

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 12 June 2017 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, M Bryan, R Coulson, C McGregor (In the Chair), R Powley & L York

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: None

24.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made

25.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman Cllr Lomas (personal)

26.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance

27.0 MINUTES

- Resolved**
- 27.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman
 - 27.2 The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2017 were received and noted

28.0 THE WHITE HART

Having received notification that the White Hart was now listed as a 'Community Asset' discussion took place on what actions, if any, should now take place. It was agreed that no action should take place until after the deadline of 18 July 2017 for comment by the building owners, the Wellington Pub Company, is received.

A view was expressed that the pub should be re-opened. However, discussion took place on the actual support that would be given should the pub be re-opened in terms of physical support and not just verbal. It was suggested that an online survey should be created to ascertain the level of support from the community. Alternatively, it was suggested that a public meeting is organised by the parish council, once the response is received from the owners, to allow the Parish Council to take a lead in the facilitating the community to come together to decide on the future of the building. An open meeting would allow other suggestions to be brought forward to look at a more sustainable way in which to operate the pub in a financially sustainable manner, should that be the community's preference.

It was requested that the Clerk contact HDC to enquire if an inspection on the building has been undertaken linked to its listed building status.

- Resolved**
- 28.1 note that an application to list the White Hart as a 'Community Asset' has been accepted
 - 28.2 A date for a public meeting is considered at the next Parish Council meeting to ascertain the community's view for the future of the building
 - 28.3 The Clerk contact HDC regarding inspection of the property linked to its listed building status.

29.0 FUNDAY – 4 JUNE 2017

Cllr Bryan gave a comprehensive report on the success of the day and gave thanks to the number of companies and individuals involved in ensuring the day was a success.

- Resolved**
- 29.1 The verbal report is received and noted
 - 29.2 That Cllr Bryan is thanked on behalf of the council for his commitment to the event
 - 29.3 That the sum of £610.00 having been raised is split between the Alconbury Thursday Club and the Alconbury Pre-School

30.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES

Cllr McGregor noted that following the mowing of the footpaths recently a section of Footpath 4 from the High Street passed the stables and along to the first pasture field had been missed. As a result, there have been a number of complaints received already. It was requested that the Clerk contact CCC and request that they come back and mow this section as soon as possible as the section is impassable.

- Resolved**
- 30.1.1 The verbal report is received and noted
 - 30.1.2 CCC is contacted and requested to return and finish cutting Footpath 4 to ensure it is passable

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The letter from HDC regarding the future of Tree Wardens was discussed. It was agreed that the post of Tree Warden was important for the villages as without a central knowledgeable point the local volunteer tree wardens would find it difficult to function. Members therefore agreed that it is important that this post is retained by HDC in the longer term to ensure access for the parishes to expert advice.

- Resolved** 30.2.1 The letter from HDC regarding the removal of the post of Tree Warden is received and noted.
- 30.2.2 A response is sent to HDC confirming that Alconbury Weston consider the post of Tree Warden to be important and that it should be kept allowing the villages to have direct access to a central knowledgeable point of contact.

It was agreed that a space on the Tree Safety Seminar should be booked in the name of Alconbury Weston Parish Council on either the 27 July or 3 August and that either Cllrs Bryan or Coulson would attend.

- Resolved** 30.3 That a space is booked on the Tree Safety Seminar for Alconbury Weston to attend

31.0 ALCONBURY WESTON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Cllr Bryan provided a verbal update on the Natural flood management group meeting recently held. He indicated that it was exploratory meeting with representatives from Internal Drainage Board, Farmers, Natural England, Alconbury PC and the Forestry Commission in attendance. The Environment Agency Rep outlined what the natural flood management techniques were and discussion took place on the model survey within the brook catchment area show what could be done using ponding and leaky dams. It was stated that the current model for the brook extends to Hamerton but that the EA have funding for an improved model.

Cllr Bryan confirmed that the next meeting of the group is scheduled for September and having had 3-months to work on the model it is hoped that better information will be available by then, with part of the study focussing on the depth of the brook.

- Resolved** 31.1 The verbal report is received and noted

Cllr Powley provided a verbal report on the activities of the Alconbury Weston Flood Management Emergency Plan. He indicated that the actual plan is still work in progress and that a full report will provided to the next meeting. The main area of focus at the current time is the levels at which the warnings are given, with frustration being experienced again that this has been asked again and again in the past and is still not known. He reported that all measurements used by the EA are AOD (meters above mean sea level) and the only measurement available to the community is in feet above sea level

- Resolved** 31.2 The verbal report is received and noted

Cllr Powley informed the meeting that the group were looking to get AOD measurements in place so that the community can understand what the EA are reporting on and when they need to react. In order to do this a survey to establish the level at the bottom of the ford is required to be carried out. Once this level is determined a new level marker can be installed on the ford so that the CCTV can see it and the community can determine the height of the flood water before the flood occurs. The cost of the survey is £300.

- Resolved** 31.3.1 The verbal report is received and noted
- 31.3.2 That it is agreed to fund the survey discussed at a cost of £300 to allow a new marker board providing measurements in AOD to be installed to assist the community in understanding the flood threat level information provided by the EA.

32.0 PLAY AREA

It was noted that Cllr Lomas had recently undertaken an inspection of the play area and there were not issues that required action.

- Resolved** That the report is received and noted

33.0 PLANNING

The following planning application was considered:-

APPLICATION REF. 17/00808/HHFUL - Erection of a side extension and replacement porch (amended scheme). 16 Tanglewood Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4LB

- Resolved** 33.1 That comments should be passed to the Clerk after the meeting to allow Members the opportunity to review the application and the Clerk to provide a response to HDC before the closing date for comment to be received.

APPLICATION REF. 17/00991/HHFUL - Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of part single storey and part 2 storey side extension. 40 Wheatsheaf Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4LF

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- Resolved** 33.2 No objections – suitable development for the site.

The following residents objections were noted:-

APPLICATION REF. 17/00808/HHFUL - Erection of a side extension and replacement porch (amended scheme). 16 Tanglewood Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4LB

Resolved 33.3 That the comments are received and noted

34.0 POLICE REPORT

The following items relating to crime in Alconbury Weston as reported on the Police Neighbourhood Alert Crime updates since the last meeting were noted -

- 25.05.2017 - Great North Road, Alconbury Weston - Unknown offender(s) have entered the garden, forced open door to lean to and broken glass door and entered the kitchen taking car keys and stolen car.
- 29.05.2017 & 04.06.2017- Recycling Centre - Unknown offender(s) have broken into the recycling centre by cutting the perimeter wire. Various electrical items were taken.

Resolved 34.1 That the above crime reports are received and noted

It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner Parish Conference will be held on 15 September 2017 in Police Headquarters, Hinchbrook.

Resolved 34.2 That a space at the event be reserved in the name of the Parish Council and either Cllrs Bryan or York attend

35.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The following payments were noted as requiring to be made:-

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|---------------------------------------------|----------|
| Four Seasons – Grass cutting | £660.00 |
| A Benfield – May Salary | £255.59 |
| A Benfield – May Expenses | £41.92 |
| The Memorial Hall – room hire | £38.62 |
| HDC – Litter bin emptying 2016/17 & 2017/18 | £3638.02 |

Discussion took place over the invoice received from HDC for the emptying of litter bins. It was requested that the Clerk establish what the emptying schedule was and why an invoice had been received for 2 years. Although displeasure was expressed at paying the HDC invoice It was agreed that all chqs should be issued at the next meeting due to the unavailability of the 2nd cheque signatory.

Resolved That the above payments are agreed and made at the earliest opportunity.

36.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

The Clerk informed the meeting that the bank statements had not been received in time to complete the bank reconciliation in advance of the meeting.

37.0 BUDGET REPORT

Discussion took place on the amended way the budgets were now being presented. It was agreed that it was an improvement but a request was made to include the expected income as well on future reports.

Resolved That the report is received and the content noted

38.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

No reports had been received for either District or County Cllrs in advance of the meeting

39.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 39.1 (i) To note that an update on the planning enforcement action in respect of Buckworth Lodge has been requested.
- (ii) To confirm that the Study of Alconbury Weston (author Rick Kelly) is included on the Parish Council website if feasible to publish
- (iii) To receive further communication from the owners of Alconbury Hill Kennel and Cattery regarding the emptying of the dog waste bin adjacent to their property

Resolved 39.1.1 That the response from HDC on the planning enforcement action in respect of Buckworth Lodge is noted with exasperation

39.1.2 that the Study of Alconbury Weston is included on the Parish Council website if feasible to publish

39.1.3 That the owners of Alconbury Hill Kennels and Cattery are updated on the ownership and responsibility of the dog bin adjacent to their property.

39.2 To receive comments from Councillors regarding matters affecting the village

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Cllr Bryan commented on a incident that had taken place during the Gran Fondo linked to the Stewarding of the event. It was agreed that a copy of the safety instruction issued to the Stewards should be requested before the event took place. Discussion also took place on the need for portaloos to be located in the village next year should the event be run again.

Resolved 39.2 That the Grand Fondo Organisers be requested to provide copies of the Stewards safety instructions before the race and that they arrange for portaloos to be located in the village for the use of spectators and competitors.

39.3 To agree items to be brought forward to the next meeting for further consideration

No requests for items to be included on the next agenda were made

SIGNED:

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council

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