- building a diversion channel
- building a reservoir upstream
- raising the bank.

**Resolved** 148.1 That the report is received and noted

Cllr Powley provided an update on the activities of the Alconbury Weston Flood Management Emergency Plan.

He commented that there was no change from last time and that the group were still trying to find a third flood warden for the village. Cllr Bryan had agreed to cover on a temporary basis.

The brook camera images for Alconbury Weston and Alconbury are now posted on two separate websites so now there is more chance to view what is happening with water levels. The log on time is also to be reduced to 5mins to assist the issues with viewing.

**Resolved** 148.1 That the report is received and noted

#### 149.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Lomas commented that he had inspected the play area on 18 February and 5 March with no matters to report

**Resolved** 149.1 That the report is received and noted

It was noted that the cost to replace the existing sign in the play area and add additional wording regarding the use of motorised vehicles would be in the region of £500. It was agreed that additional quotations should be sought for consideration at the next meeting

**Resolved** 149.2 That additional quotations are sought for a new play area sign to incorporate the existing wording as well as the restrictions on motorised vehicles previously agreed

#### 150.0 PLANNING

Consideration was given to:-

APPLICATION REF. 18/00229/HHFUL: Ground floor extension of 2 storey cottage and create new detached annex. At 33 Vinegar Hill Alconbury Weston Huntingdon

Members discussed if the proposed development should be considered as an annex as it is detached from the main building. On balance they felt it was detached and therefore could not be considered an annex. It was agreed that an objection to the application be submitted to the Planning Authority

**Resolved** 150.1 That the Parish Council object to the application on the basis that is a new development not an annex. As such it is a separate building and therefore back land development not declared as such on the application

150.2 That the changes made to the HDC Development Management Committees Scheme of Delegation are received and noted.

#### 151.0 POLICE REPORT

Members noted that a further 15 break ins had occurred at the recycling centre between 3 January 2018 and 29 January 2018.

Cllr Bryan commented that this has been ongoing for over a year. He has raised the issue with the PCC and AMEY who said they have allocated funding for CCTV in budget for the next year. One issue is that the fence is very weak. As the site is owned by CCC he has contacted Cllr Gardiner who will be discussing the matter with the relevant County Cllr and Executive Director

Discussion took place on the impact the crime rate will have on the insurance premiums for the village and Members expressed hope that a solution could be found.

**Resolved** That the information is received and noted

**152.0 FUN DAY AND YARD SALE**

Cllr Bryan provided a verbal update on the current arrangements made for this year's village fun day and yard sale.

He commented that it would be following the same formula as last year with the fun day running from 12 to 5 with the same vendors as last year whilst the Grand Fondo cycle race is on. It is also intended this year to have a mini craft sale along with the yard sale.

It was requested that the Clerk arrange for the grass on the village green to be cut during the last week in May with either the risings cleared or mulched

- Resolved**
- 152.1 That the report is received and noted
  - 152.2 That 2 marquees are hired from Alconbury Scouts are a cost of £15 each.
  - 152.3 That the grass on the village green is cut during the last week in May

**153.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

It was noted that no payments were made between meetings

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

A Benfield – Feb & March Salary	£453.54
OMC Associates – Tree Survey Report	£628.08
Alconbury scouts – Marquee hire	£30.00
SR Howell - Payroll	£60.00

**Resolved** That the above payments are agreed and made.

**154.0 BANK RECONCILIATION**

- Resolved**
- 154.1 That the bank reconciliation up to 1 February 2018 is received and noted
  - 154.2 That it is confirmed that Cllr Lomas and Cllr McGregor as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council sign the necessary forms to enable a CCLA Deposit Fund account to be opened to maximise interest earned on the council held funds.
  - 154.3 That Cllrs Baker, Bryan, Powley and York become signatories on the councils' bank accounts

**155.0 BUDGET REPORT**

**Resolved** That the Budget Report up to 28 February 2018 is received and noted

**156.0 HOLIDAY SPORTS ACTIVITY PROVISION**

Members noted that Alconbury Sports and Social Club have expressed an interest in setting up a joint holiday sports activity for both Alconbury Weston and Alconbury young people. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was a good idea and something that the councils did wish to support in conjunction with Alconbury Parish Council

**Resolved** That the Clerk contact the Alconbury Parish Council to make the arrangements for this joint holiday sports activity to take place

**157.0 ALCONBURY WEALD JOINT PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP**

The notes of the liaison meeting held on the 30 January 2018 were received.

Cllr Baker reported on recent difficulties linked to the liaison meetings due to the changing of meeting dates. She confirmed that the next 2 meetings are scheduled for 10 April and 10 July and that these meetings will go ahead and not be altered, with the following meeting date being set at the April meeting. Urban & Civic acknowledged that the village are now out of the loop due to the changing of meeting dates and is willing to attend a meeting of the Parish Council or alternatively Cllrs are invited to attend the site to see what is happening. Jane confirmed that the junior school is open and comprehensive is due to open in 2021. The air ambulance will be based on site with the guided bus and HACt both including the site on their regular routes.

It was agreed that a site visit would be appreciated and Cllr Baker agreed to make arrangements for the end of April

**Resolved** That the verbal report is received and noted

**158.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

HDC Cllr Baker confirmed that the budget for the year has been agreed. He also commented on the proposal by USAF Alconbury to close the existing Alconbury gate and have everything to go in the new entrance at the Alconbury Weald.

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**159.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- 159.1 The Clerk had no matters to report at the current time.
  
- 159.2 Cllr Powley requested an update on the website and when the changes requested would come into effect. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact the webmaster and request an update  
Cllr Lomas commented on the hole developing the village green and it was agreed that this should be monitored
  
- 159.3 No items were requested to be added to the next agenda.

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

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

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