

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Alconbury Sports & Social Club, Alconbury PE28 4EX at 7:00 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: M. Waring (Chair), P. Baker, N. Morton, A. Stone and A. Brown (Clerk).

**Members of public:** 4                      **HDC/CCC:** Cllr Ian Gardener

### **108.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs J. Baker, Brine and Wheatley (personal).

### **109.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **110.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Sawtry School asked the Parish Council whether it would like some of their surplus saplings for the community which they had received from The Woodland Trust. Cllr Waring stated that the Parish Council would like an oak tree for the village green.
2. A resident raised a concern that excess water is flowing onto Hamerton Road from a leak at one of the properties which occurred in the summer and that this could worsen during the winter. Cllr Morton stated that the property owner is aware of the issue. Cllr Morton will take this forward.
3. An update on planning application 22/01350/OUT – Land Northwest of 1 Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston was requested. See agenda item 111.2 for update.

### **111.0 PLANNING**

**111.1** Comments resolved on applications where appropriate:

- 22/02361/TRCA G1: Mixed Hedgerow comprising Ivy clad Hawthorn, Coppiced Ash and Field Maple: Reduce entire hedgerow to 1.8 metres to establish as managed hedgerow and prevent stem failure in the future at Land North Of 13 North Road Alconbury Weston  
**RESOLVED:** To support the application with no material observations.

**111.2** Receive updates on previous applications:

- 22/01195/HHFUL - 37 Wheatsheaf Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4LF – Approved.
- 22/01350/OUT - Land Northwest Of 1 Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston – In progress. Cllr Gardener informed the meeting that the Section 106 for Butchers Close was due to be signed last week which would mean that this application would most likely be refused. Cllr Gardener will confirm this with the Planning Officer who is currently away on leave and inform the Parish Council.
- 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 – pending decision.
- 22/01832/FUL - 22 Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JD – Approved.
- 22/01833/LBC - 22 Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JD – Approved.
- 22/00343/FUL - 2 Wheatsheaf Cottages, Alconbury Hill, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JH – Refused.
- 22/00145/S73 - 50 Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JD – Pending decision.
- 22/02042/FUL- Sallows Farm, 86 Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JD – In progress.

Cllr Gardener informed the meeting that HDC planning department is having staffing issues and that they have employed a company to sort out the back log of applications.

### **112.0 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Alconbury Weston Parish Council meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

#### **113.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

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

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

##### **114.1 Highways, Speedwatch and SID**

The 2023/24 Local Highway Improvement (LHI) Process is now open again for applications. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 6th January 2023.

**RESOLVED:** That an LHI bid will be submitted to HDC by the Parish Council to lower the kerb at Buckworth Road. Cllrs Morton and Stone will complete the application form.

Block graph information from the SID situated in Hamerton Road had been circulated prior to the meeting. The highest speed recorded on its approach to the village was 69 mph, (previous highest recorded being 58 mph). There were a total of 30.65% violations of the 8010 vehicles recorded. The SID was positioned further along Hamerton Road before the blind bend as opposed to near the Ford where it was previously situated. If the speed violations continue, the police can be asked to monitor the road. Cllr Gardener offered to provide the contact details with whom the graph information can be shared with. The SID is now on Vinegar Hill.

Speedwatch session are still not taking place.

##### **114.2 Play area**

Wicksteed Leisure are due to conduct an inspection of the play area later this week.

##### **114.3 Parish paths, trees and benches – Cllr Morton**

- Cllrs Morton, Stone and Waring have planted 3 cherry trees in Highfield Avenue. Cllr Morton has met with a resident concerned with the health of a tree near their property.
- The meeting was informed that there is no orphaned land on Highfield Avenue or West Close. The land in question belongs to HDC.
- **RESOLVED:** To accept the quotation from Maynard Trees to grind the field maple stump in Highfield Avenue; cherry stump in Highfield Avenue playground and make good with topsoil – Cost £190.00.

#### **115.0 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP (TABFG)**

**115.1 RESOLVED:** To accept version 3 of the proposed TABFG Terms of Reference. Cllr Waring will inform TABFG.

**115.2** The TABFG report had been circulated to everyone prior to the meeting.

**115.3** TABFG have submitted their application to HDC to remove a diseased willow near the brook. A new tree will be planted nearby. A grant request of £50.00 from TABGF was considered for the purchase of the new tree.

**115.4** TABGF Newsletter 4 has been sent out with the current edition of the Parish Pump. A grant request of £50.00 from TABFG was considered towards the printing of the Newsletter.

Cllr Morton will provide flood alleviation information for future Newsletter via Cllr P. Baker or Waring.

**RESOLVED:** That a grant of £50.00 is given to TABFG for the planting of a new tree and a further one-off grant of £50.00 towards the production and printing of the Newsletter. Receipts are to be provided by TABFG to the Parish Council before payment will be made.

#### **116.0 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTION LEVY (CIL) PAYMENT**

Cllr Stone is still gathering ideas for potential projects. A basketball net for the play area has been suggested and Cllr Stone will speak with Sawtry Parrish Council as they have recently installed one. A suggestion has also been made to make improvements to the village green. Cllr Stone will report back at the next meeting.

#### **117.0 ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Waring reported that the Neighbourhood Plan is slowly progressing and that he has started drafting the plan, however he is having an issue engaging with HDC. Cllr Gardener stated that he will confirm who the Officer is. Cllr Morton and Heidi Morton have put together a survey which is ready to be tested on a few residents to ensure that it is easy to understand and complete.

Cllr P. Baker left the meeting.

Several volunteers have come forward to help with the drafting of the plan. It is hoped that the survey will go live early in the New Year. Cllr Stone offered to help residents complete the survey to ensure that there is a good response rate.

Cllr P. Baker re-joined the meeting.

#### **118.0 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL HANDYMAN**

Cllr Stone has enquired of a local handyman who is prepared to carry out occasional maintenance tasks at a reasonable hourly rate. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### **119.0 WASTE BIN ON NORTH ROAD**

A request to consider moving a waste bin on North Road to another location was considered. The original request was made to Cllr Gardener by a resident who has issues with the smell which comes from the bin. This bin is well-used by dog walkers and moving relating the bin could set a precedent for other such requests, also the bin was in this location before the nearby property.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk will ask HDC for costings to replace the bin with a purpose made dog waste bin with a sealed lid to contain any smell and relocate the existing bin to another location further up the road. Cllr Gardener will provide the Clerk with the HDC contact. Cllr J. Baker will be asked to inform the resident of the Parish Council's proposal.

#### **120.0 SUPPORTING AND HELPING ALCONBURY WESTON LOCALS CHARITY (SHAWL)**

A request from SHAWL to hold an event on the village green was considered.

**RESOLVED:** That SHAWL is permitted to hold an event on the green on the proviso that the charity confirms the date of the event and whether it is the annual Funday.

#### **121.0 CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III**

CCC Highways has informed Parish Councils that Street Party applications must be received at least eight weeks in advance (10/03/23) via their website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (10/02/23). It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting whether the Parish Council should organise a Coronation event on the village green.

#### **122.0 PURCHASE OF CHARLES ARNOLD-BAKER PUBLICATION FOR CLERK**

**RESOLVED:** To purchase a copy of Charles Arnold-Baker Local Council Administration for the Clerk – cost £131.99.

#### **123.0 MEETING DATES FOR 2023**

Date of the next meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. The Clerk will confirm future 2023 dates at the next meeting.

#### **124.0 ADDITIONAL HELP FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH**

Cllr Stone stated that there has not been much progress on this as residents do not seem enthusiastic about it.

#### **125.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:** To ratify November payments and resolve December payments:

Drax Ltd	Street Lighting 2022 (DD)	£9.83
Riverlane Nurseries	3 Cherry Trees	£205.50
CAPALC	Code of Conduct training Cllr Stone 18/05/2021	£40.00
BEAM	Grass cutting	£285.00
Fire Rescue Training and Supplies Limited	Replacement electrode pads for defibrillator	£65.94
Mrs A Brown	Clerk salary (inc. pay award backpay) & expenses 2022	£408.20
HMRC	Clerk PAYE November 2022	£98.00

#### **126.0 FINANCE**

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

Monies received: Nil.

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

#### **127.0 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and confirm that the proposed budget for the 2023/24 financial year will be set at £16,500.00 again due to the current cost of living crisis. As from next year, the precept will be increased annually by a small percentage to cover general rising costs. The Clerk will complete the precept request form and return to HDC.

**128.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

Parish Pump publication: Contact details for Cllr Waring as Chair to be given to the editor by Cllr Stone. It was agreed that Cllr Morton will ask Cllr Brine if she is able to produce an article for the next edition.

**129.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, 7:00 pm, Alconbury Sports and Social Club.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

Agenda item 113.0

Cllr Ian Gardener report

Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – December 2022

I attended the Alconbury Weald Joint Parish Meeting on 31 October. As of October 22 there were 779 dwellings occupied. The Co Op adjacent to New Shire Hall should open in June. The AW1 Bus Service is proving very popular.

I have provided Cllr's Morton & Stone with details of the ownership of the Orphaned Land in Alconbury Weston. The majority is owned by HDC.

A resident has asked me to ask the Parish Council that the Dog Bin outside the new house on North Road is repositioned.

The Combined Authority (Mayor) has launched a consultation on a strategy to speed up the switch to electric, hydrogen and other renewable fuelled vehicles. By increasing the number of electric vehicle charging points, encouraging people to choose an alternative fuelled vehicle and by encouraging people to walk, cycle or take public transport as the first choice for journeys. For more information go to The Cambridge & Peterborough Combined authority website to view the consultation proposals

This year's applications 23/24 for LHI funding will commence on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and close on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 consultation regarding Sustainable Travel and the associated Congestion Charge can be found on the Greater Cambridge Partnership website – <http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022>. The consultation lasts until 23 December 2022.

At the latest consultation meeting for Councillors at HDC, I have asked that they look at providing a bus service to the villages including Alconbury, Alconbury Weston & The Giddings. As none of the villages west of the A1 are included within the Sustainable Travel Zone proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership are now saying that residents travelling to A&E at Addenbrookes would not be liable for the Congestion charge but have not said

how this would work. The congestion charge will only operate on weekdays ie Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm. All vehicles entering the zone will be charged including Electric vehicles.

The Administration led by the Lib Dems are asking residents of Cambridgeshire to give their views on the future direction of spending, via an online survey on the County's website. The survey went live this week and will close on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Council will need to make Budget Decisions in January/February 23

The Boundary Commission have proposed a new Huntingdon Parliamentary Constituency as part of their proposals for Seven Parliamentary Constituencies in Cambridgeshire. It will cover all of my County Division apart from the villages of Great and Little Gidding. The existing Huntingdon Constituency will lose St Neots and the Great Paxton and Fenstanton District wards. The new will include the District wards of Alconbury, Brampton, Buckden, Great Staughton ,Kimbolton, Sawtry, Somersham & Warboys Now that the final consultation has closed, we await the Commissions final proposals for the seven Constituencies in Cambridgeshire.

The Government has provided funding to enable Cambridgeshire County Council to provide Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch for children and young people receiving income related free school meals throughout the Christmas Holidays. The programme is available to primary & secondary school children. Eligible children can attend a holiday scheme for up to 16 hours between the 22nd December and January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cambridgeshire is also funding free access to families struggling financially and to recently arrived refugee families.

Further information can be found at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf)

The District Council are also preparing its Budgets for next year and the likely impact on Council Tax. One of the areas being looked at, is charging for Green Bins, which the previous Conservative administration always pledged not to charge for.

The District Council have decided to increase the fees at One Leisure Centres from 1<sup>st</sup> January by 8.7% on average. Which is hoped will increase revenue to assist in meeting higher costs relating to energy and wages. If this does not materialise, the Portfolio holder who is an Independent Councillor admitted she had no Plan B if this did not work.

Contact Email - [Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston

**Alconbury Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme.**

- A meeting took place last week with EA about the Flood Alleviation Scheme ('the options'). These are regular scheduled meetings.
- Visit to Barford Reservoirs was discussed (see below)
- Survey team had started work from the Old Bridge Hotel, Huntingdon to Hamerton.
- Discussion about estimating scheme benefit without accurate data. FG is currently collecting lived data of accurate flood depths in the 78 properties which flooded indoors in 2020.
- Positive discussion.

**Barford Reservoir**

- FG invited to look at Barford Reservoirs by IDB operations manager and later by farmer who owns land adjacent to both dams.
- Two 5m high bunds with culverts in different watercourses possibly similar in design to Option 5 at Alconbury Weston
- Built 2007 for approx. £500,000 each. Funding from a variety of sources including Defra 45%
- Both are Reservoirs, so regular engineering inspection. Structure very simple, soil netted grass bank with embedded curb stones
- Clay spoil from another project close by incorporated into the bunds
- Great Barford flooding frequency and number of properties affected similar to Alconbury's.
- Took less than a fortnight to construct each dam!
- Alconbury version 1m higher and somewhat larger storage capacity given shape of upstream valley.
- **Using local contractors to reduce cost and funding arrangements discussed with EA FAS team at meeting above**  
Many thanks to IDB Phil Lovesey and landowner Gary Davison



**40 Ponds/NFM** Two more NFM projects now completed this month. (left Black Lodge Pond by FG and FWAG and right Winwick new brook meanders, ponds and leaky dams by EA and FWAG) Black Lodge filling and emptying nicely in last few days. Winwick project significant project on 250m of brook upstream) FG

Thanks to Lucy Jenkins FWAG and Karen Paterson EA)

Next two ponds are in planning process: AW - Philip Baker's Pond planning application submitted; Buckworth Brook scrape application with planning consultant.

**Survey** Community interaction with survey team revealed that the team ~~have~~ has been commissioned to do 100m intervals. We have suggested to EA that this may miss key bottlenecks and pinch points, ~~and that these~~ are important when improving the current models. Suggestions have been made to show some additional cross sections that could be surveyed.

**Sensor projects** FG believes that accurate information about rainfall, soil moisture and flow is crucial to understanding the brook and measuring outcomes of interventions. FG has met with *cthings* and CCC to look at how we could integrate our sensors with their 3G data communication system. Very positive response. Visit planned to *cthings* HQ to develop technical side. Bid in to 'entrade' for £7500 towards sensors and nodes. FG is monitoring soil moisture and flow on a regular basis.

**Preparedness Flooding** is now possible after months of very dry conditions. Readers should not be over-concerned because the system is coping well with normal rain events, and if anything, a little better given various interventions and small improvements. However, a little preparation and sensible vigilance is a good idea.

**Volunteer work** Huge thanks to volunteers who cleared banks in AW and have removed flood debris and a tree, also those who removed debris from a culvert in School Lane ditch. EA/IDB maintenance team have done more good and useful bank cutting near the racecourse.

**Newsletter** Issue 4 will be distributed this week.

## Alconbury Weston Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Date: 5th December 2022

Approved by: Cllr Mark Waring  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

Date: 5th December 2022

	<b>Bank Reconciliation at 31/10/2022</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022			30,096.72
	<b>ADD</b>			
	Receipts 01/04/2022 - 31/10/2022			29,204.36
				59,301.08
	<b>SUBTRACT</b>			
	Payments 01/04/2022 - 31/10/2022			10,470.65
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 31/10/2022</b> (per Cash Book)			<b>48,830.43</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/10/2022	0.00	
	The Public Sector Deposit Fund	31/10/2022	28,228.16	
	Unity Trust Bank	31/10/2022	20,602.27	
				<b>48,830.43</b>
	Less unrepresented payments			
				48,830.43
	Plus unrepresented receipts			
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>			<b>48,830.43</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>			