

ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alconburywestonparish-pc.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Louise Clowery

6 Manor Farm Cottages, Warboys Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire, PE28 3DA

parishclerk@alconburyweston-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 07368 271 251

Minutes of Alconbury Weston Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024 at Alconbury Sports & Social Club, Alconbury PE28 4EX at 7.00 pm.

Councillors Present: Councillor A. Stone, Councillor J. Baker, Councillor N. Morton, Councillor M. Waring, Councillor M. Mobius

Also present: Mrs L. Clowery (Clerk) **Members of the public:** 1

Public Question Time

125.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor D. Wheatley, Councillor I. Gardener, Councillor P. Baker

126.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests, as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item.

Planning application – 22/00298/FUL – Councillor M. Waring, Councillor N. Morton, Councillor J. Baker.

127.0 PLANNING – This item was moved to the end of the meeting so that those who had a declaration of interest could leave the meeting.

127.1 To resolve to submit comments on applications where appropriate:

- **REF:** 22/00298/FUL
Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (Plans)
Address: Salix House, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston

Comments - AWPC has 7 councillors in total. Two councillors declared a pecuniary interest and two were neighbours of proposed development. Therefore, with one councillor absent, made any discussion on 22/00298/FUL not quorate for a decision. However, the two remaining Councillors noted that the ridge height has been increased and in addition, garage doors instead of cartlodes, were being asked for. The increased ridge height was not documented on the submitted variation of conditions and it was requested that this fact be highlighted to the Planning Department.

127.2 Meeting with the Planning Department – Councillor Gardener & Councillor Stone

Update from Councillor Stone – Councillor Stone has requested a meeting with the Head of the Planning Department and Councillor Ian Gardener. A date is yet to be determined. Councillor Stone requested any information regarding planning difficulties by other Councillors to be forwarded to her in readiness and in advance of this meeting.

127.3 To receive an update on previous applications:

- 23/0147/FUL – Vinegar Hill
- 23/01138/CLED - SJH-All Plant Limited – Councillor P Baker was asked to draft a letter concerning the size of traffic but this has not yet been received.
- It was pointed out that despite the licence for SJH All Plant Limited being previously refused, they continue with conducting their business.

127.4 Planning enforcement – progress

There are no updates to the queries raised for any of the outstanding issues.

128.0 MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on:

- 27TH November 2023

Proposer - Councillor M. Waring **Seconder –** Councillor N. Morton

- 20th December 2023

Proposer - Councillor M. Mobius

Seconder – Councillor M. Waring

129.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Please see report appended to these minutes.

130.0 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP (TABFG)

130.1 To note TABFG report from the 6th December 2023

130.2 Alconbury Weston Ford update – There is no update on this matter which caused concern amongst the councillors as it was feared that this would get missed in the Highways budget. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted and sent to The Highways Department copy to Councillor I Gardener by Councillor Stone.

Previously it was agreed by Council to fund an oak tree which needs to be replaced next to the brook. The Flood group have not yet submitted an invoice for this and it was also pointed out that the siting of this tree needs to be considered as there is a minimum distance for planting trees next to a watercourse.

130.3 To receive and resolve any other matters- The Clerk has sent the last 6 months reports to our I.T. Support. These are now available on the website on the flood plan page.

131.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED

131.1 Highways, Speedwatch and SID – Cllrs Stone, Morton

- SID Block graph data – North Road report to be circulated.
- LHI Bid progress report – A bid has been submitted asking for dragon teeth road markings to each of the four entrances to the village

The solar panelled SID at the bottom of Vinegar Hill has a glitch meaning the data cannot be downloaded. Councillor Stone has contacted the Morelock Engineer who is arranging to visit.

131.2 Play area –

- Update on the works raised at the last meeting -
- Approval of inspection – Cllr J. Baker – The Clerk confirmed that the inspection took place on the 18th January. An invoice has been received, but not the report, the Clerk has followed up with them to receive this.
- Councillor J Baker has pointed out that branches from the tree where the circular seating is situated are growing through the bars of the seating. Councillor M Mobius has agreed to inspect and carry out this work. He also agreed to look at the dumped soil at the entrance to the playpark.

131.3 Play Park land – Cllr Morton

This is becoming a more in depth project than previously anticipated. The current contact at the solicitors is retiring and she has recommended that we progress with Copleys. There were mixed views amongst the councillors about this recommendation. They have asked for more supporting evidence of any community events held on the land and maintenance for the last 14 years.

Councillor Morton asked the councillors if they were happy with the Clerk to carry on with the investigations into the history of the land to support our application.

Councillor Stone proposed that this be approved, which was met with unanimous approval from the council.

131.4 Parish Trees – Cllr Morton

No updates since the last meeting and nothing new to report.

131.5 Community Asset – Cllr Morton

Councillor Morton has been in contact with the HDC contact concerning the application. Approval from David Senior and Councillor I. Gardener is required and is currently being sought. Councillor Morton still awaiting confirmation.

131.6 Village Maintenance

- Water pump update – outside old butchers
- Noticeboard repairs
- To agree and approve the revised quotes received from the Handyman with day rate and materials breakdown.

The represented quotes were read out by the Clerk as there was concern over the labour charges previously. It was agreed by all that the quotes were reasonable and approved for the handyman to proceed.

As the Handyman had not been given approval previously he has not yet started work. Councillor Stone to contact him.

Proposer – Councillor N. Morton, **Seconder** – Councillor M. Waring

131.7 Communication with parishioners – Cllr Stone, Wheatley

- Facebook page update – We now have 108 members which is good, Councillor Wheatley recommends that we do a regular update on the Alconbury's page. This has generated new members to join last month.
There is regular content going on which is not always received in the most user-friendly format so takes some time to upload.
- Parish pump update – Councillor Stone is due to complete the article for the Spring 2024 edition.
- Website update – Councillor Wheatley has gone through the website and highlighted to the Clerk a number of updates required. The Clerk is due to have a call with I.T. support to discuss. Some items have already been rectified as they were easy fixes.
Policies should be reviewed annually, it is noted these may require more attention this year the dates of acceptance need to be updated each May (time of re-election) on all policies.
Councillor Wheatley has reviewed the website and noted the following:
 1. Home Page No Alconbury Weston Parish Council Facebook Group link or information about it.
 2. Flood Group Reports, there isnt one published since July 2023, so this needs reviewing.
 3. Links page - link to Alconbury Weston Community FB page is broken.
School Link is broken
White Hart link is broken
 4. Neighbourhood Plan - no update since October 2022.
 5. Accounts - Accounts are missing for 22/23, 21/22, 20/21.
Assets are also missing for these years
Budget is missing for these years
 6. Policies
These are missing
Management of Records
GDPR Privacy
GDPR Consent
Reserves

131.8 Volunteering Portal – Councillor Stone would like to have more volunteers for the village for events like litter picking and other community driven ideas. Suggestions are welcomed as to how we get this up and running of events that would be well supported.

132.0 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTION LEVY (CIL) PAYMENT

To discuss options for the next CIL payment project

- Lectern – Ongoing
- Social Prescriber – Ongoing
- Flagpole – Remove as agreed in the last meeting
- Astro turf - Ongoing
- Telephone Box – Ongoing

As Councillor Wheatley was not present it was agreed that this item needs to remain on the agenda until the next meeting. It was agreed that the Flagpole could be removed.

The telephone box is to create a community library for the village. This was a suggestion by a member of the public who has kindly offered to manage the books but would not be able to carry out the maintenance of the agreed telephone box or equivalent.

133.0 LHI Bid application

Councillor Stone seeks retrospective approval for 15% of LHI Bid 24/25 - £1200.

Following on from the last meeting and with the application deadline, Councillor Stone submitted the application and sought retrospective approval on the final costings. The final amount was £1200, which was met with approval from all councillors.

Proposer – Councillor N. Morton, **Seconder** – Councillor J. Baker

134.0 ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To receive update and resolve actions

The last meeting was held in November 2023. The Clerk is still trying to obtain access for Councillor Mobius. The draft plan is still being worked on and progressing slowly. The next step is to analyse the business survey.

135.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Resolve December 2023/January 2024 payments:

L. Clowery	Clerk's salary December 2023	£232.70
HMRC	Clerk's Tax – December 2023	£58.00
L.Clowery	Clerk's expenses	£28.28
N.Morton	Reimbursement for battery for the defibrillator	£229.38
Alconbury Recreation Field	Council meeting room hire Sept 22- Sept 23	£360.00
A.Stone	Reimbursement for Microsoft subscription	£155.83
	Proposer – Councillor N. Morton, Seconder – Councillor A. Stone	

136.0 FINANCE

136.1 Monies received and bank reconciliation. The bank reconciliation was presented to the chairman for approval. No monies have been received since the last meeting.

137.0 Helicopter Complaint – Progress. Since the last meeting it was asked if the previously installed platforms could be removed as they are a hazard. They have not been removed to date. The next meeting is in February and an update will be given in our next meeting.

138.0 Brampton Cross – Councillor Stone wanted to bring this to the meeting to see if it was of concern to the parish. There were mixed views, but generally felt that it would not affect the village.

Brampton Cross developers have offered to do consultative public meetings and it was agreed that this would be good to pursue potential dates. Councillor Stone to report back on this.

139.0 Community events

To discuss and approve the request received to host an Annual Village Yard Sale in 2024 on the Village green.

This was brought to the attention of the Parish Council by way of an email from the organiser. It was asked if the Parish Council would approve this event. It will be held on the 11th May 2024, 10 – 1 pm through Alconbury and Alconbury Weston.

This was well received by the councillors. They asked the Clerk to draft a standard letter to have in place going forward which ensures that the persons seeking permission to use the village green to confirm the details and provide the relevant information requested.

140.0 To accept notices and matters for the next agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that the business must be specified.

Defibrillator update – The battery has been replaced and the defibrillator has been serviced.

Councillor Stone informed the other Councillors that she had accepted to be the Chair of SHAWL at their request, but that if anything needed to be discussed (parish council wise) Councillor Stone would declare an interest.

141.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 26th February 2024, Alconbury Sports and Social Club

Meeting closed: 21.10pm

Appendix – Councillor I. Gardener report

Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – January 24

Happy New Year

HDC have produced their first Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Regarding the development at Alconbury Hill I have been informed today by HDC enforcement, that a planning application was submitted under 23/02390/FUL in December but is awaiting validation. ,

Regarding Planning Application 23/01712/S73, Land adjacent to New Farm , Buckworth Road, planning permission was granted on 12th January 24 for variation of conditions 2 and 3 21/-1369/FUL – change of external materials and proposed external fire escape and change of drawings.

Regarding Planning Application 23/02138/CLED New Farm, Buckworth Road the Lawful development certificate for proposed plant hire and sales yard was refused on 12th January 24.

Cllr April Stone and I met with a resident on Alconbury Hill regarding the amount of water flowing down Alconbury Hill, which is causing flooding outside her property. I will be speaking to the drainage team regarding getting all the gullies cleared and to investigate the large amount of water flowing onto Alconbury Hill.

With the Police & Crime Commissioner Elections this year and almost certainly a General Election. The District Council's Elections Team need to increase their pool of polling station staff and staff for the counting of ballot papers. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Regarding the Green Bin Tax (Subscription Charge) this will come into effect from the 01 April 24 / The cost will be £57.50 per annum. If you sign up by 31st January then the cost will be £50.00 per annum and if you pay by Direct Debit, this price will be held for 3 years. The cost for a second Green Bin will be £30.00.

Residents will still be able to take their Garden Waste to the Alconbury Household Waste Collection Centre and dispose of free of charge.

Civil Parking Enforcement - HDC is working with Cambridgeshire County Council to implement a legislative change in relation to on street parking enforcement. This change will come into effect early in 2025 and will give HDC the ability to enforce several on street parking offences.

Community Litter Picks, HDC are proud to recognise and support the large number of parishes, community groups, schools and businesses that carry out litter picks in their local area. To support this HDC will loan parishes, community groups etc with the equipment you need ie grabbers and bags and will pick up the litter free of charge.

The County Council is proposing a 4.99% increase in Council tax for 24/25 with a total of 2% of this dedicated to Adult Social Care Services. The CC has launched a budget consultation survey on this, to comment go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2024-5

Get involved in Buy Nothing New Month – Its, that time of year when many of us are making New Year Resolutions. So, this January why not try Buy Nothing New Month. The campaign is run by Keep Britain Tidy, the campaign challenges us to prevent and reduce waste, by making use of the things we already have.

Our new Local Highways Officer is Karen Southwell and our new Public Rights Of Way Officer is Dan Wiggs.

The County Council is reviewing its policy not to remove weeds from our streets, due to the large number of complaints from councillors and residents. This will be reviewed at the Highways & Transportation committee meeting on 23rd January 24

The County Council have reopened applications for 20mph zones. Parishes need to apply by 5pm on Friday 15th March

Free Outdoor Learning experiences for disadvantaged young people at Grafham Water Centre after the County Council secured £42,375 of funding. The fully funded residential and day visits are being made available to groups of under-represented young people throughout January, February & March 24. The money has come from the UK Youth Charity. The places are going to groups such as young people living in poverty, young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) young carers and looked after young people. The Young people must be between 11 & 18 or up to 25 for those with SEND.

The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton, the other two being Manea & Sutton. The proposal is to redistribute our Operational resources from three of our low risk areas (ie fewer calls) By doing this the FA can have two additional wholtime fire engines available in the daytime and at weekends. St Neots and Ely have 2 fire engines at these stations.

Should this proposal go ahead the second fire engines will be crewed by on-call firefighter. When the second fire engine is available at the station, the new wholetime fire engines could be roaming pumps that can travel outside the of the town (St Neots in our case) to provide more strategic cover in the rural areas and carry out vital community safety work when not responding to incidents. The Fire authority has had difficulty in attracting sufficient on call staff to provide operational cover particularly during the day. The FA say they can only get cover for 2 days per week.

The FA will be looking at the feasibility of this proposal in the New Year, to see if the proposals will deliver the improvements to the service the FA thinks it will. The FA will be consulting with residents in the areas most affected, listening to concerns and explaining the proposal in more detail with local data.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston