

**Minutes of the Alconbury Weston Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 16th May 2016 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Present: Parish Councillors - M. Bryan, R. Coulson, C. McGregor, S. Lomas & L. York. County Cllr. P. Ashcroft, County Cllr. P. Brown & Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk).

The meeting was chaired by Mr. S. Lomas, Acting - Chairman of Alconbury Weston Parish Council. The minutes were taken by Mrs. D. Benham – Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. J. Baker (personal) Cllr. H. Mobius (work commitment), District Cllr. K. Baker (personal).
2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on 11th May 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. Parish Council Chairman's report and financial review of 2015/16: A copy of the Chairman's report and the annual accounts will be annexed to the minutes.
4. Annual report from District Councillor: Not available.
5. Annual report from County Councillors: County Cllr. Ashcroft & County Cllr. Brown gave their annual reports. Copies will be annexed to the minutes.
6. Resolutions from parishioners: No resolutions had been received from parishioners for consideration at this Annual Parish Meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman's Annual Report for Alconbury Weston Parish Council

Year Ending May 2016

Our year started with a request from a parishioner to erect a war memorial in the village for parishioners to visit. The memorial in Alconbury is in the Memorial hall and not open unless it is being used. The parishioner decided to erect the memorial on land not owned by the parish, against the council's wishes. Therefore the ongoing maintenance cannot be secured.

Alconbury Weald, now boasts a primary school due to open in September. Homes have been built and are being marketed with further building work going on. This is a very positive step forward. The enterprise zone is getting a lot of interest, and many businesses are moving in. The club building is also now built and being used.

Police Matters: Our village continues to have a low crime rate, although there have been some rather worrying burglary attempts. These were thankfully unsuccessful.

Footpaths: Charies continues to monitor the footpaths, and they are being well used by locals and are also popular with people from outside the village.

Traffic speed restriction have been introduced between Alconbury and Weston. The speed is now 40 m.p.h. This was achieved with the two villages in a joint venture. The funding had to be done through a charity, so Alconbury Sports and Social Club applied for us. The finances were managed with money from Wooley Hill Wind Farm Trust.

Flood Event in March this year we had very heavy rainfall. This had the end result of houses in the village being flooded. Many parishioners were disappointed that measures put in place were not successful. The flood defences done to houses were in some cases ineffective. Also flood warnings were not sent out early enough. There are ongoing conversations about this with our MP Jonathan Dganogly and the Environment Agency.

Routine Matters: The play area is monitored by Steve Lomas, and is being kept in a good state of repair. Repairs to roads and footbridges are due to be done. We have been informed that the emptying of litter bins purchased by the parish will have to be paid for now by the Parish Council.

Our village had the exciting experience of a 'Gran Fondo' cycle race through the village in June last year. It was an experience many of the villagers embraced. We were told afterwards that the cyclists voted our village as the best atmosphere to cycle through. Another race is planned for June this year.

The A14 upgrade is still awaited. We expect work to start later this year.

As I am leaving the Chairmanship now I wish to give extra special thanks to all. Thank you County Councillors Sir Peter Brown and Peter Ashcroft for your help and continued support, also District Councillor Keith Baker
I thank everyone on the council for their efforts over the past years.

Denise Benham our clerk has once again done sterling work in keeping us going with the many new issues we have to address.

To everyone, I thank you.

Jane Baker

8th May 2016

2015/2016 REVIEW

Another financial year is now over in what is now a continually changing situation. So many of these changes take time.

The County Council is receiving less money from Central Government, and so is having to cutback on services to District, Town, and Parish Councils.

Alconbury Weald development is continuing on schedule, together with Urban & Civic's adjacent commitments.

The A14 Huntingdon bypass is slowly progressing in stages,

The alternative development plans for Edison Bell Way are slowly taking place, as is Chequers Court rebuilding. Work has started on the Weatherspoon's Pub/Restaurant in George Street..

The mobile library has been given a further year's extension.

Two retirement homes are being built in Huntingdon.

The need for stricter river & stream flood warnings is being dealt with.

Community transport needs and finances are being closely monitored.

The problems with Alconbury Waste Transfer System need to be watched.

THE ALCONBURY WESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Monday 16th May 2016

Report from County Councillor Sir Peter Brown

The year 2015/2016 has been another challenging year for both the Alconbury Weston Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Locally, the Parish Council has met regularly to deal with many items of Council business. Most notably matters concerning Highways have been top of the Agendas. Street Lighting, progress on Alconbury Weald, Flooding, Highways maintenance and speeding have been regular items to contend with.

Street lighting: The issues surrounding the replacement of street lighting throughout the County by our Agents, Balfour Beatty have been high on the agenda. Problems with consultation have caused more irritation than necessary. The cost of the County's street lighting system is a major issue as we try to reduce unnecessary public expenditure.

Alconbury Weald: The development of Alconbury Weald continues at a pace. This is undoubtedly one of the largest developments being undertaken in the UK. We are fortunate that the Parish Council and Urban & Civic have established a good working relationship although there have been the usual issues which are resolved as we move forward.

The first tranche of housing is currently being built and is expected to be ready for occupation in July/August 2016. This will coincide with the opening of the Ermine Street Primary School. I am a member of the Governing Body and can see what a first class project this is. The school will grow into a valuable asset for the Community.

Highways maintenance: There have been a number of changes in Highways Maintenance recently which have caused a great deal of restructuring within the department. The Council continues to maintain its roads within the allocated Budget.

Speeding: The number of vehicles that speed through the village is still far too high. The County and Parish Councils do their very best to reduce the number of offenders in order to keep resident's safe. It is a battle we will continue to fight alongside the local Constabulary

It will not come as a surprise to know that many of our concerns surround the economic situation. Money coming from Government continues to be used as wisely as possible in your interests but we do have to prioritise. Problems are dealt with as quickly as possible once notified.

Elections to the County Council take place next year under new boundaries. The Huntingdon Division which currently comprises Alconbury's & Stukeleys, Huntingdon West and Huntingdon North will be dissolved. It is currently recommended that The Alconbury's will be linked with Kimbolton and villages in between to form a new County Division.

I do not yet know whether this will be my last year in representing you. For the past twelve years I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you to the best of my ability. My thanks go to all the Parish and District Councillors with whom I have served. We have all done our very best in the interests of the Alconbury Weston Parish.

Sir Peter Brown
County Councillor for the Huntingdon Division