

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 30 October 2017 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, M Bryan, R Coulson, C McGregor (Vice Chairman – in the chair), R Powley & L York

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: County Councillor Ian Gardiner, Gary Selvidge - Copsehill Investments, 23 members of the public

Due to the number of people in attendance it was agreed to bring item 85.0 to the start of the meeting followed by item 83.0

85.0 COPSEHILL INVESTMENTS

Mr Gary Selvidge of Copsehill Investments presented information relating to the proposed development on land to the north of Chequers Close, Alconbury Weston.

He provided information on the background to the ownership of the site and made reference to the previous scheme that had been proposed in 2005. In relation to the current plans he stated that the development would consist of notionally 13 dwellings with access to the site adjacent to 2 Chequers Close. The site would comprise of a mix of 2 & 3 bed properties, condensed into ½ of site to allow a buffer between existing properties and the footpath. This is to include good pedestrian access to and from the open land and to allow green corridors can be incorporated. Copsehill Investments are keen to minimise the visual impact on existing properties, with screening being introduced along the external boundaries to assist with this.

In response to questions from Councillors, Mr Selvidge commented that Copsehill Investments own the whole site but are only intending to develop the northern half of the site and that once this proposed development has taken place it will not be possible to develop any more land as there will be no access to it as they do not own all of the land that leads to Buckworth Road.

The Chairman informed those members of the public present that there was a maximum of 10 minutes available for the Public Participation section and therefore not time for everyone to speak. The Chairman selected 3 people from those present to make representation based on the proximity of their homes to the proposed development to allow a spread of issues to be raised.

83.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Issues raised by members of the public included: -

- Capability of the sewers and other infrastructure to cope with additional properties connected to them
- Emergency service access to the proposed new development when there was already problems with overparking in Chequers Close.
- Surface water flooding issues exacerbated
- Adoption of road
- Development being outside the village envelope
- Disruption to the village during the development phase and then ongoing disruption from additional numbers of houses.

81.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made

82.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

84.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

86.0 CRIME IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Bryan proposed that the Parish Council write to the Police & Crime Commissioner expressing its concerns and asking for police patrols to be carried out in the villages on a regular basis due to the increased incidents of crime reported recently.

Some members were concerned that an increase in police patrols will not meet the need as there are so few police officers available.

Resolved That the Clerk write to the Police & Crime Commissioner expressing the Council's concerns and asking for police visibility raised in the village along with more CCTV coverage due to the increased incidents of crime reported recently.

87.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES

Cllr McGregor reported that there was little change from his last report. The grass and weeds continue to grow and there are no further scheduled cuts left for the year. He commented that a cut would be needed very early in the spring to get on top of the situation before growth started next year. However, he expressed concern that if a cut did take place early in the spring the scheduled cuts will be completed by June/July and the parish will need to pay for a cut itself

It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the County Council contractors to do an extra next year to cover the winter and early spring.

It was further agreed that an additional cut was required on the parish council owned land due to the length of the grass

Resolved 87.1 The verbal report from Cllr McGregor is received and noted
87.2 The County Council are requested to arrange for an additional cut on the footpaths in the village next year at the expense of the Parish Council
87.3 That Four Seasons are requested to carry out an additional cut of the parish land as soon as possible,

Members discussed the options with the planting of the proposed village green Oak Tree due to the difficulties of planting it to avoid the underground services. As a result, it was agreed to not continue with this project. It was agreed that the 2 Chestnuts that are already planted will be sufficient and that the order should be cancelled.

Resolved 87.4 The arrangements for the delivery and planting of the Oak Tree are cancelled.

The report submitted by the Clerk regarding the appointment of an Arboriculturist to carry out a tree survey on parish trees was considered. Members agreed that the trees should be tagged as part of the survey to make identification in the future easier.

Resolved 87.4 That the report received and noted
87.5 That OCM Associates are appointed to undertake a condition survey on Parish Council owned trees at a cost of £435 ex VAT.
87.6 That the trees are tagged as part of the survey to make identification easier in the future

88.0 ALCONBURY WESTON FLOOD MANAGEMENT

The minutes of the Alconbury Brook Partnership meeting held on 25 September 2017 were received and noted

Resolved 88.1 That the minutes of the meeting are received and noted

Cllr Bryan provided a supplementary verbal update on the meeting minutes received above. During his report comment was made that the cleaning of the Brook should be further investigated and concern was raised about the suggestion of using demountable flood defences.

Cllr Powley gave an update on the current state of the emergency plan. He commented that it was very nearly ready and that everyone involved was content in principle with the plan. He confirmed that the CCTV camera on the Brook is ready to go in and will be battery operated backed up with solar power but that the actual installation will not take place until the one in Alconbury is also ready and there are still delays linked to permissions.

He also provided information on the early flood warning system that is currently used and the limitations linked to it due to the water levels not being correct. AW are commissioning a consultant to carry out an in-depth review and it was hoped that the outcome would be a better reporting system being introduced that would limit the wrong information being given out and consequently less false alarms.

Resolved 88.2 The verbal reports from Cllrs Bryan and Powley are received and noted

89.0 ALCONBURY HILL DOG BIN

Following the offer received from a resident of the village to relocate the bin to the concrete road on Vinegar Hill it was agreed that this should be added to the regular waste bin emptying schedule.

Resolved That the bin is relocated and added to the regular waste bin emptying contract at an additional cost of £253 per year

90.0 PLANNING

Resolved 90.1 That it is noted that no response had been made by the Clerk in respect of planning application received between meetings

The following application was considered:-

To agree a response to the HDC Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment available at - <http://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/portal/pp/helaa/helaa-10-2017> (copy herewith)

A detailed discussion took place on affordable housing and exception sites within the village. It was agreed that the site at the corner of Buckworth Road and North Road should be submitted as a site for future consideration as an exception site for the village.

Resolved 90.1 That the site at the corner of Buckworth Road and North Road should be submitted as a site for future consideration as an exception site for the village.

91.0 POLICE REPORT

Members noted that the following items relating to crime in Alconbury Weston had been reported on the Police Neighbourhood Alert Crime updates since the last meeting:-

- (i) Between 07.09.2017 and 02.10.2017 the Recycling Centre was broken into 7 times.
- (ii) 30.09.2017 - Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston
Unknown offender(s) have driven over 90 acres of cropped fields causing damage to the crops
- (iii) 03.10.2017 - High Street, Alconbury Weston
A trailer has been stolen overnight from a locked yard. A lock on the gates was broken in order to gain entry.
- (iv) 14.10.2017 - Recycling Centre
Unknown offender(s) have broken into the centre and stolen 20 - 25 batteries

Resolved 91.1 That the above crime reports are received and noted

Resolved 91.2 That the Police and Crime Commissioner Conference presentation held on 15 September 2017 is received

92.0 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

A discussion took place on devolution and future organisation of local councils with general dissatisfaction and much scepticism in the whole development plan as presented by Cambs ACRE made by those present. It was felt that there was very little in the plan to support very small parishes.

- Resolved** 92.1 That the Cambridgeshire Local Council Development Plan 2017 – 2021 is received
- 92.2 That no response is made to the consultation on how well the plan and the actions identified will help support the development of the sector over the next 5 years
- 92.3 Cllr Powley attend the Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference 2017 - Moving Forward Together on Friday 17 November 2017 to see if there is anything of relevance to the parish council available.

93.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

It was noted that no payments were made between meetings

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

Four Seasons – Grass cutting	£660.00
A Benfield – October salary	£226.77
A Benfield – November salary	£226.77
CPRE – Planning training	£40.00
SLCC – GDPR training	£36.00
S R Howell & Co – 6-months payroll	£60.00

Resolved That the above payments are agreed and made.

94.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

Resolved That the bank reconciliation up to 29 September is received and noted

95.0 BUDGET REPORT

Resolved That the Budget Report up to 23 October 2017 is received and noted

96.0 REPLACEMENT NOTICE BOARD

Comment was made that the existing notice board did not need to be replaced and that further investigation should be made to getting it re-glazed in the first instance.

It was agreed that all Members should check to see if they felt the notice board should be replaced or refurbished and that the decision on the way forward should be deferred to the next meeting to allow quotes for re-glazing to be sought.

Resolved That all Members check the state of the notice board prior to the next meeting and the Clerk endeavours to get quotes for re-glazing in the meantime.

97.0 EXPLORER SCOUTS – COMMUNITY ACTION

The email communication from Explorer Scouts requesting opportunity to carry out Community Action in support of Scout badge accreditation was considered by Members

Resolved That agreement is given subject to them confirming that insurance is covered and risk assessments are provided.

98.0 WOOLEY WIND FARM

The information from the Woolly Hill Wind Farm Committee was considered by Members.

Resolved That the information is received and noted

99.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Ian Gardiner introduced himself to the meeting and requested that a list of future meeting dates is provided so that he can look to attend. He informed Members that his area of responsibility in the County Council include Highway and Infrastructure, Planning and Fire Authority and that he is also a HDC Cllr

He provided a brief summary of County Council service provision including –

- Gritting program is the same as last year.
- Children's Centres – redesign of delivery there is a 7% increase in service provision. No centres in this area are closing.
- Sawtry is relocating its youth centre to allow more room in the school for the school.

100.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

100.1 The Clerk had no matters to report at the current time.

100.2 Cllr Baker commented that the out of date website was causing difficulties with incorrect information being available and that the recent hedge cutting that had taken place had not been implemented by her

Cllr York commented that he had been approached by the local Rotary Club who want to plant a spinney or small woodland of about 50 trees in the area and are asking for locations. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that there is no known land available at the current time.

Cllr Bryan commented that the school have applied for funding from Woolly Hill Wind Farm fund for funding for a community room that could be usable for council meetings in the future

Cllr Powley raised the question of other options for the proposed development site that had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

100.3 Poppy appeal donation be added to the next agenda for consideration