

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2011 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mr Senior - Chair, Mrs Aylott, Mr Barnes, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Watson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sharp – Parish Clerk. County Councillor Sir Peter Brown. County Councillor Laine Kadic. District Councillor Keith Baker. 5 members of the public.

Public Forum

Mr Hodgson reported that a street light was broken on Manor Lane near the Bus Stop. Clerk to contact Highways Agency.

Mr Pinn, a resident with an allotment, expressed his concern about the wording of a notice at the allotment site. The notice had been placed on the water tank from the borehole to request that users of the tank and borehole do not use it excessively as it would take some time to refill. Mrs Aylott advised Mr Pinn that the notice had already been replaced with another.

Jane Baker, Chair of Alconbury Weston PC, advised that representatives from her PC along with Woodwalton, Abbots Ripton and the Stukeley's Parish Council's were to meet with Urban and Civic, new airbase owners, on 25th May. She felt that it would be beneficial for Alconbury Parish Council to send a representative along with the Clerk in order to gather information and express any concerns that may arise. The whole Parish Council agreed that this would be a good idea; however, there was nobody available to attend on 25th May as the meeting was in the daytime. Mrs Baker to contact Clerk if the meeting can be rescheduled.

185. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Mr Pickering and Mrs Adams.

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

Mr Lay expressed a personal interest in item 194 as an allotment holder. Mr Boyce also expressed a personal interest in item 194 as the spouse of an allotment holder.

187. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 29th March 2011
Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 29th March proposed by Mr Lay and seconded by Mr Hardy.

188. Actions from last meeting

New Airbase entrance plans - Mr Watson had seen these and advised that there was nothing to be concerned about currently. It was unclear if this was to be a general entrance or just for large construction traffic.

Parish Clerk still awaiting a response from Stukeley PC as to whether or not they want to meet regarding the Airbase.

Parish Clerk had written to Royal Mail after a complaint last meeting about a speeding collection van in the village.

Mr Senior was still investigating the "20's plenty" campaign in order to try and cut speeding in the Village.

189. Localism Bill

County Councillor Brown reported that although the localism bill is not due to be passed

through parliament until late in 2011, there were lots of pilots and projects that were ongoing in line with the localism proposals. One of these was the support and fundraising in the community in order to keep the Youth Group open. Councillor Brown suggested that a "prelaunch" night be held on 6th May at the next Youth Group club in order to publicise localism in action in the community.

190. Youth Group

There was no update from the Youth Group committee.

Mr Senior reported that he had held a short meeting with Jacqui Fairbrass (YG Committee), County Councillors Laine Kadic and Sir Peter Brown and the Parish Clerk. The County Councillors had successfully managed to secure a substantial amount of funding from Urban and Civic and also SJH Plant Hire. This was to be a 3 year plan with funding each year in line with the current Youth Group 3 year business plan. Mr Senior thanked the County Councillors for all their work on this on behalf of the Parish Council and the Youth Group. County Councillor Brown suggested a re-launch of the Youth Group with some publicity on 6th May and advised he would be in contact with the Clerk.

191. Annual Report/Newsletter

Mrs Aylott reminded the councillors that the Annual Report was due to be published after the May meeting. As she had compiled the report for the previous three copies she requested a volunteer to put this together and Mr Lay agreed to do this, with the assistance of Mrs Aylott as required.

Mr Lay requested that the councillors send him articles for the next newsletter which would be due for publication the following month and delivery early June.

192. Royal Wedding

Mrs Aylott reported that everything was on task for the Royal Wedding celebrations at the Sports and Social club. There had, however, been some issues with insurance. The Parish Council insurance would cover all aspects excluding the bouncy castle if the Parish Council agreed to take responsibility for the event. All agreed that this was ok. In regard to the bouncy castle, all agreed that a request be made to the company supplying it for them to man it and the cost of this would be discussed and covered on the day. If this was not the case it would be approximately an extra £100 to cover the cost of insurance.

193. Notice Boards

Clerk reported that the PC notice board lock was broken and the board would not open. She had put the minutes on the exterior side of the board but unfortunately someone had removed them on several occasions. All agreed that the lock should be broken and a new lock fitted for now and clerk to obtain quotes for a new board and the adjacent village board.

194. Allotments

Mrs Aylott informed the Parish Council that the lottery grant money had been received. Work had started on the access track, but unfortunately the ground was too hard to complete the fencing and this was to be left until the ground softened. Mrs Aylott also reported that the wording of the borehole notice had also been amended, however, plot holders still needed to be mindful of the amount of water they were obtaining from the water tank. Mr Senior thanked Mrs Aylott, Mr Boyce and Mr Lay for all their hard work in ensuring that all the required jobs were completed. Mr Hardy expressed his disappointment in the lack of assistance from plot holders and AAGA members in getting

the work carried out and being on site to assist when necessary.

195. Odd Jobs

Clerk reported that a local gardener had come forward to offer to quote for jobs in the village. She was to meet with the company ASAP in order to quote on clearing the path at the back of Bell Lane. All agreed that the Clerk can instruct the cheapest quote to start work before the next meeting.

196. Truckstop

Clerk reported that there had been an application submitted by the owners of Hotel Ace at the Truckstop for a licence to sell alcohol and also a licence for the performance and provision of dance facilities. The licence applied for was from 11am each day to various times in the evening between 1am and 4am. Huntingdonshire District Council had not made the Clerk aware of this, however, after a phone call from a member of the public, the Clerk found the notices at the site perimeter.

The application was discussed with some councillors expressing concern over the ability for the truck drivers to rest enough to be safe on the roads if there was loud music playing. Also, one councillor expressed her concern about the possibility of truck drivers consuming alcohol before having to drive.

District Councillor, Keith Baker, explained that the police would be monitoring the site and the lorry drivers using the facility if the application were to be granted.

Mr Senior requested that a vote be taken in order to establish if the Parish Council were to make a formal objection to the application. He chose to abstain from the vote in case a deciding vote was needed. 5 Councillors voted against an objection and 3 councillors voted in favour of an objection therefore it was decided no objection would be made at this time. Mr Senior did advise that if the application were to be granted the Parish Council would continue to monitor the effect it may have on the Village.

197. ASSC - Mr Lay/Mr Watson

Mr Watson advised that he and Mr Lay had attended an ASSC committee meeting but had nothing to report to the Parish Council. Mrs Aylott advised that the charity cricket match had been confirmed for 15th July 2011.

198. Memorial Hall

Mr Watson reported that he had attended the Memorial Hall committee meeting recently. One concern raised was that costs were rising and there was a possibility that the charges to regular user groups may have to increase. Mr Watson also informed the Parish Council that Gerry Aylott had offered himself for the position of Chairman provided somebody was prepared to take over the position of Secretary.

199. Neighbourhood Forum - Mr Hardy

Mr Hardy had attended the Neighbourhood Forum in Huntingdon on 13th April. A few issues had been raised that he reported back to the Parish Council on:

One member of the public there from Alconbury who raised the issue of the truck stop and its application for a Liquor licence. He made a good point about the hours requested and the fact that drivers were trying to have their rest period. The police did not appear to be aware and Insp Ford was going to look into it.

With regard to the Truckstop, the parking there was one of the last 3 months priorities and they reported issuing 14 tickets for parking offences and 9 warnings. The police also recorded visiting the area 38 times.

Mr Hardy felt that as a village if we have any ongoing problems then this is the event to have someone attend because the police/ local council set the next three months objectives from this meeting. An example of this being that someone came from Little Stukeley complaining about the speed of vehicles on the main road. For the next three months the neighbourhood police team are going to be giving this attention.

200. Committee Reports

a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that the grass in the village had been cut and was now under control. There had been fewer reported cases of horses trotting or cantering on the Village Green. There had unfortunately been a rise in the amount of dog fouling in the village and there was to be an article in the next newsletter requesting people clear up their dog's mess when out walking.

(i) Churchyard

Clerk had received correspondence from a Church Warden as there had been a complaint about grass cuttings in the churchyard causing a mess on headstones. Clerk to contact Antony Abbs to request that the headstones are fully respected and excess grass cleared where possible.

(ii) Village Green

Mrs Aylott suggested that the Clerk get in contact with the Community Payback Service in order to see if they are able to paint the footbridges on the green. Clerk to contact.

(iii) General

There had been reports of bottles of urine on Rusts Lane near the slip road off Ermine Street onto the A14. There also seemed to be an increase in general litter, especially along the Great North Road. Clerk to contact HDC again about a litter pick.

b) Planning Applications Received

1100590FUL - Single storey front and side extension, 1 Frumetty Lane, Alconbury - No observations noted.

c) Bramble End

Mrs Williams reported that there was less litter than last month and the bins had been emptied. The area of brambles and hedging outside the playground needed cutting back. Clerk to organise.

201. Correspondence

Letter from Urban and Civic introducing their new community liaison rep and inviting the PC to meet - All felt that this would be beneficial to meet, however, the Parish Council should wait to see if there was a possibility to meet with Alconbury Weston, Abbots Ripton and Woodwalton PCs together as discussed in the Public Forum

Latest newsletter from Wind Farm Action Group with info-Newsletter stated that the expected date for the appeal panel would be 23rd May, however this was subject to

change and not confirmed by HDC. Also, there was a scale model of the Wind Farm available for viewings if required.

202. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

- Demon – Web Hosting September 10 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp - Clerk Salary for March - £427.25
- Easiprint - Newsletter invoice April - £50.00
- Memorial Hall Youth Group Rental - £111.75
- Gary Brunt - Maypole Square work - £230
- Mr Tom Boyce - Reimbursement for locks at allotments - £17.50
- Mrs Judith Aylott - Food for Royal Wedding - £250
- Cash cheque - Expenses for Royal Wedding - £250
- Nigel Murphy - Youth Group Expenses - £162

203. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 24th May at 7pm for the Annual Parish Meeting then 7.30 for the AGM.
PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FOR ONE MEETING ONLY.