

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Public Open Forum: Parishioners present were invited to give their views during the meeting.

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

Also present: District Cllr. Baker, Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk) & 2 parishioners.

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

2. Declaration of Interests: None declared.

3. To discuss future maintenance of the “orphan sites” identified by HDC:

Cllr. Robin Carter explained that there were five small areas of land in Alconbury Weston, currently maintained by HDC, that had been identified as belonging to Diamond Construction. HDC do not want to maintain the land going forwards and would like either the registered owner (Diamond Construction), the Parish Council or the residents to take over responsibility. The areas have been maintained by HDC for 20 plus years and all of the pieces of land have large trees growing on them. HDC have been unable to contact Diamond Construction and suspect that the company is no longer trading.

Parish Councillors unanimously agreed that the Parish Council did not wish to take over responsibility for these areas.

Cllr. Carter advised that HDC will therefore write to the surrounding residents to ask what they would like the land to be used for going forwards. Examples given by Cllr. Carter included leaving the areas as they are now, although residents would be asked to maintain it, residents taking over the land as additional garden areas, or converting it to additional car parking. Councillors questioned whether it was appropriate for HDC to start discussions with residents when the land was still registered in the name of Diamond Construction. Cllr. Carter agreed that there was still more work to be done by HDC to ascertain the legal position but he felt that this was not a barrier to starting discussions. When pressed by councillors to say what would happen if residents did not want to take over the maintenance of the land, Cllr. Carter said that HDC would have to consider what would be the best use of the land and mentioned that this might include the construction of a dwelling on one of the areas.

Cllr. Carter confirmed that HDC would continue to maintain the areas until a solution had been agreed with the residents.

4. Dates of next meeting.

Monday 14th November, starting at 7.30pm in the Alconbury Memorial Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....