

ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alconburyweston-pc.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Alison Brown

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Minutes of the Alconbury Weston Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27th February 2023, Alconbury Sports & Social Club, Alconbury PE28 4EX at 7:00 pm.

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

Members of public: 3

HDC/CCC: Cllr Ian Gardener

Public Question Time

Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by LGA 1972 s 100

1. A resident stated that he was concerned that trees, which may have a protection order on them, were being removed without permission on land adjacent to the Buckworth Road/ North Road Junction. They also stated that the roadside verge had been dug up.

Cllr Waring stated that he would investigate whether any trees in that area have a Tree Preservation Order on them.

Cllr Gardener stated that he would contact Highways and ask them to assess the damaged verge.

2. An update on planning application 22/01350/OUT – Land Northwest of 1 Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston was requested. Cllr Gardener stated that he had received an email from the Planning Officer informing him that Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), had refused the application however the status of the application was not yet updated on the Public Access System.

148.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr P. Baker and Cllr Wheatly (personal).

149.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

151.0 PLANNING

151.1 Comments resolved on applications where appropriate:

- 23/00179/HHFUL - Conversion of existing attached garage into living accommodation (kitchen) with access through wall into existing dining room. Enclosure of porch within footprint of existing porch canopy at 12 Wheatsheaf Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4LF
RESOLVED: To submit a neutral comment to HDC - The Parish Council has considered the application which is for the conversion of a garage and note that there is an off-street parking space.
- 23/00183/FUL - Erection of a general-purpose agricultural storage building at Land East Of Church Way, Alconbury Weston
RESOLVED: To submit a neutral comment to HDC – A by-way has been noted in the application. The Parish Council believes that the by-way is not affected by this application.
- 23/00211/FUL - Residential development for two family dwellings on the site of a large barn at Land Adjacent To Thorns Farm, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston
RESOLVED: To submit a neutral comment to HDC – The proposal does not detail how the demolition of the barn will be carried out. The construction of the barn appears to be of asbestos and the removal of the concrete plinth that the barn sits on is close to a mains gas pipe.

151.2 To receive an update on previous applications:

- 22/01350/OUT - Land North West Of 1 Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston – Pending decision.
- 22/00905/FUL- Land Rear Of 9 High Street, Alconbury Weston – In progress.
- 22/02042/FUL- Sallows Farm, 86 Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon PE28 4JD – Withdrawn.

- 22/02361/TRCA - Land North Of 13 North Road Alconbury Weston – In progress.
- 22/80383/COND Discharge of condition 9 (Key Phase 2 Definition) for 1201158OUT at Alconbury Airfield Ermine Street Little Stukeley – Conditional reply sent.
- 22/80374/COND Discharge of condition 10 (Key Phase 3 Framework) for 1201158OUT at Alconbury Airfield Ermine Street Little Stukeley – In progress.
- 22/02585/TRCA – Tree works application - Poplar House, Vinegar Hill, Alconbury Weston
- 22/00298/FUL –Stables, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston – Pending decision.

152.0 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Alconbury Weston Parish Council meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

153.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

Items noted in Cllr Gardener's report:

- Trees on Highfield Road are on land owned by Diamond Constructions Ltd however it is believed that this company no longer exists. HDC cuts the grass. In view of this information, it was agreed that the Parish Council will investigate this matter further.
- Cllr Morton agreed to pass on to Cllr Gardener, observations received from members of the public relating to development on land off Buckworth Road which will be reported to HDC to confirm that it is not development allowed under permitted development by statutory undertakers.

154.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

154.1 Highways, Speedwatch and SID – Cllrs Stone, Morton

- SID Block graph data Vinegar Hill
Cllr Stone reported that she had circulated the block graph information for Vinegar Hill to all councillors prior to the meeting. Of 18,149 vehicles, the percentage of violations was 42.16%. The highest speed recorded being 69 mph. The SID is now situated on North Road until 14th March 2023.
- Speedwatch
The Speedwatch Co-ordinator has informed Cllr Stone that they are hoping to put the team back together and run a session in March 2023.

Cllr Waring asked if the Parish Council can ask the police to set up their speed vans in the village. Cllr Stone stated in the first instance the police need to be given data from either the SID or Speedwatch.

- LHI bid
Cllr Stone has emailed Michael Martin, the Project Manager at Cambridgeshire Highways for an update on the LHI bid 2022/23 40 mph buffer zones and is waiting for his reply.

154.2 Play area

Cllr J. Baker reported that she had inspected the play area and that it was all satisfactory. The goal posts have been refurbished.

154.3 Grass cutting and village green

The grass cutting schedule for 2023 has been received from the contractor and is appended to these minutes.

154.4 Parish Council IT systems

It was noted that the old email account has been closed as all councillors are now on the new system.

155.0 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP (TABFG)

155.1. The February TABFG report was circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to these minutes.

155.2. Matter concerning Alconbury Brook ford, Hamerton end of village: .As reported in Cllr Gardener's report, Cllr Waring and Cllr Gardener met with Sharon Middleton, Local Highways Officer regarding the adopted ford at the top end of Hamerton Road on Monday of last week. Cllr Gardener is now in the process of organising a meeting with Highways Structures, the Lead Flood Authority, EA and the Flood Group to see what can be done to repair the Ford.

155.3. Cllr Brine stated that she still needs to write the letter of thanks to Mr Charles Dalleywater as agreed at the last meeting.

Cllr Waring reported that he attended the recent flood meeting, and it was said that a greater number of people are now able to access the flood CCTV system, however people are being encouraged to log-off when they have finished as there is still a limit on how many users can be on at any one time.

156.0 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) PAYMENT

Cllr Stone reported that she had contacted Sawtry Parish Council and was told that their basketball cost £16,000 several years ago. She also stated that she had obtained an approximate quotation of £5,500 for a heavy duty concrete table tennis, including VAT and delivery. The table would need to be anchored into the ground and a cover would be required for the winter which would be an additional cost. Tania Adams at Huntingdonshire County Council (HDC) has confirmed that the CIL money can be spent on a table tennis table, however it must be situated in the parish and not at the Sports and Social Club

RESOLVED: That Cllr Stone will obtain a detailed quotation for the purchase and installation of a concrete table tennis table which will be installed at Highfield Avenue play area. Cllr Stone and Cllr J. Baker will go to the play area and work out the best location for the table and whether any ground surface preparation will be required prior to installation.

157.0 ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

157.1. A grant of £1485.00 has been received for the printing, distribution and IT work of the resident's letter and questionnaire which must be spent by 31st March 2023 - any surplus money must be returned. A grant of up to £10,000 can be applied for every year for the life of the project.

157.2 All councillors received a copy of the proposed resident's questionnaire prior to the meeting and gave their feedback. A resident's letter will be delivered to every household which will have 2 serial numbers for access to 2 on-line questionnaires. Households will be asked to fill out either one for everyone in the household or individually. The letter will also inform residents that they can contact the Parish Council if they want any help with completing the questionnaire. Cllrs Brine, Morton, Stone, and Waring volunteered to help with this and visit residents. Those who wish to complete a paper questionnaire will be able to contact the Parish Council and ask for one to be delivered. 150 copies of the questionnaire will be printed as it was felt that most people will complete the questionnaire on-line. There will also be a separate questionnaire for businesses. It is hoped that the questionnaire will go out mid-March.

158.0 APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL HANDYMAN

RESOLVED: That the quotation of £122.22 is accepted from Karl Morgan to repair the village pump. It was also agreed that Karl Morgan will now be the contractor which the Parish Council will use when minor works are required in the parish.

159.0 WASTE BIN ON NORTH ROAD

The Clerk reported that she is still waiting for HDC to provide the cost for a lidded dog waste bin to replace the bin on North Road however they have quoted £252.64 to empty any new bin installed by the Parish Council. It was suggested that it would be better to relocate the bin currently on North Road to Highfield Avenue play area as there is no bin there. The Clerk will report further at the next meeting.

160.0 EMERGENCY CONTACTS GUIDE FOR PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Cllr Waring reported that he had been called twice to deal with an issue in the parish which was the responsibility of HDC. He stated that HDC has a 'contacts' page detailing who to contact in the case of any issues and that the Parish Council should have something similar.

RESOLVED: Cllr Brine will amend the HDC 'contacts' information and send to ASKit to put it on the Parish Council website.

161.0 CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III EVENT

Event ideas were discussed.

RESOLVED: Cllr Stone will look to purchase signs and bunting to put on lampposts in the village during the coronation weekend and a suitable commemorative bench for the village. A budget of £2000.00 agreed for all the expenses.

162.0 TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2023

This year's Tour of Cambridgeshire is on 3rd and 4th June 2023, with the Time Trial being held on the Saturday and the Road Race / Gran Fondo / Sportive being held on the Sunday.

163.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: To pay February 2023 payments:

Morgan's Handyman Services	Refurbishment of goal posts	£240.00
Mrs A Brown	Clerk February 2023 salary & expenses	£261.65
HMRC	Clerk PAYE February 2023	£61.40
ASKit	Anti-virus annual subscription	£33.91
Drax	Street Lighting January 2023 (DD)	£9.83
Scribe	Year-end health check	£46.80

164.0 FINANCE

164.1 RESOLVED: That the bank reconciliation be confirmed as correct.

Monies received:

Groundwork UK, grant for Neighbourhood Plan residents' questionnaire	£1485.00
The Public Sector Deposit Fund dividend payment May 2022 – January 2023	£345.71

164.2 RESOLVED: Expenditure against budget was reviewed.

164.3 The Scribe Year-end health check report was noted. The Clerk will action the points raised.

165.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

None.

166.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd April 2023, Alconbury Sports and Social Club.

The meeting closed at 9:04 pm.

Agenda item 153.0 Cllr Gardener report

Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – February 2023

The trees on Highfield Road, are on land owned by Diamond Construction Ltd. As confirmed by the latest Land Registry Documents. HDC cut the grass so that the grass gets cut. The trees are maintained by someone else, not HDC.

The Chairman and I meet with Sharon Middleton our LHO regarding the adopted ford at the top end of Hamerton Road on Monday of last week. I am now in the process of organising a meeting with Highways Structures, the Lead Flood Authority, EA and the Flood Group to see what can be done to repair the Ford.

I have contacted Enforcement at HDC regarding the development on Land off Buckworth Road. HDC have asked if the PC can confirm what has actually happened on site, so that HDC can register a case. As the council needs to confirm that it is not development allowed under permitted development by statutory undertakers

I am continuing to work with the Parish councils and other neighbouring County Councillors on the possible closure of the Great Gidding Primary School. To try and keep the school open, particularly as HDC are preparing a new Local Plan which may result in more homes within the catchment area.

The Cambridgeshire Mayor has decided to add a Mayoral precept to your Council tax Bill, which I understand is £12.00 per annum for a Band D property. This money is to be ringfenced to maintain the existing Bus Services.

The Fire Authority has agreed to a £5 increase on its Council Tax levy for a Band D property

The Lib Dem/Labour/Independent Administration on the County Council have agreed at the Budget meeting earlier this month to increase General Council Tax by 2.99% and Social Care by 2%

The administration also voted through a 25% cut to the winter gritting network across Cambridgeshire. The routes to be cut are still to be advised, but the Chair of Highways said priority would be given to Active Travel Routes, we therefore will have to wait and see how this will affect our rural roads.

The administration also agreed to stopping all weedkilling on footpaths and roads, unless it poses a safety hazard, cutting 125K from the budget

The Administration also cut £325K from the Family Safeguarding budget and £150K from the Community Mental Health Support Budget by not filling vacant posts.

Applications for a 20mph schemes has opened today and will close on 28 April. The application must have the support of the Parish Council and the County Councillor. Once an application has been submitted, it will be processed and prioritised until all schemes have been delivered.

A 20mph limit will be prioritised against the following criteria-

Evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph zone

Vulnerable Road users

Visible Homes, shops and businesses

A school or a school route

A cycling route

An area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking.

The Lib Dem/ Independent/Labour & Green Administration at HDC voted through a £5 annual increase to Council Tax for a Band D property.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that HDC is looking at introducing a £60 charge for collecting Green Bins. Which is something the previous administration had voted against.

This is somewhat ironic, given we approved a new climate strategy last week. A significant proportion of people will hand back their green bin, which will lead to less recycling and therefore putting more waste into landfill and people will also be driving cars to Recycling centres to dispose of Green waste. It will also lead to greater fly tipping in the district.

The Huntingdonshire Local Plan Review and Update is to replace the existing Hunts local Plan to 2036. An analysis of the current Local Plan against the requirements of the 2021 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other recent national legislation has been undertaken. The outcome determined that the current Local Plan did not fully align with up-to-date national policy and therefore ran the risk of challenge.

A replacement Local Plan would hopefully assist in the delivery of Council's objectives within its Corporate Plan –

Tackling Climate Change and caring for the Environment

Enhancing Employment Opportunities and supporting businesses

Improving the Housing situation

Strengthening Communities

The first New Local Plan documents will start heading your way in March/April, including the Call for Sites Document

Photographic Voter ID – The Elections Act passed through Parliament in early 2022 and introduced a new requirement for Photographic Voter Identification at Parliamentary Elections, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Mayoral elections and County & District Elections from 4 May 23

Info – <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/voter-id/>

At the March HDC Council meeting, which will be a Special meeting to discuss Councillors Allowances, the Independent Panel are recommending an increase of 19% and in some cases higher. The previous Conservative administrations have rejected increases since the Financial crisis and only in the last five years have our allowances been linked to the same increase as our staff get.

Contact Email on Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston

Agenda item 155.1

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report January 2023

FAS

- Progress slow. Survey complete but modelling report will take months more.
- Problem still in demonstrating cost benefit ratio despite there being plenty of funds in the pot. JP to get calculations done in-house to save time and cost.
- Flood Group have re-visited nearly every property which flooded in 1998 in order to give EA accurate property data (The Ordnance Survey receptor database being used by Jacobs to estimate benefit in inaccurate).
- Flood Group asking local contractors to quote in order to demonstrate how cost reductions might be possible.
- At EAs suggestion, next FG meeting will look at elements of less popular options to see how combinations with our preferred option might add benefit.

Pond Projects

- Planning permission turned down for Buckworth scrape! On grounds that slight overlap with Iron Age settlement. FG has negotiated with County Archaeologist and an acceptable compromise has been reached that allows us to make progress. Discussed with Planning Officer and way forward likely.
- Planning permission still awaited for large AW pond.

Video

- CCC invited FG to make a video about their work to inform other flood groups. Video team interviewed residents from A and AW

Gabions

- Further progress. Money has been allocated and survey team have visited the area so that design work can start. PCs, FG, residents will all be consulted when plans are available.

Sensor Project

- Flow, rainfall, and soil moisture as starting point.
- Experimental prototype sensors and nodes prepared by FG member.
- Awaiting an opportunity to check that prototypes communicate properly with c-Things gateways. If they do then sensor data will eventually be accessible on mobile phones.
- 4 landowners have offered to accommodate communication equipment.

Herbal Ley Project

- Experiment at Great Gidding on grass mixtures which conserve soil moisture and sediment run-off.
- Sensors will also be part of this project + biodiversity measurement and sediment run-off, soil microbe DNA and sediment fingerprinting.
- Outcomes will include dissemination of results to catchment farmers, and beyond
- Significant funding to support this project likely through Anglian Water, other help from EA and Natural England.

National Flood Forum

- Visit to look at our work and provide ideas. Commitment by them to give talk on Flood-re at FG AGM

Racecourse

- Generous support included naming a horse-race: Stop Alconbury Brook Flooding Challenge, and providing an opportunity for a bucket collection at the Boxing Day meeting. £455 raised.

Agenda item 155.1

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report February 2023

Overall picture is that progress is rather slow with FG waiting for news and progress in a number of areas.

FAS

- EA modeller visiting March 17th to look at parts of the brook which may not have expected hydrological behaviour.
- A little extra data about previous flood events including 2016 AW passed to EA
- Suggestions for complimentary options passed to EA by FG. The intention is to add cheaper additional work which add benefit at relatively less extra cost. Additional suggestions included benching on tightest downstream meanders and work on downstream agricultural bridges.
- FG has also asked that work it is doing (at no cost to the FAS project) is included in benefit calculations.

Pond Projects

- Archaeologists have agreed new plan for Buckworth Scrape. CCC planners are preparing a benefit statement- still awaited. A new application will then be required but planning officer has promised a quick turnaround.
- Planning permission still awaited for large AW pond. Reference number has been allocated and hopefully it will appear on the HDC website soon. We will be encouraging FG supporters to write. Reference 22/02468/FUL
- New pond project in Great Gidding surveyed last week. Preliminary chat with landowner.

Video and Flood Mobile

- CCC video about TABFG is apparently looking good and will be on You Tube and the CCC website soon.
- The Flood Mobile will be back this time to AW in April. CCC, FG and AW PC all involved including road closure publicity etc. Very positive feedback from visit in 2021. More info nearer the date.

Gabions

- Further progress. Money has been allocated and survey team have visited the area so that design work can start. PCs, FG, residents will all be consulted when plans are available.

Sensor Project

- Sensors and nodes working well.
- Meeting with c-Things to agree next steps with follow-up meeting with CCC to confirm the funding necessary for a prototype test and equipment needed. Agreement with a landowner in AW to kindly host a gateway on their barn which receives data from the sensors and connects to the internet.
- Installation in next couple of weeks. Equipment can then be used to gather all sorts of flood related data.

Herbal Ley Project

- Outline agreement with landowner passed to Anglian Water (as funders) for comment.
- Experimental outline being developed.
- Considerable interest from a wide range of potential collaborators

Blue Green Urban

- Provisional offer by a corporate funder of £50,000 worth of Blue Green Urban products.
- These are modular water surface water retention systems which can be retrofitted into existing drainage They cleanse storm water and provide amenity value. They often include planting of grasses, wild flowers or trees. The modules are filled with special soil.

National Flood Forum- supporting flood groups

- CCC have paid for us to have use of their services and useful support until September '23

Alconbury Weston Parish Council

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

Date: 8th February 2023

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

Date: 27th February 2023

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/01/2023		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022		30,096.72
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2022 - 31/01/2023		29,388.55
			59,485.27
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2022 - 31/01/2023		13,717.64
A	Cash in Hand 31/01/2023 (per Cash Book)		45,767.63
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	31/01/2023	0.00
	The Public Sector Deposit Fund	31/01/2023	28,412.35
	Unity Trust Bank	31/01/2023	18,738.62
			47,150.97
	Less unrepresented payments		1,383.34
			45,767.63
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		45,767.63
	A = B Checks out OK		