

ALCONBURY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.alconburywestonparishcouncil.co.uk

Temporary Parish Clerk: Charlotte Copley

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Alconbury Weston Parish Council met on Monday 24th January 2022 at Alconbury Sports and Social Club, from 7.00pm.

MINUTES

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 85.0 PRESENT | | |
| Councillors | B Powley (Chairman) J. Baker (Vice Chair) P. Baker, S. Rochford & A. Stone | Action |
| Clerk | C Copley (attended remotely) | |
| | Due to family members isolating under the current Coronavirus guidance, the Clerk was unable to attend the meeting in person and therefore attended the meeting remotely. Clerks and staff can attend council meetings remotely, but under the current regulations, Councillors must continue to meet face to face to resolve the business of the Council. | |
| 86.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | | |
| | Apologies from Councillor M Bryan (no reason provided to the Clerk) and County and District Councillor I Gardener due to his presence being required elsewhere. | |
| 87.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | | |
| | Both Cllr J and P Baker declared an interest in item 96.1 below. | |
| 88.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION | | |
| | None present. | |
| 89.0 MINUTES | | |
| | The minutes of meeting held on 13 th December 2021 were confirmed as a correct reflection of the meeting and will be duly signed by the Chairman at the next available opportunity. | Clerk/BP |
| 90.0 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR | | |
| Resolved | To receive and note the contents of Cllr Gardeners report, appended to these minutes. | Clerk |
| 91.0 PARISH COUNCIL GROUPING | | |
| | Cllr Powley reported the working group meeting scheduled for the 20 th January did not to go ahead due a reduction in working group members and the resignation of the Parish Clerk. | |
| Resolved | That, following a discussion, the project be paused whilst the Council seeks to recruit both a new working group member and Parish Clerk. | All |
| 92.0 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES | | |
| 92.1 | Grass cutting and village green – Cllr P Baker had nothing to report. | |
| 92.2 | Highways and Speedwatch SID – Cllrs Stone and Rochford continue to charge and place the MVAS (Speed Indicator Device - SID). The SID is currently placed on North Road and will be moved to the newly licenced pole in Hamerton Road the week after next. Cllr Stone provided a block graph which showed one vehicle was recorded at 74 mph on approach to the village. The Speedwatch kit shared with Alconbury Weald, is due back in February. A Coordinator and volunteers are still needed. Highways – Cllrs Stone and Gardener met to discuss the road survey from 2019 and confirmed the following actions which were deferred from the November meeting have taken place: 1). A quotation had been requested for the replacement of the stop sign on the Hamerton Road/Vinegar Hill Junction along with the repainting of all junctions along Vinegar Hill and North Street. 2). Cutting back the overgrown vegetation on the pavement along Vinegar Hill has been completed. 3). An order had been put in to clear the drainage outlets on Hamerton Rd alongside the brook 4). The bollards on the Maltings footpath have been installed. | |
| 92.3 | Communication with parishioners – No report received in Cllr Bryans absence. | |
| 92.4 | Flood alleviation (including TABFG report) – Cllr P Baker presented the latest report, appended to these minutes. | |
| 92.5 | Flood Emergency Planning – Cllr Powley reported that a volunteer flood warden is still needed for the High Street and North Road areas. | |
| 92.6 | Play Area – Maintenance – No report received in Cllr Bryans absence. | |
| 92.7 | Parish Paths and Trees – Cllr P Baker reported that all was well. | |
| 92.8 | Alconbury Weald Parish Liaison – Cllr J Baker reported that the next meeting is scheduled for the 31 st January 2022. | |
| 92.9 | Amey Waste Transfer Station – No written or verbal report received in Cllr Bryans absence. | |

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-------|
| 92.10 | Wooley Hill Wind Farm Grant Body – Cllr Stone reported the next round for grant applications Opens on the 4 th February 2022. | |
| 92.11 | To consider any actions as required as a result of the above reports. | AS |
| Resolved | 92.2 Speedwatch – That Cllr Stone will approach the Alconbury Speedwatch team with a view to shared working. | |
| | 92.9 Amey Waste Transfer Station – to remove this item from future meetings, due to no activity. | Clerk |
| | 92.10 Wooley Hill Wind Farm - Members consider suitable projects for future funding rounds. | ALL |
| 93.0 | QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022 | |
| Resolved | Cllr Powley to liaise with Alconbury Parish Council to establish what events they have planned and look in to the suitability of planting a memorial tree on the bank downstream of the ford. | BP |
| | Cllr J Baker to liaise with Alconbury Sports and Social Club to establish their plan of celebrations. | JB |
| | Cllr Stone to revisit the purchase of a tree to be placed at the memorial. The budget was agreed at £50.00. | AS |
| | To discuss further at the next meeting. | Clerk |
| 94.0 | TOUR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE CYCLE RACE | |
| | Cllr J Baker advised that the event was planned for Sunday,5th June 2022 and that it was expected a village fun day would take place on the same date. | |
| Resolved | To defer the item to the next meeting. | Clerk |
| 95.0 | RENEWAL OF WHITE HART PUB AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE IN ALCONBURY WESTON | |
| | It is understood Cllr Bryan is progressing the renewal of the registration of the public house as a community asset. | MB |
| 96.0 | PLANNING | |
| | 21/02713/HHFUL First floor extension to the rear and front single storey porch extension 47 Highfield Avenue Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4JS. | |
| 96.1 | Allocation of addressing to 5 new dwellings at Hamerton Road, Alconbury Weston. To be known As: Picton Barn 1, Old Dairy 2, Chaff House 3, Old Stable 4 and Elm Barn 5 Rowleys Yard Alconbury Weston Huntingdon PE28 4YP | |
| Resolved | 21/02713/HHFUL - To recommend approval of this application. | Clerk |
| | 96.1 – Received and noted. | |
| 97.0 | ORDERS FOR PAYMENT | |
| | To ratify those payments made between meetings: December 2021 | |
| | 1. Salaries incl. PAYE £401.89 | |
| | 2. Alconbury RF Charity – Room hire £ 60.00 | |
| | 3. askIT – antivirus renewal - laptop £ 20.95 | |
| | 4. Unity – bank charges £ 18.00 | |
| | 5. Drax – Street lighting £ 9.79 | |
| | Orders for payment January 2022; | |
| | 1. Salaries including PAYE £401.89 | |
| | 2. GeoXphere – Parish Online £ 75.60 | |
| | To receive notice of the following payments: | |
| | 1. Drax Ltd, direct debit February 22 £ 9.37 | |
| Resolved | That the above orders be agreed for payment | |
| | BANK RECONCILIATION AND MONIES RECEIVED | |
| Resolved | That the bank reconciliation be confirmed as correct. | |
| 99.0 | 2022 MEETING DATES | |
| | To agree meeting dates for the year 2022: 7 th March, 11 th April (week early due to Easter), 16 th May (Annual Meetings, week early due to elections), 27 th June, 8 th August, 19 th September, 31 st October, 12 th December. | |
| Resolved | That the meeting dates be approved as above, and that meetings will be held at Alconbury Sports and Social Club where possible. | Clerk |
| 100.0 | MATTERS FOR INFORMATION | |
| | Expenditure against budget status to be presented at next meeting. | Clerk |

20:15 meeting closed.

CLOSED MEETING SESSION

The following item was held as a closed meeting due to sensitive personal and commercial data.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2)

Resolved That following the resignation of the locum Clerk giving one months' notice the role be advertised at the earliest opportunity to seek a permanent employee. The post will be covered in the interim by CAPALC's locum clerk service.

BP/JB

20:21 meeting opened.

101.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th March 2022– Alconbury Sports and Social Club from 7pm.

With no further business to conduct the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:22.

90.0 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – January 2022

Apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting as I have a Development Management Committee meeting at HDC which was rearranged due to covid restrictions.

The County Council has announced that the New Chief Executive for the Authority will be Stephen Moir, he will take over the position in February 2022. As the current Chief Executive retires at the end of December 2021 an Interim appointment has been made to fill the void until the New Chief Executive starts in February 2022. the interim Chief Executive is Amanda Askham

The Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Derek Giles who represents St Neots Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford Division has had to retire as Chairman due to ill health. We all wish him well in his recovery. The Deputy chairman is currently undertaking his duties. A new chairman was supposed to have been elected in December, but this meeting was cancelled and the election of Chairman is not on the January meeting's Agenda.

The Demand Responsive Bus Service for West Huntingdonshire, known as Ting has commenced. It is a service for all residents. The cost of the service is £2 per trip and £4 return as is free for all Bus Pass Holders. Stagecoach are looking to rearrange the Roadshow event, which was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid.

The Council Tax Consultation for the coming year showed that 37% of residents did not support any increase. 25% of residents supported a 2% increase in either Council Tax or Adult Social care but not both, ie a 2 % increase and 21% supported a 2% Council Tax increase and a 1% Social Care increase ie a 3% increase and 4% did not support any option.

However, the Liberal Democrat led Administration have announced they will be going for the maximum increase of 4.99% on Council Tax at the County Council Budget meeting on February 8th. This increase will provide an additional £16.48 million in revenue to the County Council of which the Lib Dem Administration propose to put over 50% into reserves. Simply to tax residents more than is required just to put money in reserves shows that this administration does not care about helping residents at this time, when they are already struggling with much higher fuel bills.

The County Council has decided to provide everyone on Universal Credit some 39,000 recipients with an additional £20 to help them manage rising costs of living this winter. It will not cover the additional Council Tax increase.

This year's Huntingdonshire LHI meetings will be on 28th February and 2nd March between 8am and 5pm.

The County Council is preparing a Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire and I am grateful to the Alconbury Flood Group for commenting on this strategy.

The District Council has been shortlisted for one of Keep Britain Tidy's Annual Network Awards for its efforts in making environment improvements for local residents.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the waste service for maintaining the Bust Bin collection service over the recent surge in Covid, when many local authorities were stopping bin collections.

At last months DMC meeting the Chequers Close planning application was refused and the Butchers Close application was approved. Thanks goes To Cllr April Stone for attending this meeting along with residents. I apologise for not being able to attend due to ill health.

The District Councils Budget meeting is on the 23rd February.

Finally ,I would like to thank Charlotte for her help and guidance during her time as Clerk for Alconbury Weston and to say how much I have enjoyed working with her. As well as wishing her all the best in her new job.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston.



Since mid- December, (our brilliant) flood group volunteers have

- Done additional clearance in the brook near the Heritage Bridge in Alconbury
- Cleared 250m of undergrowth and brambles from banks near the ford in Alconbury Weston
- Removed 2 more trees which had fallen across the brook near Polecat Lane
- With the KP from the EA planted 750 trees at Grange Farm, Hammerton next to a new EA off-line storage pond. (41 volunteers!)
- Culverts on school lane have been rodded by volunteers and are running better. The CC who owns the ditch have been informed that one of the culverts may have collapsed.

The EA completed most but not all of the bank maintenance in November. Those sections missed were discussed during a very helpful site visit with the EA Assets Manager. During the week starting 17/1 EA teams have undertaken a significant amount of additional bank clearance and will continue over the next 2 weeks providing the weather holds.

We have arranged to do some clearance ourselves which complements that done by the EA teams including the banks of riverside properties in the High Streets of both Alconbury and Alconbury Weston. This is scheduled for the second week in February. To facilitate this the flood group have ordered a boat.

We now have third party insurance, and our volunteers are insured against personal accident.

Another farmer has agreed to have an off-line storage pond, together with some leaky dams on an Alconbury Brook tributary watercourse. The idb have give outline agreement to the work which is on a watercourse under their jurisdiction. We hope that funding and consents will become available so that work can be done in May/June.

Further upstream two flood group members had a preliminary meeting with another farmer who has given us permission to look around his farm for suitable places for some small holding structures on 26/1. We will be discussing funding with LENS.

We have had an update from the EA with detailed plans for an NFM system on the East side of Vinegar Hill. There is a slight delay while this is modelled but the project could be installed in late spring/summer 2022.

The EA modelling contract with Jacobs has finally been signed off and work has begun. At some point the consultant will visit the Alconbury's to understand the lie of the land, and the opportunities which exist given the strong commitment from the communities involved.

Flood Group Newsletter 2, part funded by Alconbury Parish Council will be distributed between 17/1 and 26/1

An improved flood CCTV system will be operational soon. There remain some unanswered questions about fields of vision and distribution of passwords, but these should be resolved shortly.

It has been very dry, only 29mm of rain in the first three weeks of January, however we are certain that water in the brook is running away faster because of the better maintenance. Soil moisture varies but has been as low as 80% (our monitoring) in the last 2 weeks providing a small buffer for heavy rain. Long may it continue!! We now have portable flow monitoring equipment. On 18/1, the flow was about 0.1cubic meter/sec at the A ford and 0.095 cubic meters per second AW ford (in December 2020 the flow at Alconbury flyover was 94 cubic meters / second). The EA have invited the Flood Group to suggest two sites for permanent flow monitoring equipment.

**Alconbury Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation**

Agenda Item No 97.0

Total of balances in bank accounts as at 31st December 2021

| | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Unity Trust: | £2,873.29 | |
| CCLA: | £30,042.01 | |
| | | £32,915.30 |

Less unrepresented cheques:

Less outstanding payment:

| | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Drax energy | £9.79 | |
| Parish Online | £75.60 | |
| A Benfield | £84.60 | |
| C Copley | £209.09 | |
| HMRC | £108.20 | |
| | | £487.28 |

Plus outstanding receipts:

£0.00

Net bank balance at 31st December 2021

£32,428.02

Cash book

Opening balance: 1 April 2021

£24,417.72

Add: receipts to date

£19,840.25

Less: Payments to date

£11,829.95

Balance per cash book as at 31 December 2021

£32,428.02

Diff:

£0.00

