

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 15 July 2019 in Alconbury Memorial Hall**

Present:

Councillors: J Baker, P Baker, M Bryan, B Powley (Chairman)

Clerk: A Benfield

Others: A Stone

37.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made

38.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs S Brine & J Evans (personal)

39.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

40.0 RESIGNATION AND CO-OPTION

Members noted the resignation of Cllr York with regret and wished him well for the future.

The Clerk reported that HDC had been informed of the resignation and of the required notices informing the electorate of the resignation and an opportunity to request an election had been published. As no election had been requested within the requisite time the Parish Council was able to co-opt to fill the vacancy. She informed the meeting that 2 people had applied for co-option but that one had decided to withdraw prior to the meeting

The Chairman asked Mrs Stone, the remaining applicant, what attributes she would bring to the council to benefit the village should she be co-opted. She indicated that ground maintenance was of interest to her along with secure areas for dog walking.

Having considered her application and her response to the Chairman's question it was agreed unanimously that Mrs Stone be co-opted onto the parish council

- Resolved**
- 40.1 That the resignation of Cllr York be received and noted with regret
 - 40.2 That confirmation that the vacancy could be filled by co-option be received and noted
 - 40.3 That Mrs A Stone be co-opted onto the Parish Council
 - 40.4 That Mrs A Stone sign her declaration of acceptance of office and join the meeting formally.

41.0 Councillor Areas of Responsibility and Representation on Outside Bodies

In light of the resignation and co-option Members reviewed Councillor areas of responsibility and:-

Discussion took place regarding the set up of the Woolley Hill Wind Farm and it was agreed the Cllr Stone be the representative

- Resolved**
- 41.1 That Cllr Stone be appointed to be the Council representative on the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Committee
 - 41.2 That Cllr Evans be the Councillor responsible for looking into the play area refurbishment
 - 41.3 That Cllr Bryan be appointed as the Council flood alleviation representative.

42.0 MINUTES

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

43.0 PARISH PATHS AND TREES

Paths – Cllr P Baker commented that he had received no communication linked to parish paths and had nothing of relevance to report at the current time

An update was provided on the Church Way route. It was noted that there are no issues with the section within Alconbury Weston; however, confirmation was still awaited on the status of the next section (in Alconbury Parish). Cllrs Powley and P Baker were to continue to pursue an outcome. It was agreed that a letter be written to the County Councillor summarising the discussion and requesting details on who the point of contact should be at either County or District level.

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It was noted that the A14 team had put some planings along the path to do some remedial works and this was a positive improvement; however, the bad area at the Alconbury Weston end of the roadway section was still in a very poor state.

Trees - Cllr P Baker reported that he was still waiting on quotes from arborists to carry out the work required within the Tree Report. He agreed to send the information he held to the clerk so that she could ensure it was brought back to the next meeting for consideration and potential appointment of a contractor.

In relation to agenda item 45.4, Cllr J Baker reported that she had communicated with the owner of the hedge overhanging the footpath on the section of North Road running uphill from Butchers Close and that he had confirmed that it would be trimmed shortly.

- Resolved**
- 43.1 That the verbal update from Cllr P Baker be received and noted
 - 43.2 That Cllrs Powley and P Baker provide a written summary of the discussions on site with the Rights of Way and Highways Officers to enable the Clerk to write to the County Councillor requesting assistance to move the matter forward to conclusion
 - 41.3 That Cllr P Baker forward all communications to the Clerk linked to requesting quotations for tree work as required within the Tree Report to enable her to provide an update in line Financial Regulations to the next meeting so allowing a contract for works to be let
 - 41.4 That the verbal report from Cllr J Baker in relation to agenda item 45.4 be received and noted

44.0 PLAY AREA

Cllr Bryan reported that he had inspected the play area as follows:-

- 24 June - grass cut and weeds strimmed
- 13 June - greased and oiled equipment as required
- 5 July - all OK except small cut in the fibreglass of one of the ball games.

He further reported that there had been a big increase in the Raven population in the park and this was having a detrimental effect on the swings through resultant droppings on the swing seats. It was agreed that Cllr Bryan arrange for bird deterrents to be purchased at a cost of approximately £10 to address the issue.

Having reviewed the Wicksteed annual inspection report, it was agreed that the company should be appointed to carry out the Wetpour repairs to the rubber pavement at a cost of £700

- Resolved**
- 44.1 That the report from Cllr Bryan be received and noted
 - 44.2 That Cllr Bryan carry out repairs to the fibreglass on the ball game and purchase bird deterrent at a cost of approximately £10 to combat the raven issue.
 - 44.3 That the annual play area inspection report be received and noted
 - 44.4 That Wicksteed be appointed to carry out Wetpour repairs in the play area at a cost of £700

45.0 HIGHWAY MATTERS

A comprehensive report provided by Cllr Brine was considered; however, councillors had questions which could not be answered at the meeting in Cllr Brine's absence – further clarity was required on the proposals.

In the interim, it was felt that there was insufficient data to proceed with any bids for more physical speed prevention measures for the next financial year. Instead, it was proposed that more evidence on speeding patterns be collected using portable speed indication devices, which might be affordable from Parish Funds. A representative from Morelock, who supply such devices, had offered to attend the next meeting to discuss proposals in more detail and it was agreed that this should be arranged.

It was noted that Speedwatch was now fully operational and working well with a morning session in July noting that from the 168 vehicles logged only 4 had exceeded the speed limit on Hamerton Road.

Members noted the inconsistency in weight limit signage on Buckworth Road and North Road as, unlike in Alconbury, there was presently no limit on North Road through Alconbury Weston. It was commented that perhaps this should be reviewed. Following discussion, it was decided not to pursue a standardisation of weight restriction on North Road in either direction.

Informal complaints of noise irritation caused to residents from the speed pads on Vinegar Hill that had been received and noted at the previous meeting were again briefly discussed. It was agreed that the complainant be invited to submit a detailed formal complaint in writing to the Parish Clerk.

- Resolved**
- 45.1 That the information provided by Cllr Brine be received and noted and that he be requested to provide further clarification at the next meeting

- 45.2 That the Clerk contact the Morelock representative and request that someone attends the next meeting to explain about speed indication devices to members.
- 45.3 That the Parish Council not pursue a standardisation of weight restrictions on North Road
- 45.4 That Cllr Brine be asked to invite the resident who was suffering noise irritation from the speed pads on Vinegar Hill to submit a formal written complaint to the Clerk.

46.0 SEWERAGE ON HAMERTON ROAD DURING FLOODING

A report from Cllr Brine was received and considered. It was noted that the pumps on High Street fail regularly during flooding so causing raw sewerage to spill onto Hamerton Road. Although Anglian Water do come out and fix the pumps each time, a long-term solution is needed to prevent such spillages in the future.

Resolved That the Clerk write to Anglia Water requesting that a permanent solution be found and implemented as soon as possible to rectify the continual failures. .

47.0 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOOD PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Cllr Powley reported that the EA were considering 4 ongoing studies investigating ways of reducing the risk of flooding within the village. The 4 approaches are: to build a holding pond upstream: to build a diversionary canal around village: to build up the banks of the Brook through the village; and to implement natural flood management techniques on land around the village, mainly upstream. At the last liaison group meeting they had requested feedback from villagers on whether any of 4 suggested solutions should be ruled out before any more funds were invested in study work. Subsequently the EA indicated that they do not want too much publicity around the options so as not to raise expectations.

Comment was made that a number of natural flood management techniques had been implemented by some local land owners already and that the latter option, together with option1 were the most favoured. Also, those present were not in favour of banks being built up along the Brook.

It was agreed that Cllr Powley should report back that the Parish Council would not support the proposal to build up the banks but that all other options should continue to be investigated.

- Resolved**
- 47.1 That the verbal report by Cllr Powley be received and noted
- 47.2 That Cllr Powley be authorised to respond to the EA stating that the Parish Council would not support the proposal to build up the banks of the Brook but that all other options should continue to be investigated

48.0 VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

A brief discussion took place on the location of a replacement board as concern was raised that there might be difficulties in locating it on the North Road edge of the village green as it this might interfere with the utilities believed to be running along that edge.

- Resolved**
- 48.1 That the Clerk purchase a notice board from Greenbarns at a cost of £759 as detailed in the quotation circulated.
- 48.2 That Cllrs Bryan and P Baker identify an appropriate location on the village green adjacent to North Road.
- 48.3 That Cllr Bryan provide the Clerk with a delivery address within the village

49.0 FOOTPATH BETWEEN VILLAGE

It was noted that this item had been covered during agenda item 43.0

50.0 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW 2019

- Resolved**
- 50.1 That the information be received and noted
- 50.2 That the Clerk respond that the current location is acceptable to the village and that no change is required

51.0 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

Resolved That the information be received and noted

52.0 STREET LIGHTING PARISH ENERGY HANDOVER

- Resolved**
- 52.1 That the information be received and noted
- 52.2 That the Clerk provide details of suitable suppliers at the next meeting

53.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker reported that he had received one complaint from a resident. He had listened to the concerns and would liaise with the contractor accordingly.

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Speedwatch – Cllr Brine’s written report had been considered at agenda item 45.0

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan commented that the Parish Pump was due to be published this month. It was suggested that he include an ‘any concerns please contact us’ message.

Flood Planning – Cllr Powley reported that there was still no agreement on the road closure procedures during flooding. The latest situation was that the Police were going to come and discuss options. The Clerk commented that she was to confirm with the Highways Dept Manager details of the Chapter 8 Road Closure Certification both she and Cllr Powley held.

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker reported that no meeting had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

A14 Legacy Fund – Cllr J Baker reported that she was investigating options for the purchase of a marquee through the fund and that the project was ongoing. It was agreed that Cllr J Baker should continue and submit an application in August.

Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan commented that he had nothing to report as there had not been a meeting of that group since the last Parish Council meeting and he had received no complaints

Resolved That all reports be received and noted

54.0 TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND FUNDAY

It was agreed that the race organisers should be invited to attend the next meeting to explain what had resulted in the miscommunication ahead of the race. It was also agreed that the County Councillor for the village should be invited to attend to hear the concerns first hand and explain how other villages felt about the race and surrounding organisational issues.

It was noted that £511 had been raised during the fun day and had been paid into the Council’s bank account. Based on the support they had provided in running the event it was agreed to donate £250 to the Thursday Club, £150 to the Scouts and £100 to the Brownies, with the remaining £11 being added to the Community fund.

Resolved 54.1 That the Clerk invite the Tour of Cambridgeshire Organiser and the village County Councillor to attend the next meeting to discuss the difficulties that had occurred in the village as a result of miscommunication in the run-up to this year’s event

54.2 That, based on the support they had provided in running the village fun day this year the following donations be made - £250 to the Thursday Club, £150 to the Scouts and £100 to the Brownies with the remaining £11 being added to the Community fund.

55.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

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

Beam – grass cutting for May & June	£570.00
Payroll & HMRC - May	£273.59
Cllr Powley - Expenses	£19.40
Wicksteed – Play Area Inspection	£54.00
CAPALC – Cllr Conference	£100.00
Thursday Club	£250.00
Scouts	£150.00
Brownies	£100.00

Resolved That the above payments are agreed and made by Cllrs J Baker, and Powley online, with Cllrs Bryan and P Baker signing the donations cheques.

56.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

Resolved That the Bank Reconciliation up to 30 June 2019 be received and noted

57.0 BUDGET REPORT

Resolved That the Budget Report up to 30 June 2019 be received and noted

58.0 PLANNING

The following planning application was considered: -

Reference: 19/01210/HHFUL - Proposed removal of rear conservatory & erection of new single storey side & front extensions & alterations at 14 Church Way Alconbury Weston Huntingdon

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Resolved That the planning application be received and noted and no comments made.

59.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

60.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Cllrs Powley and Bryan commented on the CAPALC conference they had attended where Councils were encouraged be aware of the need review cyber security.

- Resolved**
- 60.1 That the HDC Waste Minimisation Officer communication be received and noted
 - 60.2 That no matters of concern were raised
 - 60.3 No Items were requested to be included on the next agenda.

SIGNED:

Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council

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