

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 8 March 2021**

As a result of Covid-19 and following the instruction of the Prime Minister's address on 23rd March 2020 the meeting was held remotely.

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, P Baker, M Bryan, A Gillham, B Powley (Chairman), S Rochford & A Stone

Others: Jenna Brame (Cambs ACRE), Frank Mastrandea (HDC Housing Officer), Mr & Mrs Burley, Mr Jones

124.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made

125.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given by the Parish Clerk

126.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public present reported issues of vehicles speeding on Vinegar Hill. It was noted that this matter would be discussed at Agenda Item 132.2

127.0 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

Jenna Brame, Cambridge ACRE and Frank Mastrandea, Housing Officer HDC presented the results of the recent Affordable Housing Survey that was carried out in the village. It was noted that there will only be 10% affordable housing on Alconbury Weald and for affordable housing to be made available within the village a Rural Exception Policy would be a key requirement.

The results showed:-

- Population of 728 within 310 homes
- 84% owner, 3.3% rented, 0.3% shared ownership.
- Average Property cost - £210,000
- 47% of respondents were in favour of affordable housing, 50% were opposed and 3% made no comment.
- 9 households within Alconbury Weston were identified in need of affordable housing, 5 for potential shared ownership and four people to rent.

Resolved That the report be formally accepted and that Cambs ACRE be left to follow up to enable further discussion to be held prior to moving the issue forward

128.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and it was agreed that they be signed by the Chairman when meeting in public is allowed.

129.0 THURSDAY CLUB

It was noted that the Thursday Club are in the process of registering as a charity and funds would be received from Caresco in advance of the next meeting

Resolved That the report be received and noted

130.0 TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2021

Cllr J Baker informed the meeting that she is in the process of forming a community group with the first meeting to be held in early April. The pit stop will be at Warreners Farm and the Thursday Club will be helping with the catering. There has been no confirmation as yet, as to whether the route is the same as last year would have been.

Resolved That the verbal report be received and noted.

131.0 PARISH COUNCIL MERGER

It was noted that HDC are being requested to undertake the review and are in the process of writing the Terms of Reference, for approval at the next Governance Committee meeting. The number of Councillors that will be allocated to each village is yet to be confirmed and the Chairman indicated that he has requested this matter be included within the Terms of Reference. HDC Cllr Gardener confirmed he would look into getting the Terms of Reference to include addressing the proposed future number of councillors

Resolved That the information be received and noted

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132.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker reported that the schedule of 10 cuts for the coming year had been received.

Speedwatch – Cllr Stone & Rochford

- Speedwatch sessions were still on hold because of Covid restrictions. Cllr Stone had offered to manage Speedwatch whilst the Co-ordinator was temporarily residing away from the village while his flooded house was being refurbished. She indicated that more volunteers are needed.

SID – Cllr Stone & Rochford

- The SID had been erected on Buckworth Road and a 3-week rolling cycle between the four entrances to the village has been implemented.
- As a result of parishioner/public discussion at the meeting the SID VARIO would next be used on Vinegar Hill and would be relocated on the Friday following the meeting.
- County Cllr Gardener informed the meeting that there was to be a review of creating 40mph buffer zones leading into 30mph zones. He indicated that he, along with a CCC Officer, would compile an LHI bid specifically for Vinegar Hill after the elections.

Highway Liaison – Cllr Rochford

- The Chairman reported that roads within the village have not been swept since the flooding. CCC Cllr Gardiner agreed to make arrangements for this to take place.

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan & Gillham

- Cllrs Gillham & Stone indicated they would liaise outside of the meeting regarding the Facebook page

Flood Emergency Plan – Cllr Powley indicated that the Flood Plan was now on the website

Flood Alleviation – Cllr Bryan

- It was noted that there had been local discussion regarding natural flood management techniques with a further meeting scheduled for the following week. The environment agency was forming a joint flood group and exerting pressure to get a workable plan in place, including a bid for finance, to ensure something was done. Cllr Gardener queried funding for alleviation measures. It was noted that the EA are meeting with HOC shortly. The County Council have put forward £2.7 million to ensure every gully is cleaned. The Alconbury's were scheduled for cleaning within the next two months.
- It was agreed that Cllr Bryan should respond to the Government's call for evidence on flooding on behalf of the Parish Council

Play Area report – Cllr Gillham & Rochford

- It was noted that Cllr Rochford was assisting Cllr Gillham with the grant bid for funding towards new play equipment
- It was agreed to spend £450 on a picnic bench

Parish Paths & Trees – Cllr P Baker

- It was noted that the paint on the new bridge over the ford was peeling away. Comment was made that touch up paint had been left with a resident for this purpose.
- Cllr Stone agreed to investigate what species of tree was appropriate to plant beside the memorial and establish the cost for doing so. It was agreed the Clerk should be asked if there was any grant funding available

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker - no meeting held so no report

- Defibrillator – Cllr Rochford stated that the defibrillator had been received and was with the First Responder. As soon as the electrical supply was installed at the White Hart it would be available for use.

Wooley Hill Wind Farm Grant Body – Cllr Stone commented that she had received notification of potential dates for the next round of grant giving meeting.

Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan nothing to report

Resolved That all reports be received and noted

133.0 PLANNING MATTERS

To consider the following planning applications: -

Application Ref: 21/00248/FUL: New electrical substation, high voltage cables and all associated works

Resolved That no comment be submitted

APPLICATION REF. 21/00232/HHFUL: Retrospective application for driveway and crossover. Buckworth Lodge Stud Buckworth Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JX

Members noted that the entrance is not in keeping with its surroundings and that there were other issues going on within this site. It was further noted that the planning permission sought was not in its entirety covering all the planning requirements. It was therefore agreed to recommend refusal.

As the date of comment submission was close and as the Clerk was off sick, an extension should be requested and it was agreed that Cllr Bryan should do this on behalf of the Council

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- Resolved** That Cllr Bryan request an extension for comments to be submitted until the Clerk returns to work and that when comment was made it be to recommend refusal on the grounds that
- the plans for the gates are not in keeping with its surroundings
 - The permission being sought is not covering all the planning requirements for the site

134.0 LEASE AGREEMENT – CONCRETE SERVICE ROAD

Having discussed the matter in depth it was agreed not to take any further at the current time the issue of the Council's managing the road in future.

135.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Payroll & HMRC – March salary	£281.19
Haven Power – Street Light Energy (direct debit)	£8.73
ICO – Data Registration	£35.00

- Resolved** That £500 is transferred from CCLA to Unity to allow the above payments be made. Authorisation to be made by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

136.0 BUDGET REPORT

No budget report was available at the meeting

137.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

No bank reconciliation was available at the meeting

138.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Gardiner provided an interesting and full verbal report to the meeting covering a number of matters of interest. A copy is attached, and the Chairman requested that the footway between the two Alconbury villages, that along North Road between the Village Green and Buckworth Road, and that on Vinegar Hill be included in the CCC maintenance project. (See below)

139.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from an Upton Parish Councillor and circulated regarding a planning application for the traveller's site at Upton. There had been informal discussions and HDC were currently looking at enforcement. If there were any views Cllr Powley would pass them on.
- The footpath between the two villages and the North Road footpath was in a bad state of repair and it was noted that this was a much-used route, including by cyclists and children going to school. (See above comment on Cllr Gardiner's report)
- The footpath on Vinegar Hill is not fit for purpose. The surface is non-existent. Walkers have to be single file (difficult and unsafe with children especially) and there are problems with the grass growing over. (Again, see above comment on Cllr Gardiner's report)

SIGNED: _____

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council

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COVID 19

The County Council would like to remind people that if they need help during this pandemic, they should go onto either the County or District website's or phone the Countywide Hub on 034504552.

In the Alconbury Weston & Stukeleys area in the last seven days there have been 7 people tested positive for Covid 19 which gives a rate of 73.2 per 100,000 population.

The latest information I have on the Coronavirus in Huntingdonshire for the period from 1st March to 8th March, is that there were 148 new cases over the last seven days. Which equates to 89.3 cases per 100,000 of population. This is a decrease of 7% compared to the previous seven days. There were sadly 4 more deaths in the last seven days, which were within 28 days of a positive test.

The County Council has approved its budget for the next financial year, which will see 20 million extra spent on footpath maintenance, ie repairs and resurfacing.

Along with an additional 2.73 million will be spent on measures to prevent flooding and improve local biodiversity. This will include new measures such as rapid gulley cleaning at all known risk sites and better verge maintenance on rural roads avoiding peak flowering times. Plus a series of initiatives to provide both active and practical support for local communities to address flooding.

The County Council's proportion of Council Tax will rise by 1.99% with an additional 1% on Adult Social Care precept. The remaining budget gap is proposed to be filled by deploying 3.8million from the Councils Transformation Fund, thus keeping the increase to a minimum for residents

The Fire Authority has agreed a 2% increase in its Council Tax Precept.

The District Council has agreed not to put up its Council Tax, for next year which was agreed by all parties except two independents.

With regard to Flooding HDC & CCC are engaging with other organisations to review the recent flooding events. To identify what could have been done better to support our communities in the event of a flood and what actions can be taken to reduce the risk of flooding. The first meeting was with the County Council, the next will be with the EA and then Anglian Water.

I am working with the County Council to get a scheme that prevents the flooding of Rusts Lane in Alconbury, which resulted in the village being cut off in the recent floods. Thus making access to the Doctors Surgery etc impossible.

The District Council will be implementing Civil Parking Enforcement, to reduce illegal parking across the district

The New County Council Hub at Alconbury Weald will be known as ' New Shire Hall' and will open in September 2021 and is anticipated to come in under budget.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

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