

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 22 October 2018 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

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

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: Tom Caldwell, Golazo and 2 Members of the public were in attendance

65.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Baker declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in two planning applications: -

- 18/01946/FUL The erection of three dwellings. 50 Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JD as the applicant.
- 18/02140/PMBPA Proposed change of use from Agricultural to 3 residential dwellings (change of use only) Land Adjacent to Thorns Farm Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston as she is related to the applicant.

Cllr P Baker declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in two planning applications: -

- 18/01946/FUL The erection of three dwellings. 50 Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JD as he is related to the applicants
- 18/02140/PMBPA Proposed change of use from Agricultural to 3 residential dwellings (change of use only) Land Adjacent to Thorns Farm Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston as he is related to the applicants.

66.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received

67.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public present wished to address the meeting.

Cllr J Baker answered questions posed by other members of the council on her planning application.

Cllr York arrived at this point during the meeting

It was agreed that Item 70.0 should be moved to this point in the agenda to allow Mr Caldwell to leave the meeting

70.0 GRAND FONDO CYCLE RACE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tom Caldwell to the meeting and set out the concerns from the village linked to the proposed new route. He stated that the village very much welcomed the race annually and held a Family Funday on the same day to show support; however, the new planned route would cause difficulties with vehicular access and egress to the village and it was hoped that the race organisers would take this into account.

Mr Caldwell stated that the race participants very much enjoyed the section of the race that ran through Alconbury Weston as they were made to feel very welcome and therefore causing more difficulties to the residents was not something he wanted to do. Following a discussion on options, he agreed to change the route such that it did not include the section of North Road between Alconbury Weston and Alconbury.

Mr Caldwell also agreed to consider a donation to the Parish Council towards the village fun day

Resolved 68.1. That the clerk liaise with Mr Caldwell regarding a donation to the village fun day.

68.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 August 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

69.0 VACANCIES and CO-OPTION

Consideration was given to the two applications for co-option that had been received. Both candidates had been invited to the meeting, but only one was present. The Clerk clarified the options available to members in terms of selection and voting

Resolved 69.1 That, as allowed in Standing Orders, the vote for co-option would be by ballot and not show of hands

69.2 That with ballot showing 4 Cllrs in favour of Mr Evans and 2 Cllrs in favour of Ms Gillam, Mr John Evans was co-opted onto the council with immediate effect

Ms Gillam,
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Cllr Evans signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

71.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES

Cllr P Baker reported that he had been in contact with one tree surgeon at the current time as was waiting for further contact and information. He stated that in his view there was no urgency in getting the works done but he would make a recommendation to Council on the way forward soon.

It was noted that there was no allowance for this work in this year's budget so it would need to wait until the next financial year when an amount could be allocated for the work. It was further noted that the work did not all need to be completed at the same time; however, there could be benefits in doing so as the costs might be less.

- Resolved**
- | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 71.1 | That the verbal report from Cllr P Baker was received and noted |
| 71.2 | That Cllr P Baker seek a minimum of 3 quotes for the work before the next meeting to allow sufficient funds to be allocated in the budget for the next financial year. |

Discussion took place on the state of the tarmac path between the villages of Alconbury Weston and Alconbury. Cllr P Baker stated that he was still trying to arrange a site meeting with the County Rights of Way Officer, Zara Bettles. It was agreed that this should be arranged in conjunction with Alconbury Parish Council.

Cllr P Baker also indicated that he had discussed with her overhanging hedges that impinged on some footpaths. He stated that the most expedient way forward would be to arrange a village working party to do the work.

- Resolved**
- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 71.3 | That Cllr P Baker continue to endeavour to get a site meeting arranged with the County Rights of Way Officer and to include a representative of Alconbury Parish Council in this meeting. |
| 71.4 | That Cllr P Baker arrange a village working party to cut back some of the overhanging hedges that impinge on rights of way around the village. |

72.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Bryan commented that he had inspected the play area on the following dates and had nothing of note to report:-

- 13/8 Filled and seeded small depression near sign. Removed dog faeces.
- 24/8 All OK. Washed yellow and red "bowls". Grass had been cut.
- 4/9 All OK. Noticed some animal scrapes around play equipment.
- 5/9 Grass cut.
- 26/9 Grass cut. Pruned back shoots around seat around Willow tree.
- 15/10 Grass cut.
- 17/10 All OK.

Cllr York commented that he had so far not managed to progress grant funding for new play equipment as he had reached two dead ends so far with both the Woolley Hill Wind Farm and the A14 Upgrade legacy grants.

- Resolved**
- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 72.1 | That the report from Cllr Bryan on the state of the play area be received and noted |
| 72.2 | That the report on investigations into grant funding for new play equipment by Cllr York be received and noted. |
| 72.3 | That the clerk advises Cllr York of the date of the next meeting of the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Committee. |

73.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker commented that overall the grass cutting contract had worked well. There was one more scheduled cut left but that due to weather and ground conditions this last cut of the season may not be needed.

A discussion took place on the future grass cutting regime and if this should be changed. Following consideration of different options, it was agreed that the regime in place for this year should be implemented again next year. It was noted that forecasting the number of cuts required in spring time was difficult with temperature and rainfall both impacting on how quickly the grass grows. It was agreed that the number of cuts needed to be managed in line with the budget available but that next year's budget should include sufficient to allow for an extra cut at the end of the year if necessary.

- Resolved**
- | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 73.1 | That the report from Cllr P Baker be received and noted |
| 73.2 | That an allowance be made in the Grass Cutting Budget for the 2019/20 Financial Year for an additional cut to be made, if necessary, at the end of the year. |

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Speedwatch – Cllr Brine gave a verbal report. He commented that the team had not yet started monitoring due to holidays and personnel changes and the need to have official training. A request had been made to have

the kit in the village shortly and from then he would circulate the lists of dates it would be in use. He informed the meeting that following communication with the Alconbury Co-ordinator he was aware that they have the funding for a kit to be shared with Alconbury Weston with the funding coming from A14 fund, although some financial provision was still needed for high visibility jackets and other safety kit.

The Clerk commented that there was training taking place in St Ives in November. She committed to circulate the details so that anyone interested could attend if they so wished.

Comment was made about the speed indication sign on Alconbury Hill that was not working correctly and it was agreed that arrangements should be made to address this.

- Resolved** 73.3 That the report from Cllr Brine be received and noted
- 73.3.1 That the Clerk circulate details of the St Ives Speedwatch Training.
- 73.3.2 That Cllr Brine plan for additional training sessions and investigate costs for outstanding safety equipment in time for the next meeting.
- 73.3.3 That the Clerk report the faulty road sign to the Highways Authority.

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan commented that the dates of all council meetings had been published on 'Next Door' with reference to the Council website. He further commented that he had passed information from Age UK to the Thursday Club

- Resolved** 73.4 That the report from Cllr Bryan be received and noted

Flood Planning – Cllr Powley reported that he had just revised the plan again and sent it to all relevant agencies for comment. There had been progress on road closure after Cambridgeshire CC Highways had agreed a workable approach for the flood team to take, and there was an appropriate procedure for this in the updated plan. A initial storage location had been agreed for signage and cones once the latter were delivered. He also advised that the Hamerton and Alconbury Weston depth gauges would be read more frequently during alert periods. There had been no confirmed date for replacement of the footbridge at the ford although work was understood to have been budgeted for in this financial year

- Resolved** 73.4 That the report from Cllr Powley be received and noted

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker provided an update from the meeting held on 2 October 2018:-

- Housing – Planning application for Northbridge has been submitted as has an application for a roundabout near to Tesco's. Parcels 5 & 6 are now in progress with provision being made for both a Secondary and a Special school to be included.
- Commercial – Work had started on more commercial buildings including a library. The establishment of an apprenticeship scheme was also in progress through Breheny.
- Community – Some antisocial behaviour had taken place at the skate park with this being investigated to establish if 'boys being boys' or a bigger problem exists. It was acknowledged that a Resident's Forum needed to be established with the potential for a new Parish Council to be formed. The NHS was discussing the provision of a health centre with comprehensive services and long opening hours.
- Transport – An application for the future use of the runway was being discussed to potentially include a gated road so that it did not become a 'rat run'.

- Resolved** 73.5 That the report from Cllr J Baker be received and noted

A14 Legacy Fund – Cllr York commented that he was still to make contact which was proving difficult. It was noted that money was available and there was no limit on the amount that could be requested, However the application needed to tell a story as to how the funds will impact positively on the village and that there is a tenuous link to the scheme. Other villages have been successful with cycle and foot paths.

- Resolved** 73.6 That the report from Cllr York be received and noted

Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan commented that the last meeting was held on 19 September. A new odour suppression system had been installed at the site near Sawtry and that this has been noted as working. Although litter picking took place every day the litter situation on the road outside the site had not improved. CCTV was now in place and it was hoped that this would indirectly result in a reduction of burglaries in the village. Meetings were now planned for every 6 months

- Resolved** 73.6 That the report from Cllr Bryan be received and noted

74.0.0 PLANNING

Members noted that the next 2 Planning Forums organised by HDC were set for Tuesday 27 November 2018 and Tuesday 26 March 2019, with both starting at 18:30.

Resolved 74.1 That Cllr P Baker attend the session on 27 November 2018 and Cllr Bryan attend the session on 26 March 2018 to represent the Parish Council

Cllrs J Baker and P Baker left the meeting room prior to the following discussion

Consideration was given to the following planning applications:-

18/01946/FUL The erection of three dwellings. 50 Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JD
<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Concern was raised that the details available to view on the Planning Portal of HDC's website were not up to date and correct, so making it difficult for the Council to make a proper judgement on the application

Following discussion, it was therefore agreed unanimously that the application in its current state should be recommended for refusal.

Resolved 74.2.1 That the Parish Council recommend refusal of the application on the following grounds:

- Lack of information available both on the design and style of the proposed properties, including building materials and finished appearance to establish if they would be in keeping with the current built environment and street scene.
- Lack of details on the actual layout within the site for where residential parking will be, and how this will work with the new properties, existing property and the current business that is operating on the site.
- The location of the site is incorrectly marked on the flood map included at appendix 2 of the Planning Statement in support of the application
- Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement is not included in the online documents
- Suitable flood protection/mitigation measures should be stated and agreed prior to planning approval.
- Data quoted within the reports is 20 years old
- Within the Flood Risk Assessment, a recommendation is made to restrict post development discharge from the site into Alconbury Brook. This should be set higher than the bare minimum of mitigation measures due to the recent and ongoing risk of surface water runoff flooding caused to properties along Hamerton Road.

18/02140/PMBPA Proposed change of use from Agricultural to 3 residential dwellings (change of use only) Land Adjacent to Thorns Farm Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston.

<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Members noted that this application was for change of use only and therefore was not changing the character of the building at the current time. Any plans to convert the barn into houses would need to be submitted at a later date.

Resolved 74.2.2 That no comment should be made on this change of use application as it did not alter the character of the building

75.0 FLOODING BEHIND CHEQUERS COURT

Cllr P Baker reported that he was still waiting for a report from the HDC Operations Team. Now that the overgrowth between the culvert and book had been cleared he would be able to investigate further if there was an ongoing problem.

Resolved That the report from Cllr P Baker be received and noted and that the item remain on the agenda to allow ongoing monitoring of the situation

76.0 CCTV INSTALLATION

Cllr Bryan reported that he had finally been in communication with Chris Stopford of HDC and that he had been informed that District were reviewing the entire CCTV installation. Any additional cameras in the village would require fibre links to be installed at a current cost of £2000 per meter.

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Resolved That the report from Cllr Bryan be received and noted and that no further action be taken due to the cost involved.

77.0 NOTICE BOARDS

Cllr Bryan reported that the replacement cost of a notice board for the village green would be £600 from the company who supplied the existing one. The cost of an additional public noticeboard to match the others in the village that had been made by a local cabinet maker would be £1200, with commercially available ones being about £1000.

- Resolved** 57.1 That £600 be included in the 2019/20 budget to replace the existing village green noticeboard
57.2 That Cllr York seek grant funding for additional public noticeboards to be installed.

78.0 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES OPERATING AS BUSINESSES

The Clerk reported that HDC had confirmed that they were not in a position to act, as the sale of individual cars was not licensable activity and she was still awaiting a response from the County Council.

- Resolved** That the report be received and noted, with the subject being left open pending an input from the County Council.

79.0 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

- Resolved** That the amended Financial Regulations to allow for online banking payments to be made be adopted

80.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

It was noted that the following payment had been made between meetings -

BEAM – Grass cutting	£285.00
The following payments were noted as requiring to be made: -	
BEAM – Grass cutting	£735.00
Payroll & HMRC – August & Sept Salary	£462.38
Insurance – Annual Renewal	£431.40
Cllr Powley - Expenses	£37.67
Cllr Bryan - Expenses	£49.64
Wicksteed – Play Area Inspection	£54.00
CAPALC – Cllr Training	£150.00

- Resolved** That the above payments were agreed and were to be made.

81.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

- Resolved** 81.1 That the action taken by the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to transfer £10,000 from Barclays to Unity Trust to enable the use of internet banking to proceed whilst the difficulties of closing of the Barclays account are resolved be ratified
81.2 That the Bank Reconciliation Report up to 31 August be received and noted
81.3 That the Bank Reconciliation Report up to 1 October 2018 be received and noted

82.0 BUDGET REPORT

- Resolved** 82.1 That the Budget Report up to 18 October 2018 be received and noted
82.2 That a donation of £50 be made to the RBL using the s137 power
82.3 That a contribution of £30 be made annually towards the annual maintenance checks for the defibrillator located at the Alconbury Sports and Social Club

Consideration was given to the draft 2019/20 budgets circulated by the Clerk. Following discussion, it was agreed that additional costs should be identified in advance of the next meeting when the final decision would need to be made on the level of Precept for next year.

- Resolved** 82.4 That the draft budget for 2019/20 be received and noted but that additional requirements be investigated in advance of the next meeting.

83.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

No reports were received from District or County Councillors

84.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 84.1 Those matters circulated by the Clerk in advance of the meeting were received and noted including a letter regarding speeding on Vinegar Hill. The Clerk agreed to contact the resident and suggest they join the village Speedwatch Group

Chairman's
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84.2 The following matters were raised by Members:-

- Recent strong winds had resulted in a tree being blown down in the graveyard and was to be removed by a resident with assistance.
- Footbridge near Orion is quite difficult to walk on it due to overgrown vegetation. Cllr J Baker agreed to get it cleared
- Pot holes on Hamerton Road have been marked up. Cllr Bryan agreed to report them.

84.3 It was agreed that the Clerk would include the following matter the agenda for the next meeting: -

- Mobile reception in the village
- Further consideration of submitting an application under the Local Highways Improvements Initiative in 2019 for chicanes on Vinegar Hill following letter from resident considered at item 84.1

SIGNED:

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council

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