

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council  
held on Monday 22 June 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, M Bryan, A Gillham, B Powley (Chairman) & A Stone

**Clerk:** A Benfield

**Others:** 2 representatives from Cambs ACRE and 1 member of the public were present

**22.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made

**23.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received as all Members were present

**24.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public attended and reported on the current works being carried out on the White Hart. He indicated that the refurbishment was going well. Listed Building Consent for the external work had been applied for but work could not start prior to permission be granted. The planned work includes the installation of French doors and DDA access. The opening had been delayed until the end of August

**25.0 MINUTES**

Following a minor amendment to the initial of the Vice Chairman from B to J the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and it was agreed they be signed by the Chairman when meeting in public is allowed

**26.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- Resolved**
- 26.1 That the Risk Assessment be received and noted
  - 26.2 That page numbering be incorporated
  - 26.3 That reference to on-line data backup via AskIT be included

**27.0 COVID-19**

Cllr J Baker provided a verbal report on the village's response to the crisis. She indicated that all actions implemented were continuing to work well.

**28.0 PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES (WEBSITES AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS) (NO. 2) ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018**

- Resolved**
- 28.1 That the requirement for the parish website to meet the regulations by September 2020 be received and noted
  - 28.2 That AskIT be appointed to carry out the necessary work to bring the website up to date and meet the requirements
  - 28.3 That the ongoing annual hosting and maintenance fee increase be noted.

**29.0 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Grass cutting & village green – Cllr P Baker reported that grass cutting was ongoing

Speedwatch – It was agreed that Cllr Stone be appointed as the Speedwatch Representative following the resignation of Mr Brine

Communication with Parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported that the deadline for content for the next edition of the Village Pump was 10 July.

Flood Emergency Plan – Cllr Powley had not update to provide

Flood Alleviation – Cllr Bryan had no update to provide

Play Area report – Cllr Gillham presented a short report on the schemes that have been proposed by play area providers. It was noted that discussion on grant funding sources and community consultation was still required and that this should include the children being asked what they want and prefer not just the adults. It was agreed that consultation should take place in September on the assumption that the schools would be back following the COVID-19 lockdown

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Parish Paths & Trees – Cllr P Baker reported that he had received no comments about paths and it was noted that County Councillor Gardiner was still awaiting an update. It was noted that the tree by the War Memorial adjacent to the village green appeared to have died, Cllr P Baker agreed to contact HDC and CCC arborists to arrange removal

Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker reported that the meeting had been cancelled again so she was not able to provide an update.

Grant Funding – this item was covered under the Play Area discussion

Highway Liaison – it was agreed this item would be covered under agenda item 31.00

Wooley Hill Wind Farm Grant Body – Cllr Stone reported that she had still not managed to get any information on this. It was agreed the Clerk should make contact with the awarding body.

Amey Waste Transfer Station – No meeting held since the last meeting

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

### 30.0 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT IN ALCONBURY WESTON – THIS ITEM WAS BROUGHT FORWARD TO BEFORE 29.0**

Cllr Bryan explained the background to his request to have this agenda item added to the meeting. He commented that there was a lack of affordable housing in the village and that as a result the village was 'gentrifying' as younger residents moved out. He proposed that Cambs ACRE be appointed to carry out a survey in the village to ascertain the need for affordable housing.

The Cambs ACRE representatives introduced themselves and provided an explanation on what happen the process would be should the Council decided to proceed. The process leading to the production of a report would take about 3months from start to finish. There would be no cost to the parish council as the cost of the survey is met by the housing association who are appointed. They explained that normally the development location would likely be a site to build the minimum number of housing on the edge of the village that would not normally get planning permission. The houses would be reserved for people who either live or work in the village. On a rural exception site, priority is given to those currently living in the village, work in the village or have family already in the village. On the question of whether affordable housing would remain in perpetuity for entitled villagers, it was advised that, if no one in the village wanted a particular property, it could be offered to someone in the next village.

**Resolved** That Cambs ACRE be appointed to undertake a survey within the village.

### 31.0 **ROAD STRATEGY**

Cllr Stone commented that, having discussed the matter of a road strategy with Cllr P Baker and Mr Brine, it had been agreed that the first step should be to purchase a Speed Indication Device. The next step would be to identify and separate those highway matters that were considered to be maintenance from new proposals.

A detailed discussion took place on priorities both in terms of maintenance and speed reduction measures. It was agreed that anything that was considered to be a maintenance matter should be raised with Highways in the first instance and any new proposals should be based on informed decisions supported by SID data. It was agreed that an evidence-based approach should be used to ascertain where speed reduction measures should be implemented first.

**Resolved** That permission to mount the SID when received on lamp posts should be progressed with Balfour Beatty and CCC by the Clerk, after Cllr Stone had advised which posts were needed, and that the pro-forma invoice for £3248.00 be paid

### 32.0 **THE FORD FOOTBRIDGE**

Cllr Powley reported that the bridge refurbishment had been put on hold following traces of active water voles being found by the EA ecologist. Further work had since been carried out that established that the voles have moved up stream. In light of this, it was anticipated that work would proceed shortly.

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

### 33.0 **PLANNING**

Consider was given to the following Planning Application:-  
20/00664/LBC External and internal alterations - including removal and replacement of poor-quality decoration and modern fixtures and fittings, the renewal of services including replacement W.C., bathroom and kitchen fittings, as well as necessary repairs and all-round redecoration. Remove some modern partitions and non-original doors. Public House The White Hart 2 Vinegar Hill Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JA  
[http://docs.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/NorthgateIM.WebSearch/\(S\(owc5l245l5skl0545h3hjut45\)\)/Results.aspx](http://docs.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/NorthgateIM.WebSearch/(S(owc5l245l5skl0545h3hjut45))/Results.aspx)

**Resolved** That the application be recommended for approval

#### 34.0 Village Tree

This item was covered under item 29.7

#### 35.0 Village Defibrillator provision

Cllr Powley proposed that the parish council should consider the acquisition and location of a defib unit for the village. He commented that the landlord of the White Hart had offered to allow it to be affixed on the front of the property. The cost of a unit was in the region of £2500.

Members agreed in principle on the understanding that the funds to purchase could be found. The Clerk suggested that the recent CIL money receipt could be used for this purpose or that the local Rotary Group be approached for a contribution to the cost. Cllr Gillham agreed to investigate further.

#### 36.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

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

BEAM – Grass cutting	£285.00
Payroll & HMRC – June Salary	£273.59
HDC – Bin emptying	£1819.01
Haven Power – Street Light Energy (direct debit)	£9.74
A Benfield – Expenses (annual PDF Filler subscription)	£119.69

**Resolved** That the above payments be agreed and would be authorised by Cllrs P Baker and Bryan

#### 37.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

**Resolved** That the Bank Reconciliation up to 31 May 2020 be received and noted

#### 38.0 BUDGET REPORT

**Resolved** 38.1 That the Budget Report up to 31 May 2020 be received and noted

38.2 That a s137 donation of £50 be made to the RBL for Remembrance Day Wreaths for the village

#### 39.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

It was noted that District and County Cllr Gardener had been unable to attend or provide a report in advance of the meeting

#### 40.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

The following comments from Councillors regarding matters affecting the village were made

- Cllr J Baker commented that she was awaiting the outcome of the grant application to the Mick George Grant Fund for a marquee for the village
- The development work on a large barn type building at the top of Vinegar Hill was mentioned and the matter of planning approval was raised.
- The Highways program to resurface roads was mentioned and the repair work to the damaged surface on Hamerton Road was questioned

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

**Chairman - Alconbury Weston Parish Council**

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