

**Minutes of the Alconbury Weston Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 15 May 2017 at 7.30pm in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present: 5 Councillors, 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 16 May 2016 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and it was agreed should be signed by the Chairman at a later date

3 CHAIRMANS REPORT (appended to the minutes)

The Chairman referred to his report that had been circulated to the meeting and highlighted some points from within it.

4 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

No report had been received from Cllr Baker in advance of the meeting

5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

It was noted that neither Cllrs Ashcroft or Brown had stood for re-election at the recent County Council elections. Due to the boundary review changes Cllr Alan Gardener had been elected as the single County Councillor to represent the village as it now falls within the Alconbury and Kimbolton ward. No report had been received from Cllr Gardener in advance of 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 7.45

SIGNED: _____

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report for Alconbury Weston Parish Council

Year Ending May 2017

In December our long-standing Parish Clerk, Mrs Denise Benham resigned from the position after fourteen years with the council. However, our new clerk Mrs Alison Benfield was soon appointed and quickly found her feet, due to her qualifications and past experience with St Ives Town Council. She has only been in the post for five months but I believe that she will be of great benefit to the council. A further loss to the council was the resignation of Councillor Helene Mobius who left the council in September but I am pleased to say that Mr Bob Powley was co-opted on to the council in January 2017.

Police Matters

Our village continues to have a low crime rate, although there have been some Anti-social behaviour and vehicle crimes reported.

Flooding

Thankfully we have had no repeat of the flood this year. 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 Powley is involved in the Emergency Plan group. Cllr Powley is being aided by various residents in the village and we hope to have the Emergency plan completed soon. Permission was being sort to mount a CCTV camera to monitor the brook and any raising flood water. The camera feed is to be made available to interested people via the internet, as an early warning for raising water levels and potential flood situations.

White Hart

The village suffered a huge loss with the closure of the White Hart Public House in August 2016. The White Hart was our only village amenity left after the closure of the Shop, Butchers and Farm Shop. This has left the village without a meeting place and undeniably was our centre and focus of the village. The council is currently working on having the White Hart's building and car park listed as a Village Asset.

Grand Fondo

Once again, the Tour of Cambridgeshire cycle race will come through our village on Sunday 4th June, the organisers expect in the region of between 8000 and 9000 cyclists to travel through the village. Cllr Bryan and Ms Helen Foster are organising a Grand Funday to take place on the village green to coincide with the cycle race. This is progressing well and I hope that the event is a great success.

Footpaths

Cllr McGregor and Cllr Powley continues 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 caused some concerns to the council over the past 12 months with some sizeable repair bills to the play equipment. The play area is in regular use with children noted playing football. Although I have only noted light use of the remining play equipment.

A14 Upgrade

Work has started on this project with early signs being large areas of the countryside being cleared for the erection of large campus for workers and their machinery along the route. This project will no doubt cause much disruption to us all over the next few years.

Orphaned sites

Huntingdonshire District Council has confirmed to us that they will continue to take responsibility for the maintenance of all Orphaned Sites in Alconbury Weston. This includes the grassed areas in Highfield Avenue, West Close, Springfield and Wheatsheaf.

Grass cutting

Last year was plagued by issues caused by the poor performance of our grass cutting contactor. I am hoping that is behind us now as our new contractor has begun work with no major problems reported for the areas that we are responsible for.

I would like to thank our County Councillors Sir Peter Brown, Peter Ashcroft and District Councillor Keith Baker for their help and continued support.

I thank everyone on the council for their efforts over the past years.

Steven Lomas
15th May 2017

