

**Minutes of the Alconbury Weston Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Monday 10 May 2018 at 7.00pm in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

**Present:** 4 Councillors, 2 Members of the public, the Chairman and Parish Clerk

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received

**2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2017 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman

**3 CHAIRMANS REPORT (appended to the minutes)**

The Chairman circulated his report and referred some points from within it.

**4 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT**

No report was received from the new District Councillor who was elected on 4 May 2018.

**5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr Gardener provided a report that is appended to the minutes.

A general discussion took place on some items of relevance to the meeting

**6 OPEN FORUM**

No resolutions had been received by the Clerk in advance of the meeting and there were no residents present who wished to discuss any issues.

The meeting closed at 7.20

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

**Chairman's Annual Report for Alconbury Weston Parish Council**  
Year Ending May 2018

This is my last year on the council as I do not intend to stand for the next election. I would like to thank all of you for your contribution over the year.

Police Matters

The crime rate in the village has risen significantly over the last year with many reports of break ins at the Recycle Centre on Vinegar Hill. The police appear powerless (or is it penniless) to be able to do anything about catching the culprits or protecting the facility, despite having a depot virtually next door to the Recycling Centre.

Concern is growing in the village, regarding our homes and businesses being targeted by the opportunist thieves on route to the Recycling centre.

Our most bizarre crime this year was the execution style murder of a lamb on farmland between Alconbury Weston and Buckworth. However, it is not thought that there is a Russian connection.

## Flooding

There have been several occasions where the flood waters have risen and some have caused concern to the property owners living close to the brook. The residents have had to park their car and vehicles away from their homes and move furniture from the ground floor to the upper floor, as a precaution. However, thankfully no homes have been flooded. The CCTV camera to monitor the brook has been installed and the feed may be monitored via the internet, as an early warning for raising water levels and potential flood situations. The council is actively involved with various agencies and working parties involved with the flood management of the village. Cllr Mel Bryan is involved in a working party looking at longer-term flood alleviation work whilst Cllr Bob Powley is involved in the Emergency Planning group. I would like to thank both Mel and Bob for their hard work on these groups.

## White Hart

The White Hart has been listed as a Village Asset and we are informed that the owners are actively seeking a new Tenant for the property to be opened as a Public House. The owners have agreed to keep the premises wind and watertight, but any other repairs will be the responsibility of the new tenant.

## Grand Funday

The Tour of Cambridgeshire cycle race will come through our village on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and, by all accounts, the event is sold out. Cllr Bryan and Ms Helen Foster are once again organising a Grand Funday to take place on the village green to coincide with the cycle race.

## Footpaths

Cllr McGregor and Cllr Powley continue to monitor the footpaths in and around the village. These are being well used by locals and are also popular with people from outside the village.

## Play area

The play area has not caused too many concerns to the council over the past 12 months. However, I have only noted light use of the area, over the last year. A new sign is to be erected banning the use of any non-authorized motorised vehicles.

## Grass cutting

The council have appointed a new contractor for this year's grass cutting, and I must say that early indications are good with regards to the appearance and condition of the grass. It should be noted that Huntingdon District Council maintains the "Orphaned" areas in Highfield Avenue and West Close areas.

## Community Speedwatch Group

A number of volunteers have been trained in the use of the speed monitoring equipment and we hope to hold our first session soon. A number of locations were identified by the Speedwatch coordinator and we await confirmation from Cambridge Constabulary that these are suitable sites from which to conduct Speedwatch sessions.

I would like to thank our Councillor Keith Baker for his help over the last year.

I thank everyone on the council for their efforts over the past years and wish you all continued success

## **Report by Cllr Ian Gardener, County Councillor for the Alconbury & Kimbolton**

Outlined below are some of the main areas of my work on the County Council . I am always available to discuss County Council issues with residents and to try and assist with issues. I can be contacted on 07970 613498 or by email at [Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Following last year's County Council Elections in May, which were fought on new boundaries. There are 61 elected Councillors (or 'members') . The Conservatives were returned as the largest party in overall control of the Council, which had previously been in No overall control.

The result of the County Council Election was 36 seats Conservative, 15 Liberal Democrat, 7 Labour and 3 Independents giving the Conservatives a majority of 11 over all other parties.

In the new Alconbury and Kimbolton seat, which covers Alconbury Weston. I secured victory with in excess of 61% of the vote which gave me a majority of 960 votes over my nearest opponent.

The Alconbury & Kimbolton Seat covers 30 villages and 24 Parish Councils. From Hail Weston in the South , to Great Gidding in the North out to the County Boundary in the west and the A1 to the east.

The Conservative Administration has maintained the Committee system as implemented by the previous council, but we now hold all the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions on the council.

I sit on the Highways & Infrastructure Committee and the Planning Committee of which I am the Vice Chairman. I also sit on the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority.

Since gaining control of the County Council we have looked at Children Centre provision, to see how the provision could be better implemented to suit the needs of parents and carers across the County, so that it provided the support when they most needed it. As a result the County Council is therefore changing the way we deliver our Children's Centres offer by providing more outreach support, so that we can reach more parents and carers, rather than providing the service through buildings. Our nearest Children Centres are still in St Neots and Sawtry but once the new system is up and running by the end of April 2018 it should reach more people as and when they require the service.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 the £1 parking charge at all Cambridge Park & Ride Sites has been removed as promised in the Conservative Manifesto. The implementation of the additional £1 parking fee saw a significant reduction in the use of the Park & Ride sites

The Cambridgeshire Catering and cleaning Service is going to be withdrawn by the end of this year. This is due to the increase in service providers in the market. The County Council has taken this decision now to enable us to support schools with a smooth transition to new providers.

The service will be working closely with staff and schools over the coming weeks, school based staff are likely to TUPE to a new service provider. The County Council remains committed to ensuring that all school children receive a balanced and healthy meal.

The Library Service is going to replace its mobile Library service Vans as we recognise the importance of this service to our rural villages. The County Council will be looking at ways of improving usage of our Mobile Library Services for all generations.

To protect services with Cambridgeshire the County Council agreed to an increase in Council Tax of 2.99 %, plus an additional 2% Adult Social Care Precept. This equates to an additional £1.14 per week increase for an average Council tax Band D property.

The County Council is to provide a network of Smart Energy Grids at Park & Ride Transport interchanges the first being St Ives and along public transport routes to support the electrification of transport. Smart Energy Grids will provide renewable energy, facilitate EV charging for buses, cars and freight and allow for selling of energy to local customers via Power Purchase Agreements.

The County Council is committed to a Purge on Plastics by leading from the front by working towards the removal of all consumer single use plastics in the workplace.

The County Council is also looking at a pilot project where plastic waste is used to create a material to repair potholes.

The new A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge is well under way with the new section of A1 adjacent to Brampton nearing completion which will allow the new A14 to be constructed along the line of the old A1.

On completion of the A14 work is expected to commence on the duelling of the A428 between the Black Cat Roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet.

The County Council is actively looking at and working with the District Council to try and get the new rail link between Cambridge and Oxford to be constructed nearer to St Neots rather than Sandy, due to the large-scale developments planned for St Neots.

As your County Councillor I have been working with Parents to ensure Post 16 Transport for their children. As there is no viable Bus Service from our villages to get our children to school.

With regard to Security at the Alconbury Hill Recycling Centre which is operated by Amey I have been in contact with the Executive Director for Place and Economy and he informs me that other sites are also being targeted . In one instance thieves came with their own trucks and stole two containers full of scrap metal.

CCC has reviewed security with Amey and they are employing a roving security guard to patrol the HRC at night and report all incidents to the local police. They are also looking at installing CCTV a decision will be made shortly. The CC is also asking if the police can help out by occasionally putting someone on site overnight. I am still awaiting confirmation of this.

I have asked the Crime & Police Commissioner to inform me of his future plans for policing our villages which I know is a major issue with our residents.

I look forward to working with the Parish Council and residents over the next year.