

# ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Parish Clerk: Louise Clowery**

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**Minutes of Alconbury Weston Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26th February 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. Mobius, Councillor P. Baker.

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

## Public Question Time

**142.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor D. Wheatley, Councillor M. Waring**

## 143.0 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. - **None received.**

## 144.0 PLANNING

**144.1** To resolve to submit comments on applications where appropriate:

**REF:** 23/01945/ADV

**Proposal:** RETROSPECTIVE Signage on side elevation

**Address:** Unit 1 Crossways Distribution Centre Alconbury Hill

**Comments** – ‘No observations either in favour or against the proposal’

All were in favour of this proposal.

**Proposer** – Councillor J. Baker Seconder – Councillor M. Mobius

## 144.2 Meeting with the Planning Department – Cllr Gardener & Cllr Stone

There has been no date set as yet, but Councillor Gardener has spoken with a planning officer who has offered to come along to a collective meeting with 9 of his parish councils to discuss issues once a quarter. This was met with approval from the councillors who offered to host the first meeting in April. Meeting room availability is to be confirmed. It was suggested that any points for discussion be submitted to Councillor Gardener in good time before the meeting so that the planning officer has them ahead of the meeting.

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

- 24/00029/AGDET – The latest movements to be discussed for recording purposes only.

*Approved on the 15/02/24 - Based on the details within the application, Prior Approval for siting, design and external appearance is not required for the proposal. You will be free to proceed with the development under the "Order" provided that it is exactly in accordance with your submitted proposals and provided that the development shall be carried out within a period of five years from the date on which the Local Planning Authority received the application which was 8th January 2024. Please note that if the building permanently ceases to be used for agriculture within ten years of its substantial completion, and planning permission has not been granted authorising development for purposes other than agriculture within three years of the permanent cessation of its agricultural use, and there is no outstanding appeal, the building must be removed unless the Local Planning Authority has otherwise agreed. In accordance with para 7 of Class A, P*

*Further comments from AWPC – The letter that was previously drafted and submitted by the Parish Council still remains the view of the Parish Council.*

**144.4** Planning enforcement – progress - No progress to report.

**145.0 MINUTES**

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

- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

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

**146.0 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR** – Please see the report appended to these minutes.

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

**147.1** To note TABFG report from the latest meeting.

**147.2** Alconbury Weston Ford update

**147.3** To receive and resolve any other matters.

**148.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS IDENTIFIED**

**148.1** Highways, Speed watch and SID – Cllrs Stone, Morton

- SID Block graph data
- LHI Bid report.

**148.2** Play area – Jane has spoken to Giga clear who have confirmed that they will remove the mud, this may take a while with the changeable weather.

- Extend circular seating around the tree or decide where else this could be sited? It was asked if an extension could be made to the current seating. The Clerk will research the previous company who has done some work and make contact to discuss.

**148.3** Play Park land – Cllr Morton – This remains a work in progress to gather information.

**148.4** Parish Trees – Cllr Morton – No updates

**148.5** Village Maintenance

- Monument at the top of Alconbury Hill – Requires maintenance/cleaning. The cleaning of this was discussed, but due to the location of the monument, health and safety of volunteers was of significant importance. Councillor Stone will review and report back to the Parish Council.

**148.6** Communication with parishioners – Cllr Stone, Wheatley

- Facebook page update – proceeding nicely with regular updates and new members joining.
- Parish pump update – prepared by Councillor Stone – Spring Issue. A photograph is required each quarter, Councillor Mobius has agreed to provide these.
- Website update – The Clerk and I.T. team have worked through the missing documents and most are now uploaded. The broken links are now fixed. Missing policies are being worked on by the Clerk.

**148.7** Volunteering Portal – Councillor Stone is keen to get this up and running. A litter pick day was suggested, whereby a date and point to meet would be provided. Equipment and bags can be provided by HDC.

**148.8** Blocked Culvert – Councillor Morton raised this, but this seems to have been resolved.

**148.9** Grass Cutting – Progress as increase not paid by HDC for 12 years. The Clerk had raised this with CCC contact who has since left, Councillor Gardener provided the Clerk with a new contact who has confirmed that the grant will not be changing but provided no reason.

**148.10** Electricity Company - Progress as to which company now used. Due to our usage being less than 30,000 units our account was automatically transferred to a company called SSE. The Clerk will monitor the direct debit and report back at the next meeting.

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

To discuss options for the next CIL payment project

- Lectern
- Social Prescriber
- Astro turf
- Telephone Box.

This item was deferred until the next meeting due to the absence of Councillor Wheatley.

## 150.0 ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To receive update and resolve actions

- OS Maps – Parish Online – Cllr Stone

Councillor Stone has been granted access to the OS Maps online and will arrange to meet with Councillor Mobius & Councillor Waring to discuss next steps.

## 151.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Resolve January 2024 payments:

L. Clowery	Clerk's salary – January 2024	£288.60
HMRC	Clerk's Tax – January 2024	£192.40
L.Clowery	Clerk's expenses	£28.28
Parish Online	Digital Mapping (per year)	£75.60
A.Brown	Reimbursement for back pay	£38.81

**Proposer** – Councillor J. Baker **Seconded** – Councillor N. Morton

## 152.0 FINANCE

**152.1** Monies received and bank reconciliation. No monies received, Councillor Stone has approved the bank reconciliation.

**152.2** SLCC Membership – To discuss and approve the annual membership of SLCC for the Clerk. The Clerk asked if the Parish Council would consider funding the membership of SLCC which is not currently in place. It was asked if this could be shared with the Clerk's other Parish? The Clerk will seek approval and report back to the Parish.

**152.3** Unity Bank Signatories - progress – Councillor Stone confirmed that Councillors Waring, Mobius and Wheatley should now all be set up. There are some previous councillors who need to be removed from the account the names to be confirmed to the Clerk.

## 153.0 Community Assets

- White Hart listing as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) Councillor Morton confirmed that this has now been registered for a further 5 years. It was asked if the Clerk could diarise a reminder for 4 years time to start the renewal process.

## 154.0 Website emails - (names redacted)

**154.1** Vinegar Hill – Speeding Vehicles – A resident had asked if the speedwatch team could tackle a certain road due to the increase of speeding vehicles. Councillor Stone will respond to the email from the speedwatch team.

**154.2** Vinegar Hill – Hardcore surfaces and storage of vehicles etc. – This is increasing and has been raised by a few residents, Councillor Gardener is also aware of the issue.

**154.3** Vinegar Hill – Ditch beside Tanglewood. – This is becoming very overgrown, is being filled in with debris and waste. This is an Environment Agency issue and needs to be reported to them.

## 155.0 Active Lifestyle –

- Email received – The Clerk will have this added to the website to raise awareness.

## 156.0 Carbon Footprint Focus

- Email received – The Clerk will have this added to the website to raise awareness.

## 157.0 Huntingdonshire Local List – repeat Consultation

- Email received – As mentioned by Councillor Gardener this consultation is taking place. Councillor Stone wanted to bring it everyone's attention and asks that all complete the survey if they have not already done so.

## 158.0 Brampton Cross

- Update – Councillor Stone has not arranged a meeting as she understands that Alconbury are in the process of arranging a meeting and will await the date so that we can advertise for any interested parties to attend.

## 159.0 Weeds

- Weed control regime information letter – As Councillor Gardener had mentioned this has now been reversed and the weed control will be re-instated from the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

#### **160.0 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.

Councillor Mobius felt that not all emails needed to be circulated to all councillors. It was asked if they could also be spaced out and not received in bulk, this had already been raised and addressed with the Clerk.

Councillor Mobius also asked if anyone knew the weight of the lorries coming through the village versus the weight restrictions of the small bridge that they must go over? The bridge has a maximum weight of 40 tonnes and some of the lorries coming through with a load are up to 80 tonnes.

#### **161.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Alconbury Sports and Social Club**

Meeting closed: 20.50pm.

#### **Appendix – Councillor I. Gardener report**

Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – February 24

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

From the 12th February all major planning applications must be accompanied with a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. HDC is also consulting on the proposed revisions to the Planning Validation Guidance and Checklists for Planning Applications, this consultation runs until the 31 March 24.

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](mailto:elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

At the recent HDC budget meeting the Council agreed to increase its Council Tax by £5.00 per annum and impose the Green Bin Tax (Subscription Charge) this will come into effect from the 01 April 24 / The cost will be £57.50 per annum. The cost for a second Green Bin will be £30.00. This means that HDC has increased its tax on residents by a whopping 40%. Even though the Conservative amendment to the Budget would have seen the Green Bins continued to be collected free of charge.

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 Combined Authority (Labour Mayor) is increasing its Council Tax by £24.00 to £36.00 per annum a 200% increase.

The Crime and Police Commissioner is increasing its Council Tax by £12.96 per annum. Therefore, a Band D property would go up from £272.52 to £285.48.

The County Council has agreed a 4.99% increase in Council tax for 24/25 with a total of 2% of this dedicated to Adult Social Care Services. The Conservative amendment would have seen more money put into Highways for repairs.

The County Council Lib Dem/Labour/ Independent administration has agreed to reverse its decision to stop weeding killing on our roads and footpaths as it has led to greater maintenance costs, made it difficult for the visibly impaired to see the kerb edge, when trying to cross the road. I am delighted that they have reversed this decision following pressure from councillors and Parish Councils.

The County Council Highways Department has undergone a reorganisation. New Divisions have been created these being: - Carriageway Maintenance, Highways repairs, Drainage & Green Divisions.

Carriageway maintenance, ie resurfacing, white lines etc - Contacts are Steve Alexander and Sharon Middleton

The Highways Team looks after potholes etc – Contacts are Karen Southwell and Steve Nicolson.

The Drainage Team looks after drains, gullies etc – Contacts are David Crowther & Julie Skinner

The Green Team looks after Public Rights of Way etc - Contacts Dan Wiggs PROW Officer and Emma Stannard Manager

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

The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton in my Division, the other two being at Manea & Sutton respectively.

A meeting for all Parish Councils is being held on Tuesday 19th March at 7pm at the Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton. I would urge all Parish Councils to this meeting to hear the Fire authorities' proposals and make comments.

Following this meeting and the Fire Authorities' briefing meetings with FA Councillors, District & County Councillors an update on possible proposals will be provide to FA members.

DRAFT