

# ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

[www.alconburywestonparish-pc.gov.uk](http://www.alconburywestonparish-pc.gov.uk)

**Parish Clerk: Alison Brown**

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**Minutes of the Alconbury Weston Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
Alconbury Sports & Social Club, Alconbury PE28 4EX at 7:00 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: A. Stone (Chair), J. Baker, K. Brine, N. Morton, and A. Brown (Clerk).

**Members of public:** 6

**HDC/CCC:** 1

## **86.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs P. Baker and Waring and Wheatley (personal).

## **87.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **88.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. A resident asked the Parish Council why a contractor is being sought to repair the goal posts when they, as a volunteer, could do the work for free saving taxpayers' money. Cllr Brine stated that insurance and health and safety implications have to be considered when using volunteers to carry out maintenance tasks on behalf of the Parish Council. It was also noted that generally there is a lack of volunteers coming forward for groups within the parish and when they do, it is usually the same few people.
2. Residents asked for an update on planning application 22/01350/OUT – Land North West of 1 Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston. See agenda item 89.2 for update.

## **89.0 PLANNING**

**89.1** 22/02010/TCA – Works to tree/s subject to a Tree Preservation Order: Willow – Fell to ground level – Replant Oak Tree at Land North of Alconbury Brook, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston

**RESOLVED:** to recommend removal of the tree however the Parish Council requests that consideration is given to the planting of an oak tree replacement well away from any boundaries and the brook.

**89.2** To receive an update on previous applications:

- 22/01195/HHFUL: 37 Wheatsheaf Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4LF – Permitted.
- 22/01350/OUT: Land North West Of 1 Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston – In progress.
- 22/00905/FUL: Land Rear Of 9 High Street, Alconbury Weston – In progress.
- 21/01349/FUL: Buckworth Lodge Stud, Buckworth Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JX – In progress.
- 22/01832/FUL: 22 Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JD – In progress.
- 22/01833/LBC: 22 Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JD – In progress.
- 22/00343/FUL: 2 Wheatsheaf Cottages, Alconbury Hill, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JH – Pending decision.
- 22/00145/S73: 50 Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JD – Pending decision.
- 22/00298/FUL: Stables Hamerton Road. Erection of a single building providing for 3no. dwellings – In Progress

**89.3 HDC Planning correspondence:** Notification of changes to the planning application process were noted.

## **90.0 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Alconbury Weston Parish Council meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

## **91.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Gardner read out his report which is appended to these minutes.

**Cllr Gardner** stated that he will arrange to meet with **Cllrs Morton** and **Stone** to walk round the village to identify all highway issues which require attention.

## **92.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED**

### **92.1 Highways, Speedwatch and SID**

- Block graph update – Cllr Stone reported that she had not yet circulated the report data from the SID on Buckworth Road however the figures showed that during a 4-week period, 59736 vehicles had been recorded with a violation rate of 53.16%. The SID also registered the highest ever speed of 81mph for a vehicle coming into the village. The SID has now been moved to Hamerton Road.

**92.2 Flood alleviation (including TABFG report)** – Prior to the meeting, the September flood report had been circulated to Councillors by the Clerk.

### **92.3 Play area**

- Repainting of goal posts -Two quotations had been received to refurbish the goal posts.  
**RESOLVED:** to accept the quotation from Morgans Handyman Services to refurbish two goal posts cost £243.00. The member of public who had volunteered in the earlier public forum was thanked for their offer to carry out the task.
- Cllr J. Baker reported that grass seed is still needed for an area of soil at the play area. The meeting was informed that Cllr Waring had already seeded the original area but another area of bare soil had now appeared which needs to be seeded.

### **92.4 Parish paths, trees and benches**

- Planting of replacement trees in Highfield Avenue – Cllr Stone reported that the Woodland Trust is only able to provide free saplings therefore she had earmarked 3 flowering cherry trees at Riverland Nurseries costing £59.50 each plus the cost of stakes. Helen Foster has already agreed to maintain the trees and make sure they are watered. Cllr Stone stated that she is also able to help with the trees.  
**RESOLVED:** to purchase 3 flowering cherry trees at a cost of £59.50 each plus 3 stakes from Riverlane Nurseries for planting in Highfield Avenue. **Cllr Morton** to plant the trees. **Helen Foster** and **Cllr Stone** will maintain the trees.
- Adoption of orphan land on Highfield Avenue - Cllr Morton stated that the Parish Council should explore the adoption of orphaned land in the parish as it will give control over the maintenance of the trees growing on it. It is thought that there are 2 parcels of land on Highfield Avenue and 3 on West Close. Cllr Gardener offered to find out the procedures on land adoption.  
**RESOLVED:** that, if possible, the Parish Council will adopt the orphaned land. **Cllr Gardener** will find out the procedures on land adoption to get the land into Parish Council ownership.
- The quotation for recommended works in recent tree survey report was discussed.  
**RESOLVED:** that the quotation for the trees survey from Maynard Trees is accepted and the works carried out as listed in the report – cost £600.00.
- The Clerk reported that a resident had contacted the Parish Council with concerns that a street maple tree growing in front of their property might be causing damage to their foundations. Cllr **Morton** will meet with the resident to discuss the issue.
- The meeting was informed that the hedge on Vinegar Hill has been cut back which means that the plan to widen the footpath can continue. Cllr Morton has already emailed Sharon Middleton at Highways who will look into this being done in the next financial year.
- The footbridge at the top of the High Street has been repaired
- The Monks Wood footpath is overgrown. Cllr Morton has reported this to Highways.
- Cllr Gardener informed the meeting that any changes to the corner on Buckworth Road cannot be funded by HDC and that it will have to be submitted by an LHI bid. It was agreed that the Parish Council will look into this issue further.

### **92.5 Wooley Hill Wind Farm Grant liaison body**

- Cllr Stone gave a verbal report from the recent meeting. She stated that the grant funding round was oversubscribed. Grants have been awarded to Alconbury Sports & Social club for new chairs and the

flood group will receive part funding for their project. The closing date for the next round of funding is February 2023. The maximum grant award for each application is £5000.

**92.6. Fibre Broadband** – Due to his absence, Cllr Waring submitted the following report to the Clerk:  
I eventually got a response from Wendy Sycamore of Openreach concerning FTTP roll-out, copied below.

‘Thank you for your patience whilst I looked into this. I’ve spoken to our delivery team who have confirmed that the Woolley exchange is still in our commercial (i.e., fully funded by Openreach) full fibre rollout plans but we do not currently have a forecasted date for when the build will start. It will be completed before the end of 2026 but I’m afraid it isn’t in our immediate short-term plans, and it is too early to say which properties will be included in this. I’m sorry if the wrong information has been provided locally.

You mentioned the villages nearby; we are in the process of upgrading some properties in Ellington (fed from the Woolley exchange) and Great Stukeley (fed from the Huntingdon exchange), but these upgrades have been completed as part of our Fibre Community Partnership scheme and utilised both investment from Openreach and the Government’s Gigabit Voucher scheme to make them possible. We’re not accepting new registrations for our community schemes at the moment, but we do expect to start taking new registrations in the near future if you wanted to consider one for Alconbury Weston. Once we’ve opened for new registrations you will be able to apply via our website which I’ve provided the link for above.

Sorry that I can’t give you a more accurate picture of timescales at the moment, but I hope that this helps bring some clarity to the current situation’

I have checked the website and I have registered interest, as the website shows the following message.

**‘We’re pausing registrations due to high demand**

We’re proud that our Fibre Community Partnership (FCP) programme is helping to connect people all over the country.

It’s proven extremely popular, and we’ve now upgraded more than 2,239 communities. In the last few months, we’ve seen demand soar and we’re temporarily pausing new registrations (in GB only) while we work through current requests.

Don’t worry though, simply register your interest in Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband by entering your details in our checker below, and we’ll keep you up to date on build progress in your area, and let you know as and when we resume registrations in your community’.

I have had no email informing me that they are resuming registrations in our area.

**93.0 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP (TABFG)**

- Three versions of possible TABFG Terms of Reference were presented to the Parish Council. It was agreed to defer the agenda item to the next meeting, as Cllrs P. Baker and Waring were absent from the meeting, and they are the Parish Council’s main leads for the flood group.
- Flood planning - Cllr Morton reported that the ordered equipment had arrived and that he will be distributing it to the flood wardens.

**94.0 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTION LEVY (CIL) PAYMENT**

Cllr Stone reported that she had received several potential project suggestion from residents. It was noted that CIL money must be spent for the economic benefit of the village within 5 years of receiving it. It was agreed to obtain more ideas and then ask the community to vote for their favourite. The **Clerk** will confirm the amount of CIL at the next meeting.

**95.0 ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Due to his absence, Cllr Waring submitted the following report to the Clerk:

Presentation to the Parish on 4th October 22. Attendance was poor, but the need for a neighbourhood plan was underlined. Requested volunteers, and to date we have had a few parishioners volunteer to help, but I have not had volunteers to help with the major tasks required to complete the Plan.

I have started drafting the outline of the plan, a task that is required before we can determine what is required to be asked in the Parish Survey. This task is likely to take 4-8 weeks depending upon resource.

In parallel, Councillor Morton and his wife, have started to look at what we need to do to produce the appropriate survey for the Parish.

Cllr Gardener stated that the Parish Council is welcome to use and adapt the surveys which his Parish Council used during their Neighbourhood Plan process.

#### 96.0 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL HANDYMAN

It was agreed that a contractor needs to be sought for maintenance jobs in the parish as there are never enough volunteers and jobs are not getting done. It was agreed that Cllrs Brine and Morton will scope out the requirements of a contractor for further discussion at the next meeting.

#### 97.0 MEETING DATES FOR 2023

**RESOLVED:** 9<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – subject to venue availability.

#### 98.0 ADDITIONAL HELP FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH

- Cllr Stone reported that she had been to the coffee morning at the church and will be attending the Over 60's and Thursday Club but felt that no one seemed interested, and that people do not want to say or admit that they are vulnerable.

It was suggested that a separate event from the existing groups would perhaps be a better way to engage with all age groups, for example a 'Repair Café' where people could just drop in for advice or help and have a hot drink and a cake in a warm place. Cllr Gardener stated that the Community Chest at HDC may be able to give warm spaces funding. It was agreed that a plan needs to be drawn up to deliver such an event and councillors will put all their ideas together. Cllr Brine agreed to ask if the Public House would be able to host such an event.

- Due to her absence, Cllr Wheatley submitted the following report to the Clerk:

'I have contacted the Manager of Alconbury Surgery who has given me contact details for their Social Prescriber, Michelle Seal. She has done some work on a hub for patients in Brampton and is keen to get the idea working in Alconbury. I have emailed her asking her for information and suggested I meet her to find out more and if it is something we would be interested in. I have not heard back as of today, so this is just an update'.

#### 99.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

**RESOLVED:** to ratify September payments and resolve October payments:

Drax Ltd	Street Lighting August 2022 (DD)	£9.83
Cllr A Stone	Reimbursement – HM Queen Elizabeth II wreath	£70.00
SR Howell & Co	Payroll service April – September 2022	£60.00
Beam	Grass cutting September Payment	£285.00
Wild Blessing	Play equipment cleaning	£58.00
Unity Trust Bank	Service charges 04/06/2022	£18.00
Parrot Print Ltd	350 x A5 leaflets – Neighbourhood Planning meeting	£40.00
CAS Ltd	Parish Council insurance	£440.07
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath donation	£55.00
Maynard Trees	Fell field maple tree in Highfield Avenue	£250.00
Mrs A Brown	Clerk salary (inc. extra hours) & expenses October 2022	£408.70
HMRC	Clerk PAYE October 2022	£75.00
Drax Ltd	Street Lighting September 2022 (DD)	£9.56

#### 100.0 FINANCE

**100.1 RESOLVED:** That the bank reconciliation be confirmed as correct.

Monies received: Nil.

**100.2 RESOLVED:** Expenditure against budget was reviewed.

**100.3** The Clerk stated that the budget and precept for the next financial year will be presented at the next meeting. A draft will be sent prior to the meeting.

**101.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- Cllr Brine asked for the draft minutes of meeting to be circulated to councillors sooner, especially when they have been absent from meetings.
- December agenda item: Purchase of Charles Arnold-baker book for Clerk
- December agenda item: Coronation of King Charles III
- January 2023 agenda item: Application for 20mph zones or speed limits through the LHI process
- Cllr J. Baker gave her apologies for the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**102.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- Extra-Ordinary meeting Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 7:00 pm, Alconbury Sports and Social Club to discuss planning application 22/02042/FUL Retrospective application for Change of use from agricultural to E(g) & Suri Generis (Dog grooming) at Sallows Farm 86 Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston.
- Ordinary Parish Council meeting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Alconbury Sports and Social Club

The meeting closed at 8:43 pm

Agenda item: 91.0

Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – October 2022

This year's applications 23/24 for LHI funding will commence on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and close in early January 23, with the Panel meeting in May 23

There are some important changes to the LHI process, the process will be amended by the introduction of two process routes ie Non complex and Complex Schemes . Non Complex schemes would be parking restrictions such as double yellow lines, street lighting, speed limits & MVAS etc. Complex schemes would be raised features, pedestrian crossings, foot/cycle paths etc

The maximum contribution from the County for Non complex schemes would be £10,000 and for Complex schemes would be £25,000.

The overall funding level for the schemes will remain the same, which means there has been a 13% cut in funding in real terms for next year.

If the village is looking for 20mph zones or speed limit. These should not be put through the LHI process, as they will not be accepted. A new scheme for 20mph zones will be put to the Highways & transportation Committee in December and will come into effect Countywide in the new year. At which time parishes will be able to apply.

The Huntingdon Market Town Proposals can be viewed up until the 28<sup>th</sup> October and everyone is invited to comment. The review is looking at the regeneration of the Town Centre with a Food Court, Housing, improvements to the Riverside Park, additional trees, café etc and the removal of the ring road around the Town Centre which deters access to the Town and the neighbouring parks etc.

District Council meetings are now being live streamed on the you tube channel , you can view Full Council, Development Management and Overview and Scrutiny , Employment and Licensing and Protection Committees

The County Council has prepared an active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire, which sets out the approach for improvements to active travel across the county.

The Huntingdonshire transport strategy has been developed to tackle the existing transport problems and address future growth in the District and support the achievement of carbon net zero in Cambridgeshire by 2045. The plan provides a holistic approach to how people will be able to travel where they live and work, of which active travel provides an important option, for those who are not able to travel by car. The active Travel strategy aims to make active travel the go to option for local travel.

The County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership are to launch an extensive consultation on proposals to transform how people travel around Greater Cambridge.

The proposals will see New Bus Routes and more frequent services from our Market Towns and Rural areas into the City. The frequency of services would be 6-8 buses per hour from the Market towns and hourly from Rural Areas. Along with longer

operating hours from 5am to 1am. Flat fares would be introduced of £2.00 to get into Cambridge To enable this to happen a Congestion charge in Cambridge would be introduced within the Sustainable Travel Zone, which would extend out to the Park & Ride Sites, but not include them. The daily charge would be £5, payable by everyone entering Cambridge including residents and would operate between 7am & 7pm. The hospital will be within the congestion charge zone.

There would be exemptions for Blue Badge Holders, buses etc.

The implementation of the congestion charge is linked with improved bus services to Huntingdon, Alconbury Weald, St Neots etc. With costs likely to be £2 each way

The County Council has launched an urgent appeal to encourage residents to consider becoming Foster Carers

The County Council will provide you with:

Local training and development close to you

Generous pay and benefits including a startup package

24/7 support from a Supervising Social worker as well as an amazing first year next steps training programme.

Local support groups with other Foster Carers and peer mentoring

To become a Foster Carer, you must be over 21, have a spare bedroom and be willing and able to provide a stable and loving environment in which a child or young person can thrive

The District Council has successfully prosecuted a fly tipper from Huntingdon, for fly tipping on Priory Hill, St Neots. The offender was fined £2000 and ordered to pay costs of £1800 as well as being disqualified from driving for 28 days.

The district Council are undertaking

If this is you, please get in touch

Visit: [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)

Email: [fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact preferably by email on [ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or [ian.gardener@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.gardener@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston

**Alconbury Brook Flood Group (FG)**  
**Report September 23rd 2022**

## Agenda item: 092.2

### Alconbury Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme.

FG submitted cross section data thanks to several members who helped with measurements. New brook survey had been commissioned by EA to improve modelling, will cause delay of 2-3 months

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with EA on scheme options, main issue cost estimate too high and benefits too low

Discussion took place about how to improve the viability of the scheme including

- New survey and modelling demonstrating more benefit
- Improving design to get best benefit for least cost
- Inflation, optimism and climate change factors to increase benefit
- Alternative funding streams with less constraints on contractor choice to reduce cost
- Combination of options to increase benefits

Joe Pugsley from the EA also to look at rejected options for acceptable elements which might add to benefit

FG will look at acceptable concepts to see if they can be applied elsewhere in the catchment and make enquiries.

### 40 Ponds project (Landscape Recovery/NFM)

- Work on Black Lodge Pond refurbishment has started, our amazing volunteers have cleared much of the undergrowth. 2 more small trees to remove this weekend. Excavation by contractor to start ASAP.
- Buckworth Brook floodplain (scrape) improvement, awaiting meeting of Wind Farm trustees to see if funding available before we can proceed. If possible, work to be completed by Christmas.
- Alconbury Weston Pond. Design work complete but now struggling with planning consent. Currently looking at getting consent for ponds as mining projects through Cambridgeshire rather than through a Huntingdonshire District Council planning application.
- Possibility of creating a Catchment Area Partnership with Natural England. An initial description of our projects has been submitted. Outcome could be financial support for individual projects of up to £20,000 including, possibly, some arrangement to give FG admin support to help increase its capacity.





## **CIL funding**

An application was submitted by the FG on behalf of Alconbury PC to install 10 trapped drains near the Village Green in Alconbury. The cost is very high, partly because so many services traverse the drain pipes. We have our fingers crossed.

## **Flyover Gabions**

Progress being made with design work

## **Volunteers/ Maintenance**

Teams in Alconbury and Alconbury Weston have been working every Saturday and have cleared 700m of bank and, under permit, some silt/reeds under permit. Work will continue during October to:

- Clearance near the upstream footbridge in Alconbury Weston including silt removal, back gardens, at the back of Bridge garage and finishing off near the Dutch Arches. A tree permit has been applied for to remove a, mostly dead, Willow from the bank downstream of the main footbridge.
- Clear back gardens and near the Heritage Bridge in Alconbury. Under permit, complete silt removal near the flyover. Clear the banks near the second gate on the sheep field.

We expect the Internal Drainage Board (who are doing the banks this year) to start and complete flail mowing of banks in the next few days, so we can identify areas that still need work.

## **Cambridgeshire Flood Conference.**

Cambridgeshire held a very helpful conference attended by several FG members. Very interesting talks including Flood-RE about insurance and help to 'build back better', and the National Flood Forum. We also presented our work. Many good contacts made, and conversations had. Good event.

