

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 22 January 2018 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, S Lomas (Chairman), R Powley & L York

Clerk: A Benfield

Others:

**120.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made

**121.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Cllrs C McGregor, M Bryan & R Coulson (personal)

**122.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present at the meeting

**123.0 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and agreed to be signed at the next meeting.

**124.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES**

No verbal update was provided due to Cllr McGregor not being able to attend the meeting.

The CCC Public Rights of Way Officer introduced herself. She commented that she had started in post in August but that there had been an unfilled vacancy for 2 years so she had been working through the backlog of issues and enquires but was now able to get out into the villages. She confirmed that the grass cutting contract is now less than it was before but that 2 cuts should take place in April and July and requested that if this does not happen she is informed.

It was agreed that the Officer should make contact with Cllr McGregor who is the best place person to provide information on the rights of way through and around the village.

A question was asked regarding the opening up of the rights of way across the Alconbury Airfield now that it is no longer operating as an airfield. The Officer agreed to check with the Definitive Map Team at the County Council and report back.

**Resolved** 124.1 The verbal report from the CCC Rights of Way Officer is received and noted

Members noted that the tree report circulated was incorrect as the survey had been carried out on the Alconbury village trees not the Alconbury Weston trees as had been requested.

**Resolved** 124.2 The Clerk contact the company concerned, inform them of their error and request that the correct survey is completed as soon as possible for consideration of Members at the next meeting

**125.0 ALCONBURY WESTON FLOOD MANAGEMENT**

No verbal update was provided on the activities of the Alconbury Weston Flood Management Group due to Cllr Bryan not being in attendance.

Cllr Powley provided an update on the activities of the Alconbury Weston Flood Management Emergency Plan. The plan has now been tested by the EA and is in final stages of circulation. At the present time the team is short of a volunteer to cover the High Street. It has proved difficult to find someone who is normally in the village during the day who also has time to be involved. Following discussion Cllr Powley agreed to try and use local social media routes to find a volunteer.

He further commented that the Brook camera is now in and operational, but can only have 10 concurrent users. This is currently causing difficulties for Alconbury Weston residents as currently the number of people viewing from Alconbury is great and therefore no capacity for Alconbury Weston. Cllr Powley is in communication with EA regarding this and has requested that the Alconbury Weston camera is put onto a different site to mitigate this difficulty.

Chairman's  
Initials

Resolved The verbal report is received and noted

#### 126.0 PLANNING

No planning applications were considered or commented on between meetings and there were not applications for consideration at the meeting either.

The HDC Local Plan 20136: Proposed Submission was considered and it was noted that there was a proposal for 95 properties within Alconbury on Church Commissioner land.

#### 127.0 POLICE REPORT

Members noted that over 60 break ins had occurred at the recycling centre and that this was affecting the insurance premium costs for properties in the village as it is shown as a high crime area. Members felt that this should be raised again with the police and HDC the last meeting.

The written report from Cllr Bryan following his attendance at the Rural Crime Forum in December was received

- Resolved**
- 127.1 That the Clerk write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Inspector regarding the high levels of thefts at the recycling centre and the impact this is having on the local area
  - 127.2 That the written report from Cllr Bryan following his attendance at the Rural Crime Forum meeting in December is received and noted

#### 128.0 DEDICATED COUNCILLOR EMAIL BOXES

Discussion took place on the setting up and use of the dedicated Councillor email addresses. It was noted that some Cllrs had experienced difficulties in doing this. However it was agreed that the current method of use was suitable and that if assistance was needed this could be provided.

It was agreed that the cost of setting up Outlook Exchange at £250 for the year was not necessary.

It was further agreed that the village flood plan should be accessible from the Parish Council website with its own dedicated webpage.

- Resolved**
- 128.1 That all Councillors should implement the Council email accounts as soon as possible.
  - 128.2 That an additional page should be set up on the website for the village Flood Plan

#### 129.0 SUMMER PLANTING PROVISION FOR THE VILLAGE

Consideration was given to the suggestion from Cllr Bryan that a four-tier planter for the village green and planters for mounting on the village entrance roadside signs be purchased at a cost of £1340.

It was agreed that in theory it was a good idea and that they could be a positive enhancement to the village. However, concern was raised that at the current time the ongoing maintenance and watering would be an issue. It was agreed that no decision should be made at the current time but the Cllr Bryan provide a plan of maintenance to the next meeting for a decision to be made.

#### 130.0 VILLAGE OPEN SPACES

**Resolved** That the village open spaces are not listed as community assets.

#### 131.0 VILLAGE YARD SALE AND FUN DAY

**Resolved** That the village yard sale and fun day is supported by the Parish Council again for 2018

#### 132.0 ACRE Membership

**Resolved** That the Parish Council join Cambs ACRE for 2018

#### 133.0 WHITE HART PUBLIC HOUSE

**Resolved** That the Parish Clerk feed back to the next meeting how long the current listing is in place for.

#### 134.0 A14(M) PARISH LIAISON MEETING

The written report from Cllr Powley following his attendance and the A14(M) Parish Liaison meeting was considered.

**Resolved** That the report is received and noted

Chairman's  
Initials

**135.0 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2018/19**

The report from the Clerk providing a summary of the contract tenders received was noted. It was agreed that the contract should be offered to BEAM for 3 year contract with a 12month break clause.

**Resolved** That BEAM Ltd are contracted to cut the grass under the control of the Parish Council within the village for a 3-year term at a cost of £2850 per annum

**136.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

It was noted that no payments were made between meetings

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

A Benfield – January Salary	£226.77
ICO – Data Protection Registration	£35.00
A Benfield – January expenses	£132.84

**Resolved** That the above payments are agreed and made but the invoice for OMC Associates was not paid as the survey has yet to be completed satisfactorily.

**137.0 BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Clerk explained the reason for the £105 difference.

**Resolved** That the bank reconciliation up to 29 December 2017 is received and noted

**138.0 BUDGET REPORT**

Comment was made regarding the room hire rental costs.

**Resolved** That the Budget Report up to 6 December is received and noted

**139.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

HDC Cllr Baker commented that HDC had agreed a 2.5% increase on the budget this year. He also informed those in attendance that the Abbots Ripton the Alconbury road would be closed whilst an additional train line was installed to facilitate the Alconbury Weald train station

**140.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

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

140.2 Cllr Baker commented on the cars that were regularly on sale at the corner of Highfields Road. She expressed concern that if this was allowed to continue unchecked that it would become possible for those responsible to use the area as a registered car sales business. Comment was made in response that this misuse had been reported to HDC and the Police in the past but that no action had been taken.

Cllr Lomas reported that he had carried out inspections on the play area and that everything was in good order with nothing to report.

140.3 There were no items requested for inclusion on the next agenda

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

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

Chairman's  
Initials