

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 31st August 2010 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mr Senior Mrs Adams, Mrs Aylott, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Lay, Mr Pickering Mr Watson and Mrs Williams, District Councillor Keith Baker, Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk, 6 Members of the Public.

Public Forum

No items raised.

52. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Barnes, Mr Hardy, and County Councillor's Laine Kadic and Sir Peter Brown

53. Councillors' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda

Mr Lay and Mr Boyce expressed personal interests in item 57 as allotment holders.

54. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 27th July 2010

Minutes of 27th July proposed by Mrs Aylott and Seconded by Mrs Williams

55. Heritage Bridge

Clerk advised that the repair works were now complete and the bridge had reopened. She reported that there had been some problems with incorrect diversions being put in place, however these were rectified and she had received an apology from CCC.

Clerk also reported that an HGV had been seen crossing the bridge since the repair. She had the details and would now be keeping a log of any future incidents in order to contact CCC to see if anything could be done to prevent this happening again.

56. Village Shop and Post Office

Mr Senior welcomed Mr Lehal and his father to the meeting and introduced them to the Parish Council. He explained that Mr Lehal is in the process of purchasing the Village Shop and Post Office. Mr Lehal explained that they were awaiting training from Post Office Stores in order to complete on the sale but hope that the exchange of contracts would happen within 2 weeks approximately. Mr Lehal Snr advised that people would need to be patient as there was a lot of work to do with the shop, but once it was fully operational, they hope to offer a wide range of products with value for money also.

57. Allotments - Mr Senior relaxed standing orders for this item.

Steve Womersley from the Allotment Committee outlined that the borehole had been dug and advised that drilling to 15m had not struck water immediately. He did however report that at around 12m, once the hole that had been dug was left for a few days, it did eventually fill up with water. He advised that whilst this would not provide the volumes of water originally expected, with an AC pump and generator, an approximate volume of around 200 gallons could be obtained per day. This would need to be facilitated with some holding tanks so that water could be stored on site when it is not being used. Mr Womersley advised that the project costs would stay the same despite now being done in a slightly different way.

Mr Lay advised that the AAGA Annual General Meeting would be held on 24th September.

58. PC Website

Mr Senior advised that he felt that the Parish Council website needed some updating as it had not been done for some time. All councillors agreed that the Clerk should enquire with the current designer about costs involved in a 'revamp' and also that the Parish Council may wish to go out to tender later this year in order to get the most cost effective option for the project.

59. New Chairman

Mr Senior advised that he had still not received any offers from Parish Councillors wishing to become next year's Chairman. He did, however, advise that Mr Pickering had expressed a possible interest and would be copied in on emails going to the current Chairman so that he could gauge an idea of the workload involved.

60. Committee Reports

(a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk advised that she was yet again chasing CCC for the cleaning and resurfacing of the footbridges on the Village Green. Mrs Adams requested that something be done about the dead trees behind the Maltings. Clerk to investigate.

(i) Churchyard

Nothing to report

(ii) Village Green

Footbridges as per the above.

(iii) General

Mr Baker advised that Tony King from Highways Agency was dealing with the conifers that were overgrown on the corner of Mill Lane. Mrs Aylott requested that the Clerk chased up replacement glass for the bus shelter near the Heritage Bridge again.

(b) Planning Applications Received:

None

Applications determined by Huntingdonshire District Council/Appeal:

None

(c) Bramble End - Monthly Inspection Report - Mrs. Williams

Mrs Williams reported that all was ok at the Playground and the 'no dogs' signs were up. Mr Senior expressed concern that the 'Tiger Mulch' surface was pulling up near the Trim Trail. Mrs Williams to monitor.

61. Youth Group

Mrs Adams advised that the next committee meeting would be on 7th September. There would also be a quiz night with music on 8th October.

62. ASSC

Mr Lay advised that he was trying to contact Bridget Halford with regards to seeing if more trees could be planted at the Community Orchard between the Fruit Hedging. Mr Watson advised that membership fees were increasing in order to provide an electronic payment system at the club along with a door swipe entry system.

63. Memorial Hall-Mrs Adams

Mrs Adams reported that a new clothing bank had been placed in the Memorial Hall car park by the British Heart Foundation. Clerk to enquire as to whether the Parish Council could have some promotional material to let villagers know that it is there.

64. Correspondence

Letter of thanks received from the Alconbury Thursday Club for the donation they received last month.

Letter and cheque from WREN in line with funding from Bramble End Playground

65. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

- Demon - Web Hosting August 10 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp-Clerk Salary for August - £417.20
- Sue Lancey-Norton Anti Virus - £64.99
- Grafton Projects-Stationary and Newsletters - £115.50
- Moore Stephens-Audit Fee - £334.88
- Antony Abbs-Grass Cutting - £1410
- Memorial Hall (Youth Group Rental) - £113.75

Cheques proposed by Mrs Aylott and seconded by Mrs Elphick.

66. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 28th September at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.