

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 11th July 2016 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Public Open Forum: The parishioner present wished to hear the report from the flood meeting.

Councillors present: Mr. M. Bryan, Mr. R. Coulson, Dr. C. McGregor, Mr. S. Lomas (Chairman) & Mr. L. York.

Also present: County Cllr. P. Ashcroft, Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk) & 1 parishioner.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. J. Baker (personal) & District Cllr. K. Baker (personal).

2. Declaration of Interests: None declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 16th May 2016 : The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

a) Alconbury Weald – Awaiting confirmation of the next meeting date.

b) Repairs to roads and footpaths –

Worn sections on the footbridge opposite Salix House – the Clerk has emailed CCC asking for an update on the repairs. Repairs to the ford footbridge – the Clerk has emailed CCC asking for an update on the repairs. Overhanging vegetation reported at 6 Highfield Ave. – now cleared.

c) Grass cutting – The Clerk reported that HDC were very late starting the grass cutting contract, allegedly due to delays in getting their new equipment. The quality of the cuts have been very poor because the grass was already too long before the first cut was made. There has also been a change of team leader and the previously acceptable standard has not been maintained. Verges at the lower end of High Street were also missed out altogether. The Clerk had made numerous complaints and eventually attended a meeting on site with Cllr. Robin Carter (portfolio holder at HDC) and Matt Chudley (Operations Manager HDC), who both accepted that the situation was unacceptable. A road sweeper had since been deployed to clear some of the clippings from the highway and HDC had returned to carry out a “cut and collect” in order to tidy up some of the areas that resembled a cut hay field. A further cut had now been completed and the situation was much improved. The Clerk had circulated a list of the remaining cut dates. The Clerk advised that she had received numerous complaints via the website and by phone and that this issue had taken up a considerable amount of time.

The issue of the five small pieces of land registered to Diamond Construction, is still being investigated by HDC and Cllr. Carter has assured the Clerk that these will continue to be cut by HDC, until the matter is resolved. HDC had agreed to fell a diseased cherry tree and carry out some pruning work to a second cherry tree, both situated on one of the pieces of land in question. Cllr. Carter had advised that there are in excess of 250 small pieces of land under review around the county, which have previously been maintained by HDC but are not recorded as being owned by them. Cllr. Carter has suggested that HDC will be asking either the residents of the estate built by Diamond Construction or the Parish Council, to take on responsibility for the maintenance of these areas in the future and that HDC will be visiting Parish Councils to discuss this. The Clerk advised councillors to consider the potential cost of tree work when asked by HDC if they wished to adopt these five areas, as all have very large trees on them.

d) Report from the Flood meeting held on 3rd June – The meeting was attended by Alconbury and Alconbury Weston Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, HDC, CCC and the Emergency Services. Cllr. Bryan, Cllr. McGregor and the Clerk, attended on behalf of Alconbury Weston Parish Council. Minutes of the meeting had been circulated. In summary, the various agencies admitted that their response to the flood was less than satisfactory. It was agreed that a further meeting would be held, to include the Parish Councils, to discuss how the emergency plan could be

improved so that a better co-ordinated response would happen earlier than was seen at the flood event in March. Councillors agreed that when the meeting took place, the Environment Agency should be asked to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss what can be done to prevent flooding in future.

5. Parish paths.

Cllr. McGregor had provided the Clerk with a list of the condition of various footpaths, many of which are becoming overgrown, in particular footpath 4 and the steps on footpath 3. The Clerk had discovered that there is no longer a Rights of Way Officer for the area and that all complaints are now being handled by Jo Challis (District Highways Officer), in addition to her normal duties. Highways are also 2 Local Highways Officer posts down, making them extremely short staffed. Jo Challis had advised that the volume of complaints about grass cutting being received across the county, was so high, that it was taking several weeks before they were even viewed. She had also advised that the contractor was very behind with cuts, due to expensive equipment repairs being required. The contractor was now trying to catch up. Jo Challis is aware of Cllr. McGregor's report and will try to attend to the most urgent items.

6. Play area.

Cllr. Lomas had no issues to report.

7. Planning.

a) New applications.

16/01148/REM Submission of reserved matters (appearance, access, landscaping, layout and scale) in respect of the construction of strategic foul and potable water main, water pressure boost pump, foul water pumping station and pedestrian and cycleway including ground remodelling and ancillary works. Alconbury Weald. Circulated and returned "No observations either in favour or against".

16/01402/HHFUL Proposed rear conservatory. 6 Highfield Ave., Alconbury Weston, PE28 4JS.

Cllr. McGregor proposed that Alconbury Weston Parish Council recommend approval. Seconded by Cllr. Coulson and unanimously agreed.

16/00608/HHFUL Proposed side extension. 2 Springfield Road, Alconbury Weston, PE28 4JY.

Consultation email not received from HDC, however, councillors had no objections and the application has since been approved by HDC.

b) Update on previous applications.

16/00752/REM Submission of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, scale and mass) in respect of the construction of a mixed use Innovation, Manufacturing, Engineering Building (iMET) including office, research and development and a training facility. Alconbury Weald. Approved by HDC.

16/00262/NMA Application for non-material amendment to approval of reserved matters (outside a key phase) for primary infrastructure to support key delivery of the primary school (KP1-01). Alconbury Weald. In progress.

16/00043/TREE Emergency works to ash tree in front garden. Bridge House, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston. In progress.

15/02296/FUL Change of use from repair workshop and storage of agricultural machinery to workshop for coach building and repair of horse boxes and on site farm machinery, parking of machinery and horse boxes in front of building at unit 1. Buckworth Lodge Stud, Buckworth Road, Alconbury Weston. In progress.

c) Planning enforcement cases.

15/00243/FUL Buckworth Lodge Stud, Buckworth Road, Alconbury Weston – Planning enforcement in progress. Clerk has requested an update.

8. Financial report.

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Coulson proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) to (8). Seconded by Cllr. York and unanimously agreed.

- (1) Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. - £54.00, play area inspection. Cq. No. 101069
- (2) Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. - £240.54, play area repairs. Cq. No. 101070
- (3) Mrs. D. Benham – £218.36, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for May. Cq. No. 101071
- (4) HMRC - £39.20, PAYE/NI for May. Cq. No. 101072
- (5) ADCHC - £22.50, room hire for meetings. Cq. No. 101073
- (6) Mrs. D. Benham - £205.72, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for June. Cq. No. 101074
- (7) HMRC - £39.20, PAYE/NI for June. Cq. No. 101075
- (8) Greenbarnes Ltd. - £800.96, new noticeboard. Cq. No. 101076

b) Current position - A copy of the receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was handed to each councillor.

9. Police matters.

The March crime report showed 1 recorded crime in Alconbury Weston. The April and May reports showed no recorded crime in Alconbury Weston.

10. Correspondence.

Circulated by email since the last meeting:

- a) Cambridgeshire Highways Depot Open Days.
- b) Letter regarding work on the A14 Huntingdon railway viaduct.
- c) Herts Urgent Care appointed as the new Integrated Urgent Care NHS 111 and GP out of hours provider for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.
- d) Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- e) Cambridgeshire Future Transport – Changes to bus services. Poster on the noticeboard.
- f) Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire : Draft recommendations. Can be viewed at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6932> Poster on the noticeboard.
- g) Grass cutting dates.
- h) Email from HDC regarding Devolution consultation.

11. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr. Bryan advised that he was now chairing the Alconbury Waste Transfer Site meetings and that Amey's new inspection and reporting procedures would be put before CCC's planning committee on 18th July.

County Cllr. Ashcroft spoke about the plans for Devolution of some functions from central government to Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils.

12. Clerk's annual appraisal.

Cllr. Lomas had completed the Clerk's annual appraisal on 8th July 2016 and Cllr. Lomas, Cllr. McGregor and the Clerk signed the appraisal document. The National Joint Council for Local Government Services had published the new pay scales for clerks, to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1st April 2016. Cllr. Lomas signed a letter to SR Howell & Co., prepared by the Clerk, asking them to amend the payroll details. Details had also been received of the new pay scales for 1st April 2017.

13. Dates of the remaining meetings for 2016.

Monday 12th September and Monday 14th November. All meeting start at 7.30pm in the Alconbury Memorial Hall.

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