

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 6 April 2020**

**As a result of Covid-19 and following the instruction of the Prime Minister's address on 23rd March 2020 the meeting was held remotely.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** J Baker, P Baker, S Brine, M Bryan, A Gillham, B Powley (Chairman) & A Stone

**Clerk:** A Benfield

**Others:** Cllr I Gardner (HDC & CCC Councillor) plus 1 member of the public

**156.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made

**157.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All members were present at the meeting.

**158.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to address the meeting

**159.0 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February were confirmed as a correct record and will be signed at a future date when meetings are held in public again

**160 .0 COVID-19**

Cllr J Baker provided an update on the response received to the letter circulated to the village seeking to identify those in need and those volunteering to help. She confirmed that it had been delivered to all homes by the village postman. A number of contacts had been made so far and some support already provided to those who needed it. She stated that the resulting support scheme appeared to be working well so far and that a list of those offering help and requesting help would be circulated for Members information.

It was agreed that no further action was required at the current time

**Resolved** That the verbal report be received and noted

**161.0 THE WHITE HART**

**Resolved** That the decision as agreed informally that the Parish Council withdraw its interest as being treated as a potential bidder for the White Hart following the owner's agreement to issue a long-term lease for the property to be maintained as a public house be ratified.

**162.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES**

Paths – Cllr P Baker reported that there had been a huge increase in the use of paths and as a result there had been some comments made regarding the state of the footpaths. In particular concern had been raised related to footpath no 3 from Hamerton Road to Vinegar Hill. The state of the underfoot conditions linked to the neighbouring development and the overhanging hedge were of concern. Cllr P Baker stated that he was going to speak to the owner about the overhanging hedge and hoped that this would be resolved quickly. In terms of the underfoot conditions this was more problematic as the rubble, bricks and concrete make it difficult for people who are not that steady on their feet. It was agreed that County Cllr Gardiner make contact with the Footpath Officer and investigate a solution.

A brief discussion took place on the need to close the path due to the state underfoot but it was felt that in the current climate the path needed to be open to enable residents to exercise as much as possible.

The narrowing of the bridleway between Church Way and the village was discussed. Comment was made that due to the grass and soil impinging on the edge's sections were now too narrow for people to walk 2 abreast. It was noted that a quote had been sought to rectify the situation at a cost of £200. County Cllr Gardner agreed to contact the Highway Officer to investigate if this would should be done by Highways. In the meantime, it was agreed that this was not a priority at the current time and should be reviewed at a future date.

Cllr J Baker reported that she had spoken to the residents concerned regarding damage to the footpath alongside High Street and it had been established the problem occurred due to a tanker reversing into the pumping station. The company concerned had undertaken to repair the damage but a date for this was unclear during the current lockdown scenario as a result of COVID-19.

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Tree work – Cllr P Baker reported that the outstanding invoice had been received.

**Resolved** 129.1 That the reports be received and noted

### 163.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Bryan reported that he had inspected the play area and had fixed a hole in the fence. The play area was now closed and no infringements had occurred

Cllr Gillham reported that plans for the play area development were on hold due to the current lockdown.

**Resolved** That the reports be received and noted

### 164.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker reported that one cut had been started this season but the contractor had been unable to finish due to a heavy downpour of rain. The areas as agreed around the memorial had not been cut as agreed for wildflower growth but it was agreed that a path did need to be cut within the area to allow people to access the memorial stone. It was agreed that Cllr Stone would do this with a hand mower. Cllr Gardner was asked to clarify what grass was being cut within the village by HDC and that an item be added to the next agenda to discuss grass cutting in more detail

Speedwatch – Cllr Brine reported that all activities had been suspended due to the current lockdown

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported that he was receiving a great deal of communications at the moment and it was taking a great deal of time to decide what should be posted on Nextdoor. It was noted that within the letter circulated to the village an item had been included to confirm that meeting or the parish council would continue online. Cllr Gillham reported that the facebook page was growing in popularity.

Flood Planning – nothing to report at the current time

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – no meeting held

A14 Legacy Fund – no further information available so assumption was that approaches had been so far unsuccessful

Amey Waste Transfer Station – no meeting held

**Resolved** That all reports be received and noted

### 165.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The following payments were noted as being made between meetings: -

Payroll & HMRC – March Salary	£273.59
Manor Farm Tree Services – Tree Maintenance Work	£1020.00
Haven Power – Street Light Energy (direct debit)	£9.15

The following payments were agreed to be made:-

Payroll & HMRC – April Salary	£273.59
BEAM – March & April grass cutting	£570.00
Stationary – Paper and Ink	£48.18
ZOOM – share of licence (St Ives Town Council)	£30.00
AskIT – website annual maintenance	£44.40
AskIT – Domain renewal and email accounts	£134.40

**Resolved** That the above payments be ratified and agreed

### 166.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

**Resolved** That the Bank Reconciliations for February and March be received and noted

### 167.0 BUDGET REPORT

**Resolved** That the Budget Report up to 31 March be received and noted

### 168.0 PLANNING

No applications were considered

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**169.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Gardiner thanked Members for the invitation to attend the meeting and he provided a comprehensive report on matters involving both HDC and CCC.

**170.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

The Chairman commented that the discussion on the amalgamation of the villages and the work on the ford bridge had been deferred at the current time due to COVID-19

It was agreed that Cllr Stone should post any scam information she received directly on Nextdoor

It was agreed that the following items be included in the agenda for the next meeting:

- An application for LHI funding
- A review of the ongoing suitability of Council's current email system.

**Resolved** That the discussion be received and noted and relevant items be included on the next agenda for further discussion

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

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

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