

ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alconburywestonparishcouncil.co.uk

Temporary Parish Clerk: Charlotte Copley

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Meeting held Monday 20th September 2021 at Upton Village Hall, Green Lane, Upton, PE28 5YE from 7.00pm.

MINUTES

		Actions
36.0 PRESENT		
Councillors	J Baker, M Bryan, B Powley (Chairman), S Rochford & A Stone	
Clerk	C Copley	
Others	2 Members of public	
37.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE		
	Apologies received from Cllr P Baker due to work commitments and Cllr I Gardener due to his attendance required elsewhere.	
38.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST		
	None received.	
39.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION		
	The 2 members of public present attended in relation to agenda item 43.0 planning application. 21/02027/OUT.	
	The Council resolved to move item 43.0 up to this point in the agenda to allow continuation of discussion on planning items.	
43.0 PLANNING		
	21/01509/FUL Proposed change of use of existing detached garage, workshop and store to dwelling 9 High Street Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JP.	
	21/02027/OUT Outline application for the erection of up to 15 dwellings (60% affordable) along with associated infrastructure and landscaping with all matters reserved apart from access Land North of Butchers Close Alconbury Weston.	
Resolved	21/01509/FUL 9 High Street, Alconbury Weston. That the Council record the vote of no observations either in favour or against the development.	Clerk
	21/02027/OUT Land North of Butchers Close, Alconbury Weston. That the Planning Authority provide more details on the proposed parking provision (including for visitors) and for flood mitigation (as part of the proposed site is subject to standing water during heavy rain), and request that consideration be given by the developers to contributing to the implementation of a 30-mph speed limit adjacent to the site and continuing up to number 43 Vinegar Hill.	Clerk
	That the Clerk contact the Planning Authority case officer for an explanation as to why public notices of the proposed development had not been seen erected adjacent to the site.	Clerk
43.1 OVERDUE COUNCIL PAYMENTS		
Resolved	That the Clerk take up discussion with Hunts District Council to establish why CIL payments have not been received from 2 historic planning applications.	Clerk
40.0 MINUTES		
	The minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd August 2021 were confirmed as a correct record of proceedings and therefore signed by the Chairman.	
41.0 PARISH COUNCIL GROUPING		
	Cllr Powley provided an update following the recent Working Group meeting where members took the opportunity to speak with Histon and Impington Parish Council, who have grouped, to hear their experience of the process. The latter had been grouped under one Council for about 12 years and had no regrets about grouping. Tentative proposals for the Alconburys envisaged a grouped council under the name of Alconbury-cum-Weston comprising up to 13 councillors, with the split between two villages still to be agreed.	

Resolved That, by 4 votes to one, the council agreed to continue to work with Alconbury Parish Council to put in place a single council to oversee the 2 villages, much as described in a draft letter attached to these minutes.
That the Clerk have further discussion with the Elections Office to confirm the process around the 2022 elections and what format the voting process would take and to establish if a business plan would be required.
That Cllr Powley continue discussion with Alconbury Parish Council with regards to the division of councillors.
That, in coordination with Alconbury Parish Council, a letter be sent to all parishioners explaining the proposal and seeking views

Clerk

BP

BP

42.0 FLOOD ALIEVIATION

Cllr Powley presented this month's update from TABFG which will be appended to these minutes. Flood alleviation measures were now being worked comprehensively by the TABFG of which Cllr P Baker was an active member.

Resolved To receive and note the contents of the report and append to these minutes.
That Cllr Baker replace Cllr Bryan as the lead on flood alleviation and present TABFG update reports at future meetings.

PB

44.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- 44.1 Grass cutting and village green – Cllr P Baker was not present.
- 44.2 Highways and Speed watch SID – Cllrs Stone and Rochford reported the application for the LHI bid was in progress.
- 44.3 Communication with parishioners – Cllr Bryan reported that the deadline for input to the next Parish Pump issue would be mid-October.
- 44.4 Flood Emergency Planning – Cllr Powley had nothing to report.
- 44.5 Play Area – Maintenance – Cllr Bryan reported all being well.
- 44.6 Parish Paths and Trees – Cllr P Baker was not present.
- 44.7 Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker reported the next meeting is scheduled for October.
- 44.8 Amey Waste Transfer Station – Cllr Bryan had nothing to report.
- 44.9 Wooley Hill Wind Farm Grant Body – Cllr Stone reported the next meeting is scheduled for October.
- 44.10 To consider any actions as required as a result of the above reports.

Resolved 44.2 That Cllrs Stone and Rochford complete the LHI bid application and circulate to members for approval before the submission deadline of the 29th September. The Council's portion was approved for a figure up to £2,500 from earmarked reserves.
44.3 That Cllr Powley take up a conversation with Cllr Gilbert of Alconbury Parish Council to propose joint input regarding a Parish Pump article on grouping.

AS/SR

BP

45.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

To note and agree the following payments are made:

Beam – grass cutting inv 01291/01277	£570.00
Payroll and HMRC – September	£140.60
Alconbury Parish Council – Locum Clerk fee August	£192.82
Upton Village Hall -Hall hire	£ 20.00
Haven Power DD	£ 9.79

Resolved That the above payments be agreed for payment, which will be authorised online by Cllrs Rochford and Bryan, **by Friday 24th August 2021.**

MB/SR

46.0 BANK RECONCILIATION

Resolved That the bank reconciliation be confirmed as correct and contents of the budget report noted.

47.0 PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

Resolved That the Council take up the insurance renewal for 2021-22 at the long-term agreement figure of £377.99. The Clerk to set up the online payment to ensure it is received before the renewal date of 1st October 2021.

Clerk

48.0 CLERK SERVICES

Resolved That this item be deferred to a closed session at the end of this meeting due to the confidential nature of the business conducted.

49.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Resolved That Cllr Gardeners report be received, contents noted and appended to these minutes.

Clerk

50.0 TO AGREE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES

1st November
13th December
24th January 22
7th March 22
18th April 22

Resolved That meeting dates 1st November and 13th December be agreed, with meetings moving to Alconbury Sports and Social Club (if available).
That the clerk reviews the currently proposed dates for the New Year with a view to coordinating with the district and county councillor's diary, if practical.

Clerk

51.0 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 51.1 To note the following communications not previously circulated.
- 51.2 To receive comments from Councillors regarding matters affecting the village.
- 51.3 To agree items to be brought forward to the next meeting for further consideration.

52.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st November 2021 – From 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

With no further business to conduct the meeting was declared closed at 9:07pm

CLOSED SESSION

48.0 CLERK SERVICES

Resolved It was proposed by the Chairman that the following part of the meeting be held as a closed session due to the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted. All members present were in favour of resuming as a closed meeting.
Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2).

**PROPOSED GROUPING OF ALCONBURY AND ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCILS
(ALCONBURY CUM WESTON)**

What 'Grouping' involves

- The 2 separate councils would meet together with a single Parish Clerk
- There would be no changes to village identities or boundaries.
- Separate budgets and precepts (council tax) would be maintained; current reserves would remain ring-fenced.
- The grouped council would likely have up to 13 councillors in total, with the exact breakdown and split between the 2 villages yet to be agreed.
- There would still be separate annual general meetings for each village.

Why Grouping is being Proposed

- Both councils duplicate effort by working on common issues such as flooding, traffic management, bus services, and maintenance paths and common areas.
- The two village communities are effectively already one community, with shared clubs and societies (including the scouts, girl guides, sports clubs, and social clubs), being attended and run jointly by parishioners from both villages.
- Nearly all facilities and services used by both villages are the same; these include: the School, the Church, the Surgery, the Shop, and the Village Hall.
- Both villages often fail to recruit sufficient councillors for the current separate councils – fewer would be needed overall for a joint council.
- Ongoing savings might be made, including employing one clerk instead of two and joint maintenance contracts such as for grass cutting.

Have Your Say

- Email any thoughts to Parish /clerk (parishclerk@alconburyparishcouncil.com)
- Public Meeting? (Should we hold one?)
- Tear-off slip to be completed after the public meeting.

I am/am not in favour of the proposed council grouping.

Reason

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Post code

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42.0 Flood Alleviation The Alconbury Brook Flood Group

Report on activities to 13 September 2021

The EA have forwarded their maintenance schedule for the autumn (a first). It includes bank cutting, bush removal and reed spraying where accessible from the beginning of Alconbury Weston (North end) to Armstong's Gorse approx. 1.5km south of Alconbury. The maintenance manager has agreed to walk the route when complete with Charles Dalleywater. Exact details are being checked including along-side Hamerton Road.

Flood Group volunteers are complimenting the EA maintenance work by clearing key parts of the brook (under permit exemption) and banks where access is more difficult. Between 10 and 20 volunteers including a good contingent from Alconbury Weston have cleared in and in front of the Heritage Bridge channels and the adjacent bank. (A priority since this is a major bottleneck) and below the Alconbury Ford. Further work is planned for Saturdays until weather or high water prevents progress.

The CC have promised funding for owners of small sections of bank who don't have the resources to do clearance work themselves. TAFG have agreed to assist residents with funding application forms if required.

The CC have also published the Section 19 report for the flooding in December 2020. The Flood Group feel that there are some technical inaccuracies and are collating these so that the CC have a correct record. However, the CC (and Ian Gardner) have been very helpful in supporting other projects including planned acquisition of telemetry equipment and support for channel refurbishment (being led by Debbie Hose) with gabions under the A1 Bridge.

Members of the group have a key meeting with the EA at the end of this month. This will be to formalise the proposals that will go forward for modelling. They will hopefully include the dam/reservoir proposal and the large NFM structures described published in TAFG document '*Slow, Stretch and Store*'.

Results of the modelling will feed into a business case for funding with possible public consultation in the spring/summer 2022. The TAGF and Parish Councils will have a key role.

TAGF hope to install a small number of small NFM structures on ditches north of Alconbury Weston and are currently consulting farmers and the Internal Drainage Board.

TAFG made a submission to the DC Planning Department regarding the proposal for 15 houses adjacent to Chequers Close Alconbury Weston. We opposed the proposal because it did not compensate adequately for the natural flood management function of the site and its surrounding ditches.

TAFG has set up an associated charity 'The Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity' with a formal constitution. It will be holding an inaugural meeting soon.

49.0 Reports from District and County Councillors
Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – September 2021

I held a meeting with Highways England at the parishes adjacent to the A14 regarding safety improvements to the A14. In the short-term Highways England would be looking to improve grass cutting and sign cleaning, replace missing signs such as the Spaldwick services sign. Introduce Mobile variable messaging signs (MVMS) to display a message to increase awareness of the at grade junctions and potential for slow manoeuvring vehicles are being considered for a time limited period. Along with improved road markings and additional warning signs for Catworth Farm Lane, as well as reviewing signage along the route. I have another meeting with Highways England on the 27th September. With regard to upgrading the road, please see item at the end of the report

The Combined Authority is setting up a Demand Responsive Transport Trial Scheme for West Huntingdonshire, serving St Neots & Huntingdon, as it is now the Authority in charge of Buses.

DRT is a totally flexible service, so it does not have to stick to a specific timetable or route. Using either an App or a phone call to the travel hub customers will be able to book a journey from a location of their choice. The technology will tell passengers where to wait at their virtual bus stop for pick up and drop off points. This makes it the perfect solution in Rural Areas where a normal bus service would struggle to reach the necessary passenger numbers to remain viable.

The service is not door to door, but is corner to corner. The service will define pickup points and places where buses can turn around to get to the next pick-up point safely and efficiently.

The service aims to get a bus to you pretty much whenever you need it. Obviously, it cannot serve everywhere all the time, but the computer will join up several people's needs for a bus into one combined journey. It will always aim to be as direct as possible

Customers will be able to book a journey up to one week in advance. The service will operate from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. With no service on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

All existing bus services will operate during the trial. I have no specific start date for the trial is of yet.

If the Parish wishes to submit a Local Highways Improvement Bid, this year it needs to be in by 30th September.

Cambridgeshire County Council is funding a one-year Community Action Programme from April 2021 to March 2022.

The programme hopes to establish a network of Community Flood action groups, creating flood action plans for communities to enact in the event of a flood. As well as providing a one stop shop for flood risk information, an improved flood reporting system which will be accessible from a smart phone

The A428 dualling between the Black Cat Roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet has entered the Examination stage of the Development Consent Order Application on the 18th August, this will last six months. You will be able to follow the scheme throughout the examination period on the Planning Inspectorate website

Cambridgeshire Libraries are looking for feedback from residents on why they value their local library service as part of Libraries Week which runs from Monday 4th October to Sunday 10th October, to take part in the survey go to <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/6HSTQX/>

The County Council is now in the process of looking for a New Chief Executive. The new administration have stated that this post will only cover Cambridgeshire County Council and will not be a shared position with Peterborough City, along with all future executive positions. This is likely to result in higher costs for the County Council.

Joseph Hudson's replacement as the local Highways Engineer is due to start on 20th September following training.

Highways England are asking for your views regarding the A14 between Ellington and Thrapston. I would urge all Parishes to engage with their route strategies process, if you want grade separated junctions or deceleration lanes through the purchase of land to remove the at grade junctions with no slip roads: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/our-route-strategies/>

You have until the 30th November 2021 to feedback your views on <https://routestrategies.highwaysengland.co.uk/>

The District Council is applying for Civil Parking Enforcement measures so that the Council will be able to employ Traffic Wardens to enforce parking restrictions.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton