

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Weston Parish Council
held on Monday 28th June 2021**

1.0 Present:

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

Clerk: C Copley (acting Clerk)

Others: 3 Members of public

MINUTES

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from County and District Councillor Mr I Gardener

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs J and P Baker declared an interest in planning item 12.0.

4.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2 members of public representing the Glynn's Fund requested information from Cllrs regarding the ring-fenced funds for Thursday Club. Cllr J Baker agreed to provide the information outside of this meeting.

The third member of public wished to voice concerns regarding the Community Governance Review as per item 7.0 below.

5.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council held on 4th May 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6.0 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The statutory period for electors to request an election to fill the vacancy on the Council, due to the resignation of Cllr A Gillham, has now passed without such a request having been made. Therefore, the Council can now make the necessary arrangements to co-opt to fill the vacancy

7.0 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – MERGER OF PARISH COUNCILS

Discussion took place between members and Lisa Jablonska, District Council Elections and Democratic Services Manager, in relation to confusion around what the respective District Council and Parish Councils responsibilities were in relation to the potential merger and Community Governance Review, Importantly, there was confusion regarding at what stage any public consultation was to take place and the amount of detail to be consulted on. Lisa informed the Council that it would be possible to pause the Review at this stage whilst the Parish Council take up further discussions, after which the timetable could be rescheduled – there being sufficient time to do so before the May 2022 elections.

Resolved That the Parish Council reconvene the working group at the earliest opportunity with Alconbury Parish Council, enabling discussion of the details of how a parish council grouping would work in practice, taking advice from CAPALC, Clerks along with consultation with parishioners.
That members explore pausing the CGR, and table the discussion for resolution at the August meeting.

8.0 FLOOD ALIEVIATION

Cllr Powley provided an update to members which is appended to these minutes.

9.0 REQUEST FROM 1st ALCONBURY BEAVERS

To receive and consider the request to plant forget me nots on selected Parish Council owned areas.

Resolved Cllr Stone to liaise with the Beavers to establish possible areas for planting and report back at the next meeting.

10.0 CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Cllr Stone recently attended the Code of Conduct training and provided and recommended it for other members to undertake. The Model Code of Conduct from NALC will be rolled out for parish councils to adopt.

Resolved That the Clerk to circulate future training dates to all members of the council.

11.0 TOUR OF CAMBRIDGE

Cllr J Baker confirmed the Tour of Cambridge for this year will not be able to go ahead but plans are being put in place to hold an event for the 2022 Jubilee celebrations.

12.0 PLANNING

To receive notice of withdrawn application;

20/01547/FUL

The erection of 3 detached dwellings, following the demolition of the stables and the re-use of the exercise yard associated with the disused equestrian use. Salix Stud And Livery, Hamerton Road Alconbury Weston – withdrawn by applicant.

12.1 To receive notice from Street Naming, HDC as follows;

SNN7504 – 3 New Dwellings at Salix House, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston.

Plot 1 – 3 The Old Stables, Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston

Resolved 12.0 to receive and note the withdrawal of the application
12.1 to receive and note the naming of plots 1-3 as The Old Stables.

13.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Grass cutting and village green – Cllr P Baker had nothing to report.

Speedwatch and SID – Cllr Stone provided an update appended to these minutes.

Communication with parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported that the deadline for the next edition for the Parish Pump is the 7th July.

Flood Emergency Planning – Cllr Powley's report is appended to these minutes.

Flood Alleviation Plan – Cllr Bryan reported that the Flood Mobile had visited Alconbury and will be back there again on the 10th July for the village fete. Councillors and residents are working on an exercise to establish the cost of repairs to households that flooded.

Play area maintenance – Cllr Bryan had nothing to report.

Parish paths and trees – Cllr P Baker had reported the overhanging greenery to the footpath on Vinegar Hill to the land owner. Cllr Stone suggested a Hornbeam tree be suitable replacement for the memorial tree and will report back with more details when received.

Alconbury Weald Liaison Group – Cllr J Baker reported a Joint Parishes meeting had been held recently but the minutes are yet to be received.

Highways Liaison – Cllr P Baker had nothing to report.

Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan reported that a resident had reported one day of bad smells from the site.

Wooley Hill Wind Farm Grant Body – Cllr Stone reported that no meeting had been held.

Resolved That the reports be received and noted.

14.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

To ratify those payments made between meetings

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Payroll & HMRC – May | £281.19 |
| Haven Power D/D | £ 9.37 |

To note and agree the following payments are made:-

| | |
|--|---------|
| 1 BEAM – Grass cutting 01214/01228/01236 | £855.00 |
| 2 Payroll & HMRC – A Benfield June salary | £281.19 |
| 3 Staff expenses A Benfield– PDF Filler | £106.52 |
| 4 Alconbury PC Locum Clerk pay May 2021 | £103.18 |
| 5 Locum Clerk expenses June 2021 (travel) | £ 18.58 |
| 5 Cllr Bryan – flowers for planters | £ 24.00 |
| 6 Evolve Accountancy – Internal audit 2021 | £ 90.00 |
| 7 Earth Anchors – Picnic bench | £540.00 |
| 8 AskIT – invoice 15381 April 2021 | £ 50.40 |

Resolved That the above payments be agreed and actioned by the Cllrs J and P Baker
That the Clerk arrange for Cllr Rochford be set up as a bank signatory.

15.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

Resolved That the stand-in Clerk was unable to provide a bank reconciliation due to restricted access to banking. It was hoped that the issue would be sorted by next month.
That the Clerk and Cllr Stone meet to run through the Council's books.

16.0 TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM UNITY BANK TO CCLA

Resolved That £10,000 be transferred from Unity Trust to the CCLA deposit fund.

17.0 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2020-21

Resolved That the Chairman and Clerk duly sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 200-21. The Clerk will forward to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn.

18.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

No reports received due to absence.

19.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

19.1 To note the following communications not previously circulated:-

- None to date

19.2 To receive comments from Councillors regarding matters affecting the village. – none received.

19.3 To agree items to be brought forward to the next meeting for further consideration – none received.

20.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 23rd August 2021 – Venue to be confirmed.

Highways Liaison – Cllr's Stone and Rochford.

Speedwatch and SID – Cllr Stone provided an update on SID (speed indicator device) usage. Great North Road data was skewed because of the fire on the electricity pole and the proximity of the Buckworth Road Junction. As a result, the North Road pole is now considered to be unsuitable for SID data collection. (Permission is being sought to move the pole further along on Great North Road). A licence will be required. The fastest recorded speed was 49mph on Great North Road.

Four weeks of data saw 40.2% of speed violations Vinegar Hill. With one vehicle entering the 30mph zone at 81 mph. A copy of the Pie Chart has been forwarded to Cllr Gardener to start negotiations for a buffer zone. Cllr's Rochford and Stone will re-locate the SID on Buckworth Road later this week (1.7.21) for one month.

Three Speedwatch sessions were held in June using a combined Alconbury Weston and Alconbury team. It had a mixed success in terms of volume of traffic, but the team's presence had a positive effect on speed awareness. There is a need to be sharper on vehicle registration collection accuracy.

One of the new recruits observed the session held in conjunction with the National Specials weekend initiative (5th June). Sessions are planned for the first 2 weeks in July and a training video will be circulated to all new recruits/volunteers to the team as soon as confirmation from Amanda Large (is received. National Speed Safety Day is planned for 15th September, details to follow.

The Alconburys Flood Group (TAFG)- Report from Cllr Powley

The Alconburys Flood Group (TAFG) comprises individuals from both villages looking to alleviate flooding. It has a number of projects including upstream and downstream projects which aim to slow the flow of flood water in to the villages and speed up that out of the villages retrospectively such that flood waters do not endanger properties.

Teams are looking at strategically placed hard and soft dams and bunds, together with a largish holding pond, upstream and removing obstacles and areas of congestion downstream. These efforts will be complemented by other EA-led, Natural Flood Management (NFM) initiatives, including tree planting and better land management, mainly upstream. Other work, more relevant just to Alconbury involves improving drainage and pumping under the A1 bridge over Rusts Lane and working with Alconbury Weald developers to address water run off from the new developments there.

TAFG reports to both Alconbury and Alconbury Weston Parish Councils and its projects are being planned to sit within an overall strategy aimed at defining targets such that each project makes a defined contribution to the overall aim of preventing the flooding of properties in both villages.

As far as addressing flood waters in the brook is concerned, the teams have currently made some specific upstream proposals which they are now seeking consultancy support from the EA to evaluate. These proposals differ from those made in the past as the latter were deemed unaffordable.