

**Minutes of the Meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 22nd August 2011 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Councillors present: Mrs. J. Baker (Chairman), Mr. R. Coulson, Mr. S. Lomas, Dr. C. McGregor
Mrs. H. Mobius & Ms. K. Sewell.

Also present: District Cllr. K. Baker, Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: County Cllr. L. Kadic and County Cllr. P. Brown.

The Clerk announced that Councillor Mary Morgan had sadly passed away on Sunday 21st August after a long illness. Councillors signed a card of condolence for her family. Cllr. Sewell to advise councillors of the funeral arrangements. The Clerk had advised the Elections Manager at HDC.

2. Declaration of Interests: None received.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2011 :The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) Alconbury Airfield - Cllr. Baker and the Clerk attended another Liaison Meeting with Urban & Civic, along with representatives from Abbots Ripton, Woodwalton and The Stukeleys Parish Councils and Huntingdon Town Council on 3rd August. There had been a lot of discussion around the potential migration of businesses from other employment areas to the site, especially if it gained Enterprise Zone status. Since the meeting, it had been announced that the Enterprise Zone application had been successful. The planning process will now be simplified under a Local Development Order. A meeting is being arranged for residents of Alconbury and Alconbury Weston on 19th September at the Sports & Social Club, which will enable parishioners to see the plans in advance of the Open Day at the Airfield on 24th September. Start time to be confirmed.
- b) Highway issues - Hedge encroaching onto footpath on Vinegar Hill – Highways are contacting the landowners. Overgrown hedges on North Road between the villages – have been cut back.
- c) Church Way - County Cllr. Kadic is still dealing with the outstanding issues.
- d) Parish Council website – carried forward to the next meeting.

5. To consider a request for additional dog waste bins.

A request had been made for a dog waste bin at the other end of the footpath from Church Way towards Alconbury. Cllr. Sewell advised that this area fell in the parish of Alconbury and that she has therefore asked Alconbury Parish Council to consider this request.

A request had also been made for a dog waste bin at the entrance to the footpath by Tanglewood. Cllr. McGregor will look at the possible positioning and investigate who the land owner was.

District Cllr. Baker will enquire whether the District Council would be willing to empty the bin. The Clerk gave approximate costs to purchase a bin and install it. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

6. To consider a request to relocate the notice boards at the Village Green.

Cllr. Sewell had visited the owners of the garage opposite the notice boards and asked if they could request that their customers do not park in front of the boards. Councillors unanimously agreed that they did not see any valid reason to move the notice boards to another location.

7. To consider a request to have flower beds or containers at the entrance to the village and on the bridge railings.

The Clerk advised that flower beds constructed on the verge would require permission from CCC in the form of a "licence to cultivate". Councillors also discussed the problems of maintenance and keeping containers watered. However, it was agreed that Cllr. Sewell would put an article in the

Parish Pump asking for ideas and volunteers and to discuss it further at the next meeting.

8. To consider a request for a bench on the Village Green.

The circular bench that used to be on the Village Green has been relocated to the play area some time ago. Cllr. Coulson proposed that a new bench could be included in the project to provide a Parish Paths Map Display. Seconded by Cllr. Lomas, unanimously agreed. Cllr. Sewell to contact Alconbury Parish Clerk to find out who supplied theirs. Clerk to provide costs of benches and to supply a copy of a Parish Paths map in pdf. format for the Parish Council website.

9. To consider a request to have the Village Green seeded and treated for weeds.

Councillors unanimously agreed that this was not necessary and that the appearance of the grass would improve if the grass cutting contractor did not cut so low. The Clerk had already complained about this and had been assured that different machinery would be used to ensure a higher cut in future. Councillors agreed to check whether there had been any improvement at the last cut.

10. Parish Paths.

Public footpath No. 4 Alconbury Weston diversion order 2010. Section 326 Highways Act 1980: Proposed variation to Order to correct width. CCC were seeking permission to agree that the footpath width would be 1.5 metres as originally agreed with the landowner as opposed to 2 metres stated in the order. Cllr. Mobius proposed that the Parish Council should respond saying they had no objections. Seconded by Cllr. Sewell, unanimously agreed. The Clerk had complained to CCC that the footpath was overgrown and therefore not passable.

Cllr. Mcgregor to contact the owner of a hedge which is encroaching onto footpath 8a.

11. Play Area.

Cllr. Lomas and the Clerk inspected the play area on 16th August. The surrounding hedges belonging to neighbouring properties all appeared to be in an acceptable state now. The play equipment needed a wash down and Cllr. Lomas agreed to organize a working party to tackle this. The wetpour safety surface was lifting at the edge on the area surrounding the roundabout and also on a much greater area surrounding the swing. The Clerk had contacted Wicksteed Leisure as it apparently had a 5 year warranty and was currently waiting for the Wetpour Manager to reply.

12. Planning.

a) Update on previous applications:

Planning application ref. 1100899TREE, Crown thinning of one Ash Tree. Bridge House, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston. Consent given by HDC.

Planning application ref. 1101041FUL, Change of use of land from agricultural to recreation to allow keeping of horses. Erection of stable block including hay barn and wintering area with post and rail fencing. Land west of Hill Top Cottage, Vinegar Hill, Alconbury Weston. Application withdrawn.

b) Update on planning enforcement case.

Case no. 0300179ENBCOM - Commercial building on Hamerton Road. Enforcement officer promised an update but has failed to respond again. District Cllr. Baker to contact Nick Guyatt, Deputy Executive Leader for assistance in this matter.

13. Financial report.

a. To consider a request for a donation of £200 towards Alconbury Telecom's costs to produce feasibility study and business plan.

At the last meeting, councillors agreed in principle to this request, subject to Alconbury Parish Council's response. Alconbury Parish Council had since agreed to donate £400 to the project and an e-mail received from the Alconbury Parish Clerk stated that they had also paid £200 on behalf of Alconbury Weston Parish Council and requested reimbursement. Cllr. Baker advised that Urban

& Civic had stated that if Alconbury Airfield was granted Enterprise Zone status that they would be putting in high speed broadband to the site and to the Alconburys. In view of this, Alconbury Telecom's project may not now be valid. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr. Bryan to enquire whether Alconbury Telecom had already committed to the production of the feasibility study and business plan and that if so, Alconbury Weston should honour their agreement to pay £200 towards the cost. Clerk to ask for an update on Alconbury Telecom's meeting with Urban & Civic.

b. Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Sewell proposed approval of payment of items (1) to (3). Seconded by Cllr. Coulson, unanimously agreed.

(1) Alconbury Thursday Club - £200, Section 137 donation agreed at the last meeting. Cq. No. 100875

(2) Moore Stephens - £162.00, external audit fee. Cq. No. 100876

(3) Mrs. D. Benham - £168.92, wages and expenses of Parish Clerk for July. Cq. No. 100877

c. Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments was handed to each councillor. Copy to be attached to the minutes.

d. Result of the external audit.

Audit complete with no issues to be dealt with.

14. Police matters.

June crime report shows 1 reported crime near to Highfield Ave.

15. Correspondence.

a. Posters advertising HDC's new website – www.huntingdon.gov.uk/development handed to Cllr. Lomas for the notice boards.

b. Letter of thanks from Alconbury Youth Club for the donation of £360.

c. Letter from CCC requesting confirmation of location of grit bins – Cllr. Baker to complete.

d. Contract from Balfour Beatty for maintenance of 2 Parish Council owned street lights – signed by the Chairman, Clerk to return one copy.

e. Letter from HDC advising consultation involving two documents: Preliminary Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule and Draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document. Cllr. Lomas had already placed copies on the notice boards.

f. Invitation to ACRE AGM – 27th September 2011.

g. Change to Neighbourhood Forum dates – 26th October 2011, Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon. 17th January 2012, St. Barnabus Learning Centre, Huntingdon. Meetings start at 7pm.

h. e-mail from parishioner regarding an article about affordable housing.

i. Information regarding Commemorative tree and hedge planting – to be discussed at a future meeting.

j. e-mail regarding support for countryside volunteers – passed to Cllr. McGregor for information.

16. Reports from councillors.

District Cllr. Baker advised that The Environment Agency would be cutting the brook bank in Alconbury Weston soon. District Cllr. Baker advised that he would be part of a working party looking into voluntary sector funding.

Cllr. Baker advised that a car parked on the grass verge on North Road had now been removed.

17. Date of next meetings:

Monday 10th Oct. 2011 & Monday 21st Nov. 2011, 7.30pm at the Alconbury Memorial Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....

