

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 21 October 2019 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, P Baker (late arrival), S Brine, M Bryan, A Gillham (from item 83.0) B Powley (Chairman) & A Stone

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: A Gillham, Mr O'Brian

80.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made

81.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for late arrival were given by Cllr P Baker

82.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to speak to the council

83.0 RESIGNATION AND CO-OPTION

Cllr P Baker arrived at this point in the meeting

Following the resignation of J Evans prior to the last meeting the Clerk confirmed that no election had been requested and therefore the vacancy could be filled by co-option. She further reported that an application had been received from A Gillham

Ms Gillham was asked to leave the room whilst members considered her application. On review all agreed that Ms Gillham would be an excellent addition to the Council and that she should be co-opted forthwith.

Resolved That A Gillham be co-opted onto the Alconbury Weston Parish Council with immediate effect and sign a declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr A Gillham joined the meeting

84.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

Cllr J Baker clarified that she was not intending on taking over the whole of the play area refurbishment but to pass on the information gathered by Mr Evans prior to his resignation

Resolved That the minutes be signed as a correct record of the meeting

85.0 COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER GROUP

A representative of the Community First Responder Group gave a presentation to the meeting on the work of the group.

He informed those present that he was a resident of Buckworth and that he had previously been a member of the Huntingdon 1st Responder Group prior to moving to the village. Due to his background he had been approached by the Ambulance Authority to consider forming a group locally as there is a lack of cover to the west of the A1 and north of the A14 up to Sawtry. 1st Responders come from a government initiative to train up people with a background in first aid to bring their skills up to a higher standard to enable them to respond to emergency situations quicker than ambulances sometimes can to endeavour to sustain life until fully trained paramedics can attend. He stated that this vital facility was needed but that there was a cost of £4000 for the purchase of the necessary medical kit to set the group up. Once the kit is purchased the ongoing maintenance and repair is carried out by and paid for by the NHS. He commented that he is approaching each village within the area to be covered for a donation and was hopeful that Alconbury Weston would contribute £500.

At the current time the 1500 teams that operate across the county save on average 73 lives a month with the kit that contains a defibrillator, oxygen and some drugs to treat anaphylactic shock and similar. There are currently 6 people interested in the local area but no-one in the village so he asked that those present 'spread the word' to encourage more people to join. Full training would be provided although a background in first aid of some sort is preferred.

On being questioned the presenter indicated that he was looking to begin providing a service as soon as possible. He felt he could cover the area himself until the end of the financial year but was looking to have some others to work with thereafter.

Chairman's
Initials

Members discussed the presentation and felt that it was a worthwhile project that would potentially bring benefit to the village and that the request for funding should be supported although clarification was requested on how many parishes were to be asked to contribute to the start-up costs. The Clerk confirmed that the support could be made under LGA 1972 s137 and that it was possible to vire the money from the miscellaneous and maintenance budget lines.

- Resolved**
- 85.1 That the presentation be received and noted
 - 85.2 That £250 be vired from both the Other payments (not in budget) and that Maintenance budget lines into the s137 payments budget to cover the cost of the donation
 - 85.3 That a donation of £500 under LGA 1972 s137 be made to the NHS Ambulance Trust towards the purchase of a 1st Responder kit for a local group.
 - 85.4 That clarification be provided on how many villages locally were being asked to contribute and how much.

86.0 HUNTS FORUM

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that Alconbury Weston Parish Council become a member of Hunts Forum and that Cllr Stone be nominated to be the point of contact.

- Resolved**
- 86.1 That the Parish Council become a member of Hunts Forum at an annual cost of £25
 - 86.2 That Cllr Stone be the nominated Council representative

87.0 TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A long discussion took place on the arrangements for the event last year with members raising their disappointment that what they thought was taking place in terms of the village being a pit stop did not happen. They also commented on the difficulties caused residents due to the late notice of the road closure changes and also the change to the start time which meant that the roads in the village were closed very early, so causing difficulties for those trying to set up the fun day event to support the race. They stated that they had for a number of years tried to support the event but that it was proving harder as communication with Golazo was proving to be difficult

The Golazo Representative apologised for the difficulties the village had experienced last year and stated that he would look into what had happened and put in place strategies to improve the communication going forward. He said that the planning had started early this year and they were expecting to hear from Highways shortly about the details of the road closure for this year's event. Once this information was available, he would ensure that the Parish Council was informed so that they could start to plan this year's event.

It was agreed that the village wanted to support and embrace the tour for the benefit of all and that to do this better communication was needed in advance of the event. It was stated that a later start time was preferable for the village but noted that the earlier start time had been the result of intervention by the County Council. Golazo also preferred a later start and would be requesting that this was allowed for the 2020 event. It was agreed that the permanent event organiser would make contact with Cllr J Baker to discuss arrangements for 2020 to ensure some of the difficulties that had taken place in 2019 were not repeated.

The Golazo representative agreed to provide details of the funds raised and the charities supported as comment was made that this information was not transparent and readily available.

- Resolved** That Cllr J Baker be the main point of contact for the 2020 Tour of Cambridgeshire event through the village

88.0 PARISH COUNCIL MERGER

The Chairman introduced the item saying that he was looking for people's opinion on whether communication should take place with Alconbury Parish Council on the possibility of merging the 2 councils. A number of small councils across the county had merged in recent years and he was aware that there is a school of thought that the Alconburys are effectively the same village and that working as separate entities might not be the most effective and cost-efficient way of working.

It was noted that there could be cost savings but that the precept would be set by the new parish council. Despite potential advantages, there was some concern Alconbury Weston might become the 'poor relation' as it was the smaller entity. Also, any such merger could not be undertaken overnight and the process was likely to take a few years to complete, with the views of the whole community first being taken into account.

It was agreed that a conversation would not hurt and that it should be progressed as there would be no harm is at least discussing it. It was further agreed that the Chairman should be the person to make the initial contact with Alconbury.

- Resolved** That the Chairman approach Alconbury Parish Council with a view to starting a conversation on the merits of joining the two parishes into one body.

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89.0 WHITE HART UPDATE

It was noted that regrettably the local businessman who briefed the previous meeting was unable to raise sufficient operating capital to move the reopening project forward and so had withdrawn

90.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES

Cllr P Baker commented that there were no current issues that he was aware of in the village.

The Chairman and the Clerk had been in communication with the CCC Rights of Way Officer regarding the notices that had been placed on Footpath 5. They were advised that there was no intention to close the official route of path – the point being made was that walkers were allegedly diverting from the official route and crossing the owner's land, The owner was apparently merely seeking to protect parts of his land not currently designated as a public right of way from becoming such in the future. It was commented that the notices should have been put on the unofficial route that some walkers were taking.

It was agreed that Cllr Bryan make a post on 'Next Door' stating that the Parish Council had investigated and that CCC would put up amended notices shortly

Resolved 90.1 That the report be received and noted
90.2 That a post be put on 'Next Door' confirming that the Parish Council had investigated and alternative notices were to be put up by CCC

91.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Bryan stated that he had inspected the play area on 16 September and again prior to the meeting and had nothing to report.

It was agreed that Cllr Gillham should take over investigating new play equipment.

Resolved 91.1 That the report from Cllr Bryan be received and noted
91.2 That Cllr Gillham investigate the availability, suitability and cost of additional play equipment

92.0 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Stone reported on the Morelock training session she had attended. She stated that she had received lots of positive information but that there were a number of hidden financial implications such as the need for additional batteries and connectors. On a positive note, the units could also be used by Speedwatch if mounted on a tripod.

The exact purpose of the units was to analyse data of the cars coming through but if 2 cars pass too close together, they would only count as one vehicle. The units do not record number plates but log speed and frequency in order to build up a picture of road use that could be reported to county highways for use in targeting problem hotspots.

It was mentioned that it would be ideal to get 2 units with one funded by the Parish Council and one from the Police and Crime Commissioner who has funds available to match fund.

It was noted that the current speed indicators would not be replaced once they stop working so the Parish Council should look to act before that time. The benefit of the new units under discussion was that they would be easily relocatable so could be used in different areas where problems were perceived to exist.

Discussion then moved onto the subject of the alleged increasing number and size of transporter lorries travelling along Buckworth Road and carrying increasingly large plant. Some residents were complaining about inconvenience and danger caused, especially near the speed bumps, where some householders attributed cracks in walls resulting from vibration over the bumps. The meeting discussed the feasibility of supporting the residents with the problems they were experiencing. Various options were considered in terms of the removal or replacement of the speed bumps via a Local Highway Initiative application. The Clerk commented that members needed to be mindful that, although the CCC would fund 90% of any successful project up to £10,000. the cost of what Members were considering would likely be in excess of this and the parish council would be expected to fund the shortfall. She asked members to consider before they went further whether, although the difficulties being experienced by the residents on Buckworth Road should not be ignored, if it was fair for the whole village to potentially fund costly road works that would stop damage being done to only a small minority of private properties.

The draft letter proposed by Cllr Bryan to be sent to the Police HGV Watch was discussed. Essentially, it was requesting that traffic from SJH Holdings Ltd (the source of most of the offending traffic) could be rerouted so as to avoid the village. Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the letter should not be sent as an alternative route would no doubt involve extensive diversions along narrow country lanes.

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Instead, the HDC Planning Dept should be contacted to enquire whether SJH Ltd Holdings were now exceeding any constraints in the original planning permission for the site they are operating from.

- Resolved**
- 92.1 That the report from Cllr Stone be received and noted
 - 92.2 That £2500 be included in the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the 2020 financial year for the purchase of 1 Morelock Speed Indication Device and spares with an application made to the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund a second unit for the village
 - 92.3 That the proposed letter to the Police HGV Watch is not sent but the Clerk contact the HDC Planning Dept to establish if the current use of the SJH Ltd Holding site is within the parameters of granted planning permission

93.0 VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

It was noted that the new notice board was still to be installed but that plans were in place for it to happen soon. It was agreed that once in place contact details for the parish council should be displayed. It was further agreed that the contact details should be included in the Village Pump newsletter

Resolved That contact details for the Parish Council should be displayed on the new notice board and within the Village Pump newsletter

94.0 FOOTPATH BETWEEN VILLAGES

Neither the Chairman or Cllr P Baker had been able to attend the last Alconbury Parish Council meeting, however the Chairman did indicate that he had had an unofficial meeting with the Clerk that had led him to believe that Alconbury had requested repairs to some of the worst damaged areas of the route within the Alconbury boundary. The local, Huntingdon-based, CCC Highways Officer had accepted that he was responsible for the maintenance of the whole route but had indicated that there were no more funds available for any major work this year..

Resolved That the report be received and noted

95.0 STREET LIGHTING PARISH ENERGY HANDOVER

The Clerk confirmed she was still progressing and waiting on costs from the company approached to assist; the company was also working with a number of other parishes in the county

96.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker reported that the last cut has been done and that he did not recommend any further be carried out this season.

Speedwatch – Cllr Brine reported that although 5 sessions had been planned only 1 happened due to weather conditions and/or member availability. There were now 8 members in the group but many had holidays scheduled for September. He reported on his meeting with the CCC Officer responsible for highway speeding matters and that some good information had come out of the meeting. Contact had been made with the signals and systems team about the 2 speed indicators that are in the village. They are both coming to the end of their expected life span before they are replaced or removed. The Parish could install a Morelock SID in place but it would cost £3000 to decommission the current units. The issue would be reviewed again in December.

Discussion moved onto the Buckworth Road speed cushions that were starting to crumble with comment made that they should be replaced. However, if the parish council wants them to be taken away it would need to apply and fund the costs. It was mentioned that replacing the tarmac with rubber would be better option. In principle members felt that the cost should be investigated but that if the cost of replacement was too high that they should just be removed. It was agreed that Cllr Brine should investigate further the costs involved and report back to the next meeting and if viable it should be included in the 2020 budgets.

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported that the article for the Parish Pump was needed by the end of the week

Flood planning – Cllr Powley reported that he was still awaiting confirmation from the police regarding formalising the road closure instructions being documented in the Huntingdon Control Room.

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker commented that the last meeting held was mainly updates on information previously discussed.

A14 Legacy Fund – Cllr J Baker reported that the full application form was to be submitted by the end of this month

Amey Waste Transfer Station – No meeting held since the last meeting as the scheduled meeting had been postponed by a month.

- Resolved** 96.1 That all reports be received and noted
 96.2 That Cllr Brine investigate that costs of removing and replacing the speed bumps on Buckworth Road ahead of the next meeting

97.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

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

Beam – grass cutting for Sept & Oct	£570.00
Payroll & HMRC - October	£273.59
Greenbarnes - Noticeboard	£910.23
Balfour Beatty	£144.00
Wicksteed – Wetpour repair	£708.00
Alconbury Hall – room hire	£106.10

- Resolved** 97.1 That £1400 be transferred from CCLA to Unity Trust to allow payments to be made
 97.2 That the above payments are agreed and made by Cllr Brine and Powley

98.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

Cllr Stone reported that she had carried out an audit on the financial records ahead of the meeting and that everything was in order except a couple of invoices still needed to be signed although they were shown clearly in the minutes as having been agreed to being made.

- Resolved** 98.1 That the report by Cllr Stone be received and noted
 98.2 That the Bank Reconciliation up to 30 September 2019 be received and noted

99.0 BUDGET REPORT

The draft budget for the 2020/2021 Financial year was considered. Members noted that the draft included an increase in the precept again and were mindful that there had been a large increase in the current year. It was commented that this was because the Parish had run down its high reserves and was now precepting for what was being spent as there was no longer a cushion.

The Clerk commented that in her opinion based on the plans that the Parish Council had been discussing Members needed to consider carefully what they wished to do and when, in particular whether need for speed reduction measures was more important than for new play equipment at the current time.

- Resolved** 20.1 That the Budget Report up to 30 September be received and noted
 20.2 That the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the 2020/2021 Financial Year be considered further at the next meeting

100.0 PLANNING

No Planning matters were considered

101.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

102.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

It was agreed that Cllr Powley and Stone attend the PCC Parish Liaison Meeting on Monday 11 November in Hinchingsbrooke

Cllr Bryan reported that the next Connecting Cambridgeshire meeting would be held on 4th November in Cambourne

Cllr Stone reported that Morelock have a couple of SID's available for fund raising activities that parish council could borrow and it was suggested that this should be looked into for the fun day.

- Resolved** 102.1 That Cllrs Powley and Stone attend the PCC Parish Liaison Meeting on 11 November in Hinchingsbrooke
 102.2 That an item be added to the next agenda regarding the planting of wild flowers in roadside verges

SIGNED: _____

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council

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