

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 29th June 2010 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mr Senior, Mrs Adams, Mrs Aylott, Mr Barnes, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Watson and Mrs Williams, District Councillor Keith Baker, County Councillor Sir Peter Brown, County Councillor Laine Kadic, Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk, 14 Members of the Public.

Public Forum

Mr Read (member of public) expressed his concern over a proposed traveller,Ãs site at Ermine St in Alconbury. His main concerns were an increase in crime, lack of amenities near the traveller,Ãs site and the local school being unable to take anymore pupils as it is almost at capacity already.

A resident of Lordsway Park also expressed concern over this proposed development. Her main concerns were that people coming into Alconbury from the A14 or Huntingdon would see a traveller's site as the first point of interest and she did not feel that this was the image that Alconbury residents wanted. She also expressed concern that children staying at the site would not be safe walking along the main road to get to Alconbury Village.

District Councillor Keith Baker advised that the land had been volunteered by the owner as HDC had asked for potential sites due to a lack of available areas. He advised that if potential sites were not identified and possibly used, travellers would stop anywhere and this could cause problems. He advised that if this site were to go ahead it would be a transit site and therefore people could only stay for 21 days.

Once everyone had aired their concerns and views, Mr Senior advised that the Parish Council had noted all of these and would be putting together a response if and when official planning permission was sought. He re-iterated that at this stage it is only a proposed site and no planning permission for the travellers had been applied for.

A resident of Lordsway Park requested that the council re-investigate the possibility of a sign at the bottom of Rusts Lane pointing traffic towards Lordsway Park. He advised that he had needed the assistance of the emergency services recently and they took a very long time as they did not know where the site was. County Councillor Laine Kadic agreed to investigate this.

Mr Read (Member of Public) expressed his concerns over the proposed Wind Farm at Woolley Hill. He advised of research that he had found with regards to 'long lining' the electrical cables and possible problems arising from the turbines. Mr Senior requested that he email the research to the Parish Council and he agreed.

District Councillor Keith Baker advised that whilst this was only a proposed wind farm, the company wishing to build it, RES, would definitely be submitting a planning application later this year.

16. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr Boyce and Mr Pickering

17. Councillors,Ã Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda

Mr Senior expressed a personal interest in item 25 (c) as a resident of Bramble End. He

also expressed a personal interest in item 22 as the owner of an affected property.

Mr Lay expressed a prejudicial interest in item 26 as an allotment holder.

18. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 25th May 2010
Minutes for meeting on 25th May 2010 proposed by Mrs Aylott, seconded by Mr Watson

19. Heritage Bridge

Mr Senior advised that the Heritage Bridge had had repair works carried out last December that had, unfortunately, not been successful. He advised that mortar applied to the Heritage Bridge during the works had not set properly and therefore there had been many reports of mortar and bricks falling off the bridge. Added to this the fact that a vehicle had again hit the bus recently, he advised that CCC would be repairing the bridge.

County Councillor Laine Kadic advised that she had spoken with the Bridge team and the work needed would be carried out on Sunday 18th July, Sunday 25th July and Sunday 1st August between 8am and 5pm. She also advised that CCC would repair the bridge whenever necessary should there be any further collisions in the future.

County Councillor Kadic suggested making sure people were being vigilant and reporting any collisions or damage that they may witness.

20. Proposed Travellers Site at Ermine Street

Mr Watson explained the purpose of the current consultation. He also outlined the Council's guidelines for considering the suitability of such sites so that Councillors would be aware of these in formulating a view on the proposals. Issues relating to the sites location, potential impact on the neighbouring business, the living conditions for the future users, site infrastructure and access were relevant areas upon which comment could be made. He advised that in drafting the formal response in addition to these matters the views and concerns of local residents expressed at the meeting would be incorporated. He advised that HDC had taken the view that it has a need for more transit sites as the police had received numerous reports of problems with illegal encampments and that this seemed to be the reason why the Ermine Street Site was being considered.

Mr Watson advised that the Parish Council had spoken with the owner of Admiral Conservatories and he was concerned about the possible effect on his business.

21. Proposed Wind Farm at Woolley Hill

Mr Senior advised that he and Mr Watson had met with RES, the company proposing the Woolley Hill Wind Farm, earlier in June. They had outlined the Parish Council's main concerns to RES who took the concerns on board. Mr Watson advised that the Parish Council cannot formally submit and comments until the planning application had been submitted by RES. District Councillor Keith Baker thought that this would be later in the year.

Mr Watson advised that there would be montages made available by RES to give a better picture of the impact that the wind turbines could have on the village.

22. Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan

Mr Senior reported on the Flood Management Plan in Mr Pickering's absence. He advised that the initial surveys were expected to commence around Mid July. There would

be 82 properties that would be offered a free survey and other properties could pay for this if required. He also advised that he had been advised by an insurance company that it may mean the opportunity to get flood insurance on properties in the affected area, however, this was not yet confirmed.

23. A14 Proposals - Mr Watson

Mr Watson advised that the proposals for the A14 redevelopment had been put on hold pending a government spending review in October.

24. Clerk's Appraisal - Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that she had met with Mrs Sharp, Parish Clerk in April and carried out a 6 month probationary period and pay review. She advised that this had gone well and had emailed a copy of the report to all Parish Councillors. She also advised that a yearly appraisal and pay review would be carried out every April prior to the April Parish Council meeting.

25. Committee Reports

(a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that the footbridges at Polecat Lane had been resurfaced and repaired and that the footbridges on the Village Green were due to be cleaned and repaired mid to late July. She also reported that there had been a tree on the Village Green that had been vandalised and subsequently had to be removed as a result. Mrs Adams advised that the Youth Group children had expressed an interest in planting the new tree.

The Clerk also reported that there had been concerns over some Leilandi trees on the corner of Mill Lane. These were causing an obstruction when buses used the corner. Clerk to contact property owners and HDC.

(i) Churchyard

Nothing to report

(ii) Village Green

Clerk advised that the grass was to be cut prior to the Village Affair.

(iii) General

Mr Lay expressed concern over the trees that overhang Coulson way. There had been some questions over ownership in the past. Clerk to investigate and get them cut.

(b) Planning Applications Received:

1000692REP - Replacement of Planning Permission 9701500OUT for proposed rail facilities and rail link to East Coast Main Line

Alconbury Airfield, Ermine St

No comments made

Applications determined by Huntingdonshire District Council/Appeal: None

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

Mrs Williams advised that one of the handles on the See-Saw was slightly bent however not necessary to contact the manufacturer at present

26. Allotments-Mr Lay

Mr Lay reported that he had attended an Allotment Association meeting on 16th June. There had been an issue raised over the non-cultivation of plot 38-Clerk to contact the holder.

He also advised that someone had fallen over on the track to the allotments in the wet weather and asked if the Parish Council could do anything to improve it. Clerk to look into this further.

With reference to the borehole, Mr Lay advised that the engineer had drilled to 10 metres but had not hit water so was to resume drilling imminently to a lower depth. Mr Senior requested that the borehole company be contacted in order to ascertain if there would be any extra costs involved with the surplus drilling and depth.

27. Youth Group - Mrs Adams

Mrs Adams reported that the children from the Youth Group were interested in planting a new tree on the Village Green to replace the vandalised tree. She also advised that the youth workers have requested to be informed of any Anti-Social incidents within the village in order to monitor.

Mrs Adams also advised that there would be a fund raising car wash on the 17th July and a ,Äúgig night,Äù featuring a band called inju5tive on 1st October.

28. Correspondence

Email from Stukeley Parish Council ref Urban and Civic

Mr Senior advised that an email had been received from Stukeley PC inviting 2 representatives from Alconbury Parish Council to a meeting on 5th July with the new Airbase owners, Urban and Civic. Mr Watson and Mr Hardy agreed to attend.

Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

- Demon - Web Hosting June 2010 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp-Clerk Salary for June - £427.25
- Grafton Projects-Toner Cartridge - £155.53
- Gary Brunt-Bramble End Work - £190
- National Allotment Society - £64.63
- Grafton Projects-Newsletters - £121.11

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th July 2010 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall