

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 2 December 2019 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

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

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: 1 Member of the public

103.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made

104.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present at the meeting

105.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to address the meeting

106.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

107.0 TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Cllr J Baker reported that she had met with the Golazo representative along with Cllrs Bryan, Powley and Stone to discuss the route and arrangements for the 2020 event.

Route: It had been confirmed verbally that the route through the village would be the same as last year and not as detailed in the current road closure request submitted to Highways.

Road closure: Closure start time in Alconbury Weston would be 10:00 so vendors etc attending the fun day should be in place by 09:30 ideally (although a later arrival could be arranged with discussion in advance with the race organisers). The road closure is expected to be lifted by no later than 15:15.

Pit Stop: Will be located at Warreners' Farm but it had been agreed that the village could still provide helpers and receive a donation towards the fundraising on the day.

Toilet: Will be provided in the village and funded by the Tour of Cambridgeshire.

Vinegar Hill: The intention of the organisers was to arrange a competition, within the overall competition, of a sprint up the hill to add to the enjoyment of all.

Children's' Cycle Race: It had been suggested that the village might wish to hold a children's cycle race at the end of the day both to promote cycling and to act as a further fund-raising activity.

Having received the report and discussed some aspects of the proposed plans, it was agreed that Cllr J Baker should have further communication with Golazo on the finer details of the plans. In respect of the suggested children's cycle race, it was agreed that this should be considered further by the Fun Day committee.

Resolved 107.1 That the report from Cllr J Baker be received and noted
107.2 That the Fun Day Committee be requested to consider in more detail the suggestion of a Children's Cycle Race for fund raising purposes

108.0 THURSDAY CLUB

Cllr J Baker brought to the meeting some concerns regarding the current operation of the Thursday Club. There were issues, especially around funding.

It was agreed that Cllr J Baker should communicate further with the current and past organisers of the Thursday Club to gain a better insight into the situation. It was further agreed that, if the situation demanded it, she should invite the organisers (past and present) to come to the next meeting with proposals for the way forward.

Resolved 108.1 That the report from Cllr J Baker be received and noted
108.2 That Cllr J Baker investigate further and report back to the next meeting

109.0 AGAINST SCAMS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Stone presented information collected at the recent Conference on the Against Scams Partnership. Members felt that it was something that the Parish Council should promote within the community.

Resolved 109.1 That the report from Cllr Stone be received and noted

Chairman's Initials

- 109.2 That Cllr Stone request additional communication materials and promote them within the village.
- 109.3 That Cllr Bryan promote information on the Partnership via Next Door

110.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES

Paths – Cllr P Baker reported that, following the update at the last meeting, there had been damage to the bridge on footpath 2 but that it had since been repaired. He also reported that he had been in communication with the resident who had raised the issue of the state of the footway adjacent to the road going up Vinegar Hill. On the left of the path there is much encroaching vegetation leaving the tarmac only 400mm wide. Cllr P Baker reported that he was dealing with this. Comment was made that there was a similar problem along the High Street, and it was agreed to invite the County Councillor to the next meeting to discuss these matters.

Tree work – Cllr P Baker reported that the work contracted for was completed at the end of October except for the work on the horse chestnut near to the power lines. He agreed to contact the contractors and resolve the matters.

Christmas Tree planting – Cllr Bryan proposed that the village support the planting of Christmas trees after the festive season. It was agreed that it sounded like a good idea in principle but that it was too late this year to do this as there was a need to identify suitable planting areas and to get permission from landowners in place in advance. It was agreed that Cllr Bryan bring this forward again next year.

Wildflower growth – Cllr stone reported on a proposal that the maintenance of the road verges in the village be amended to constrain grass cutting in such a way as to encourage the growth of wildflowers. It was agreed that this should be trialled and that Cllr P Baker and Stone work together to draw a plan of where this was feasible.

- Resolved**
- 110.1 That the reports be received and noted
 - 110.2 That Cllr P Baker progress the tree works to conclusion
 - 110.3 That the CCC Cllr be invited to attend the next meeting to hear and discuss concerns linked to the narrowing of footways adjacent to roads in the village
 - 110.4 That Cllr Stone report back to the next meeting with potential areas to trial an amended grass cutting regime aimed at identifying where wildflowers might grow.

111.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Bryan reported that there was nothing to report on the condition of the play area.

Cllr Gillham reported that she had started to investigate what new play equipment might be available. She suggested that the best way forward was potentially to keep what was already in place but add something that older children might be interested in. She also stated that she had been considering possible fundraising opportunities.

Resolved That the reports be received and noted

112.0 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Surface dressing along Hamerton Road – Cllr Brine reported that he had been in communication with the network maintenance manager who had commented that the road had been used as a test for different surface materials as the last time it was dressed was 2014. Unfortunately, the process used had not been successful and arrangements were being made to meet with the contractors in the next few weeks to discuss remedial action. It was noted that it was a hazard in the current weather conditions. Cllr Brine confirmed he would continue to follow this up and report back at the next meeting.

Speed deterrence – Members considered a costings document circulated by Cllr Brine. The document covered the costs of: installing a rubber-based road narrowing arrangement on the approach to the village; a mobile speed monitoring device; and the cost of removing some existing speed bumps. He reported that the figures therein were indicative and based on costings given on the CCC website and other local highway improvement (LHI) bids he had investigated. Discussion took place on other options available with members being mindful of the issues caused by the existing speed bumps and not wanting to increase the problems.

Comment was also made regarding the large truck issue and the Clerk commented that she was waiting a response from the Planning Dept on the status of the original planning permission.

- Resolved**
- 112.1 That the reports be received and noted
 - 112.2 That Cllr Brine now refine his proposals with a view to the Council's bidding for LHI funding in the near future.
 - 112.3 That the Clerk hasten a response from Planning regarding the size of vehicles permitted to access the SJH-Plant site at the top of Buckworth Road

113.0 STREET LIGHTING PARISH ENERGY HANDOVER

Members considered the information provided from Utility Aid and agreed to appoint Haven Power to provide electricity to power the 3 parish-owned streetlights until 2023 at an indicative cost of £178 per annum.

- Resolved**
- 113.1 That the information from Utility Aid be received and noted
 - 113.2 That Haven Power be appointed to provide electricity to power the Parish Council owned streetlights until 2023 at an indicative cost of £178 per annum
 - 113.3 That the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to sign associated documentation including contract and direct debit mandate

114.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker – will update about verges at the next meeting

Speedwatch – Cllr Brine reported that he had responded to a survey on Speed Watch. There had been no activity in the village in November, but some events were planned for December

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported that an article was published in the Parish Pump and that copies of Council minutes were posted on the Next Door. Cllrs P Baker and Bryan undertook to erect the new notice board before the next meeting

Flood Planning – Cllr Powley reported that there had been a flood on 11 November. He commented that the road closure arrangements were still not satisfactory. It had taken 3hrs for the relevant Highways team to arrive on site and, although they closed one end of the road, they had to ask for directions as to where to close the other end of the Hamerton Road. Leaking sewerage remained a problem as, every time flooding occurs, the pumping station fails. Cllr Powley had asked the EA to assist and they seem to be keen to support a long-term solution to the problem and have requested details of the dates that incidents had been reported.

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – next meeting to be held on 7 Jan 2020

A14 Legacy Fund – Cllr J Baker reported that she was in the process of seeking funding for a marquee from the A14 Legacy Fund. She had completed the first process in stage 2 by submitting supporting docs and was expecting to hear more in February.

Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan reported that a meeting had been held on 12 November with 3 residents, the new Site Manager, the site Operations Manager, Cambridgeshire County Councillor Ian Gardener and Alconbury Parish Councillor Peter Tarabella in attendance. The biggest problem was the smell during the hot summer. When the wind is from the South West, residents at Monkswood Farm are unable to sit outside and have to keep all their windows closed. The Manager reported that they keep the doors of the garden waste store closed as much as possible and are looking to install a more powerful odour suppression system. Three instances of litter were reported

Resolved That all reports be received and noted

115.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

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

1 st Responder - Donation	£500.00
Payroll & HMRC – November & December	£547.18
CCC – 2019/20 Street Light Energy	£189.62
CAPALC – Cllr Training	£75.00
AskIT – Antivirus Renewal	£20.95
Bank charges	£25.00

- Resolved**
- 115.1 That £1300 be transferred from CCLA to Unity Trust to allow payments to be made
 - 115.2 That the above payments are agreed and made by the Chairman and Vice Chairman

116.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

The Clerk informed members of the charges incurred due to insufficient funds being available in the Unity Trust account to pay cheques that had been issued in July and not cashed by the groups.

- Resolved**
- 116.1 That the report by the Clerk regarding the bank charges be received and noted
 - 116.2 That the Bank Reconciliation up to 31 October 2019 be received and noted

99.0 BUDGET REPORT

Resolved That the Budget Report up to 30 November be received and noted

117.0 ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2020-2021

The Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the 2020/2021 Financial year were considered. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that it was a sound projection and that the Precept be set at £14,553.

Chairman's Initials

- Resolved** 117.1 That the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the 2020/2021 Financial Year be received and noted
 117.2 That a Precept of £14,553.00 be set for the 2020-2021 Financial year

118.0 PLANNING

Consideration was given to planning application:

19/02364/HHFUL: Single-storey rear extension. High Gables Buckworth Road Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JX

Members discussed their displeasure at not having been notified that a recent planning application that they had recommended refusal on had gone to the Development Control Panel for consideration without their being informed in time to send a representative to provide the parish view. It was agreed that representation should be made to HDC to inform them of this and request that Parish Councils be informed of contentious issues affecting the parish when they are to be submitted to Development Control Panel.

- Resolved** 118.1 That no comment be made on application 19/02364/HHFUL
 118.2 That a letter be written to the Planning Dept expressing displeasure that they had not been informed that a recent planning application within the village had gone to the Development Control Panel or that they were invited to attend the meeting and present the views of the parish council

119.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

No reports had been received from the County Cllr in advance of the meeting.

120.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Email from resident regarding speed bumps on Buckworth Road – agreed that the Clerk should respond, thank them for raising the concern and inform them of the actions being taken by the Parish Council.

A letter of thanks had been received from the RBL for the donation toward the poppy wreaths.

The Clerk confirmed she would arrange for the dates of the 2020 meetings to be displayed on the website.

Cllr Bryan reported on the Connecting Cambridge meeting he had recently attended regarding the roll out of fast fibre broadband in the villages. It will be rolled out by BT and County Broadband, but no prices were yet available at the moment. There will be funding from government for the installation and implementation is likely to be 2022.

Cllr Bryan reported on the future of the busway. There was a new management team in place who will be relaunching the busway. Larger busses are being introduced to address current overloading and services will be more regular. He further reported attending a meeting in Peterborough regarding the future of the Combined Authority Mayor Metro services and was meeting with the County Cllr to discuss options for bringing more bus services back into the village.

Cllr Gillam reported on blocked storm drains and was informed they should be reported on the CCC website.

Happy to Chat bench – Cllr Stone drew attention to an initiative aimed at addressing loneliness community life. Whilst potentially a very positive initiative, it was decided that the Parish Council needed to be more aware of the implications and background before getting involved.

SIGNED: _____

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council