

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Public Open Forum: A parishioner present drew the Parish Council's attention to an area of the brook that had become narrow and overgrown.

Councillors present: Mrs. J. Baker, Mr. M. Bryan, Mr. R. Coulson, Dr. C. McGregor & Mr. S. Lomas (Chairman).

Also present: County Cllr. P. Ashcroft, Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk) & 2 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence: District Cllr. K. Baker (attending another meeting), County Cllr. P. Brown (attending another meeting) & Cllr. L. York (personal).

The Clerk advised that Cllr. H. Mobius had resigned from the Parish Council as she was unable to attend meetings due to work commitments. HDC have been advised and the statutory notice had been placed on the noticeboards.

2. Declaration of Interests: None declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 : The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

a) Alconbury Weald – Cllr. Baker and the Clerk attended the liaison meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July. Enterprise Zone – Planning permission granted for MMUK, Mid-Tech and IMET buildings. The new ICO building is in planning. The next application will be for John Adams Toys, who are relocating. This will be their European HQ for design, storage and manufacture of prototypes. Residential – Hopkins will build 128 homes. Morris Homes will build 165 homes. Redrow Homes will be the next developer, building 199 homes. These will all be of traditional style. 300 homes will be occupied by the middle of 2018 and this will trigger the affordable housing requirement. Tendering for the affordable housing started in August, with 80 homes to be provided in Stage 1, 30 in the current development areas. The fourth parcel of land to be developed will contain a mix of EZ and residential, with a small shop. The housing will look less traditional in style. Design work has started on the cricket park, watchtower and green space linking the residential area to The Hub. The Community Park, near to the school, is being designed by BMD and will include a temporary library, shop, MUGA, allotments and park and stride. Up to 20 children have started at the new primary school, which has 3 teachers, teaching assistants, headmaster and Deputy Head all in place. The section 106 agreement is being worked on and will include travel plans, a website, a welcome pack for new residents, bus vouchers and details of cycle routes and cycle hire. The 46a bus service will increase in frequency and a new bus stop will be situated near to the new entrance. A full time Community Development Worker will be funded for 7 years and then reviewed. The preferred Estate Management provider is Encore. The potential new railway station will be discussed at the next meeting. The first secondary school will be a free school, probably run by the Diocese of Ely and is due 2019/20.

Meetings have been ongoing with Alconbury and Abbots Ripton shops to determine who will run the first small shop on site. Urban & Civic have been liaising with Alconbury Surgery to ensure that the extension and the extra doctor will be in place on time. A Health Centre will be built at Alconbury Weald, in time for the completion of 1200 homes.

The Clerk and Cllr. Baker will attend the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10am.

b) Repairs to roads and footpaths –

Ford footbridge – Highways have advised that they do not think that there is a problem with the structure but the brick cladding has cracked. Highways will monitor this.

Footbridge opposite Salix House – Major repair work had been put on hold due to a shortfall in

Highway's budget. However, as another scheme has come in under budget, the repairs can now go ahead and will hopefully be completed before the end of September.

c) Grass cutting – HDC's grass cutting service has improved although Church Way was missed in the last cut. Clerk to request a return visit. The remaining cut dates will be 13/14<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> November.

d) Flood Prevention meeting and Emergency Plan update meeting.

A meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss flood prevention will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr. Bryan, Cllr. Coulson, Cllr. McGregor and the Clerk to attend.

A meeting with all agencies to discuss the updated Emergency Plan produced by CCC, to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Cllr. Bryan, Cllr. McGregor and the Clerk to attend.

5. Maintenance of "orphan sites": The Clerk had received a letter from HDC dated 11<sup>th</sup> August stating that as from 31<sup>st</sup> July, HDC would no longer be maintaining sites that their Legal Department had established did not belong to them. These sites are now being referred to as "orphan sites" and include 5 small areas in Alconbury Weston registered to Diamond Construction, who appear to be no longer trading. HDC would like the Parish Council to take on these sites but the Clerk had spoken to Judith Neal (Operations Department) and said that this was unlikely to be agreed, as the areas all contained very large trees which would require expensive maintenance going forwards. This will be passed back to Cllr. Robin Carter who is attempting to resolve issues with some 240 sites across the district. Judith Neal has assured the Clerk that grass cutting of the 5 Alconbury Weston sites will continue until the matter is resolved.

6. Community Highways Volunteering Scheme: The email from CCC and the information pack, had been sent to all councillors. Highways are looking for volunteers to carry out litter picking, sign cleaning, cutting back vegetation and siding out, on Highways-owned land. No equipment or PPE clothing will be provided, although volunteers will be covered by Highways' insurance provided that strict rules are adhered to. This type of work will be very low priority for the County Council in future. The Clerk stressed that it was already almost impossible to get any of these tasks done by CCC due to severe budget constraints. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should advertise the scheme in the next Parish Pump but give the reasons behind it and make it clear that this is a County Council initiative.

7. Local Highways Improvement Scheme 2017/18: Closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. No suggestions forthcoming – carried forward to the next meeting.

8. Parish paths & trees.

The footpath between the two villages has been reported as overgrown on numerous occasions and the Clerk had encouraged residents to report it via the CCC website too. An email had eventually been received on 19/8 stating that it will be cut back within 4-6 weeks. After several email exchanges with the District Highways Officer, vegetation has been cut back from around the steps on footpath 3. Cllr. McGregor reported that all footpaths were now reasonably clear as Highways had completed their second and final cut. However, it may well be that the footpaths need another cut mid-late autumn and it is hoped that this can be arranged and paid for from Parish Council funds.

The Clerk had asked Bridget Halford (HDC Tree Warden) to inspect the trees on the village green. Cllr. McGregor reported that the small Horse Chestnut near to the bench had bleeding canker and needed to be felled. Cllr. McGregor also had concerns about the tree on the triangle of land next to the ford on the High Street side of the brook. Several of the trees at the play area need to have their crowns raised in order to make grass cutting easier. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should arrange for Cllr. McGregor to meet with GTS for advice and to obtain a quotation for the work required.

## 9. Play area.

Cllr. Lomas had no issues to report. The Clerk had received an email from a new resident who was disappointed with the play area in Alconbury Weston, having moved from Alconbury, and had asked whether the Parish Council had any plans to improve it. Councillors felt that the play area was quite extensive for a small village and had equipment that could be used by a wide age range. Cllr. Lomas advised that it was well used and the Clerk reminded councillors that the equipment had been selected by parents. Clerk to reply to the resident and to ask what improvements she would like to see.

## 7. Planning.

### a) New applications.

H/5013/CW/C1 Application for approval of details reserved by condition 20 Operational Management Plan from original application H/5013/15/CW. Alconbury Waste Transfer Facility. Circulated, no comment returned.

16/01101/HZC Hazardous substance consent. Proposed storage of up to 49 tonnes of ISO Pentane (P5a Flammable Liquid – Category 1) Alconbury Weald. Circulated and returned recommending approval with narrative stating that it was a split decision due to safety concerns of some councillors.

16/01445/REM Submission of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) in respect of the construction of a primary electrical substation, new landscaping, highways works and ancillary works. Alconbury Weald. Circulated and returned no observations either in favour or against.

16/01329/REM Application for approval of appearance, layout, landscaping and scale in respect of the construction of 165 dwellings, pocket park, associated highways, landscaping and ancillary works. Alconbury Weald. Circulated but insufficient replies to make a recommendation.

### b) Update on previous applications.

16/01148/REM Submission of reserved matters (appearance, access, landscaping, layout and scale) in respect of the construction of strategic foul and potable water main, water pressure boost pump, foul water pumping station and pedestrian and cycleway including ground remodelling and ancillary works. Alconbury Weald. Pending decision.

16/01402/HHFUL Proposed rear conservatory. 6 Highfield Ave., Alconbury Weston, PE28 4JS. Approved by HDC.

16/00262/NMA Application for non-material amendment to approval of reserved matters (outside a key phase) for primary infrastructure to support key delivery of the primary school (KP1-01). Alconbury Weald. In progress.

16/00043/TREE Emergency works to ash tree in front garden. Bridge House, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston. In progress.

15/02296/FUL Change of use from repair workshop and storage of agricultural machinery to workshop for coach building and repair of horse boxes and on site farm machinery, parking of machinery and horse boxes in front of building at unit 1. Buckworth Lodge Stud, Buckworth Road, Alconbury Weston. In progress.

### c) Planning enforcement cases.

15/00243/FUL Buckworth Lodge Stud, Buckworth Road, Alconbury Weston – Planning enforcement imminent.

## 11. Financial report.

### a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Baker proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) to (4) and approval of payment of item (5). Seconded by Cllr. Coulson and unanimously agreed.

(1) Mrs. D. Benham - £188.06, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for July. Cq. No. 101077

(2) HMRC - £40.80, PAYE/NI July. Cq. No. 101078

- (3) Mrs. D. Benham - £165.13, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for August. Cq. No. 101079
- (4) HMRC - £39.80, PAYE/NI August. Cq. No. 101080
- (5) Day Today Maintenance Lts. - £65.00, remove noticeboard and dispose, fit new noticeboard. Cq. No. 101081

b) Current position - A copy of the receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was handed to each councillor.

c) Request for a donation from the Royal British Legion towards the Remembrance Day poppy wreath in Alconbury Church. Cllr. Baker proposed that a donation of £25 be made. Seconded by Cllr. Lomas and unanimously agreed.

#### 12. Police matters.

The June crime report showed 1 recorded crime in Alconbury Weston.

#### 13. Correspondence.

Circulated by email since the last meeting:

- a) Tackling peak time congestion in Cambridgeshire.
- b) A14 Community Fund.
- c) NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CCG Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
- d) Devolution proposals, meeting for Chairmen and Clerks. Cllr. McGregor and the Clerk attended.
- e) Alconbury Waste Transfer local liaison forum notes.
- f) Station Road, Abbots Ripton, carriageway reconstruction. November to February road closures.
- g) Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire – Final recommendations.
- h) Request from a parishioner for the redundant phone box to be removed. Clerk to contact BT.
- i) Flood awareness and preparedness questionnaire. To be completed after the meetings on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September.
- j) Letter from parishioner regarding items of maintenance around the village. The parishioner, who was present, agreed that all of the items had been reported on in the minutes apart from damage to the posts around the pump. Clerk to obtain a quotation for repairs.

#### 14. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr. McGregor had attended the Devolution Meeting at HDC. Presentation notes should be available from HDC and will be circulated to councillors. County Cllr. Ashcroft advised that the A14 work is expected to start in September 2016 with the upgrade to the A1 starting late 2016.

#### 15. Dates of next meeting.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 7.30pm in the Alconbury Memorial Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....