

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 30th August 2011 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mrs Aylott - Chair, Mrs Adams, Mr Barnes, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Watson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk, District Councillor Keith Baker, County Councillor Sir Peter Brown, County Councillor Laine Kadic, 2 members of the public.

Public Forum

Mrs Bacon, resident at Top Farm, expressed concern over the activities taking place in a barn on the Alconbury Airfield. The barn is situated near the boundary of the airfield, adjacent to Mrs Bacon's property. There had been a lot of noise and disruption from the movements going on. Mrs Aylott advised that the airfield is not within the Parish Council boundary, however, County Councillor Laine Kadic offered to look into the matter and took Mrs Bacon's details.

Mrs Bacon also expressed concern about the slip road into the entrance for Top Farm being used as a parking area by some vehicles. She enquired as to the possibility of double yellow lines or removing the slip road altogether as it is dangerous to have vehicles parked there. County Councillor Kadic also agreed to look into this.

59. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Pickering and Mr Senior who were both on holiday.

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

Mr Lay expressed an interest in item 82 as an allotment holder. Mr Boyce also expressed a personal interest in item 82 as the spouse of an allotment holder.

61. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 26th July 2011

Minutes proposed by Mr Boyce and seconded by Mr Hardy. Minutes duly approved and signed.

62. Actions from last meeting - Clerk

- Building rubble cleared from the Rusts Lane Flyover
- Bus Diversion in place with County Council for the Bridge Works 5th-19th Sept
- Newsletter List amended
- Mr Pickering has completed mission statement
- CPALC training for all councillors organised
- Footbridges on Village Green and Polecat Lane reported and repaired
- Litter picks requested from HDC

63. Localism Bill - County Councillor Sir Peter Brown

County Councillor Brown had nothing new to report on the Localism Bill. He did, however, advise that in line with the Localism Bill, County and District Councils would be working more closely in order to assist and offer more power to Parish Councils.

County Councillor Brown also offered his thanks again for all the hard work that had taken place with the Youth Group and was pleased to see it running so successfully.

64. Urban and Civic - Update from Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that she and Mr Watson had attended a meeting at the airfield earlier in

the month. Urban and Civic had been awarded the Enterprise Zone which should enable building to start earlier than envisioned and that plans would be moving on quicker.

Urban and Civic would be at the ASSC on 19th September at 7.30pm for a Q and A session for local residents of both Alconbury and Alconbury Weston on the plans for the Airfield. There would also be an exhibition and presentation at the Alconbury Airfield on 24th September between 1-5pm for all local residents to see the Airfield and also the plans for building and businesses. Following this exhibition, there will be a feedback session on 27th September at the Airfield. Urban & Civic will be doing a leaflet drop to all properties.

65. Heritage Bridge - Clerk

Clerk reported that Cambridgeshire County Council had advised that the repair works would take place from 5th September for 2 weeks. During this time the Heritage Bridge would be closed and Clerk was advised of details of the bus diversion. Clerk agreed to publish these in Bus Shelters and in the Village Shop.

66. PC Newsletter - Clerk

Clerk reported that the newsletter distribution list had been amended and offered a copy to all councillors in attendance. Clerk also agreed to leave some spare newsletters in the local shop for anyone wishing to obtain an extra copy.

67. Playground Repair - Mr Senior

Mr Senior was absent from the meeting, however, he had advised the Clerk before the meeting that he was awaiting a quote for the required playground repairs and would be in contact with the Clerk and Chair before the next meeting. Mrs Aylott asked that this was progressed more quickly.

68. Parish Pump - Mrs Adams

Mrs Adams reported that the current editor of the Parish Pump had resigned with immediate effect. She would be replaced by Alconbury residents Mr and Mrs Wall. Mrs Adams enquired as to the possibility of the Parish Council funding an external hard drive in order to store all previous Parish Pump material. All agreed this was ok up to the value of £50.

69. Change of date for September meeting

Mrs Aylott advised that the September Parish Council meeting would be on Thursday 22nd September as the Urban and Civic feedback meeting was on the normal meeting date. All agreed this was suitable.

70. Parking on the Village Green

Clerk reported that the van that had been cause for complaint was still parked at the end of the Village Green. Clerk had written to the owner and visited to no avail. Mrs Aylott had written to the company that owns the van requesting that it be parked elsewhere but had not received a response.

Clerk to obtain details of the access point from ordinance survey maps in order to ascertain if the ford is a public right of way or a bridleway. Once this is confirmed, clerk will report back to PC in order to decide on a course of action.

71. Mission Statement-Mr Pickering

Mr Pickering was absent but had sent through a draft mission statement. Some councillors

had not received this and the Clerk offered to forward the document to all councillors. It was agreed that all would then report back to the Clerk before the next meeting in order for the Clerk to be able to upload it to the website.

72. Clerk's working space - Clerk

Clerk reported that she was in need of an additional filing cabinet. All agreed that one could be purchased from CPALC.

All Councillors agreed that payment of £144 could again be paid this year towards lighting, heating etc as per Clerk's contract (payment made last year also).

Clerk advised that she had been offered a new laptop and printer (free of charge) for the PC. All agreed that the old printer could be disposed of as it was no longer functioning adequately.

73. Parish Plan - Mrs Aylott

All agreed that the Parish Plan needed updating, however, it was also agreed that this should wait until after the localism bill has been passed.

Clerk advised that the Quality Status would need to be updated in 2012. Councillors asked what was gained from having this status as there were no obvious benefits. Clerk to investigate and report at next meeting.

74. Milestone/Great North Road

Mrs Aylott reported that local resident, Jeremy Adams, had volunteered and cleared the branches from the verge on Great North Road. He had also cleaned the Milestone and cut the greenery back so it could be seen. The Parish Council expressed their thanks for the work done. Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

75. Bank Accounts - Clerk

Clerk suggested that the Youth Group account was moved from Nationwide to Lloyds TSB in order to be in line with the other PC accounts. All agreed.

76. CPALC Training

Clerk reported that the CPALC training for all councillors had been booked for the first Monday of the month, starting October (October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th) and the Memorial Hall was booked. All agreed that Clerk should contact CPALC and offer spaces to local villages if required.

77. Neighbourhood Watch - Mr Hardy/Mr Boyce

Nothing to report as NHW meeting had not yet taken place.

78. Youth Group - Mrs Adams/Mr Pickering

Mrs Adams reported that the minutes from the last meeting were eventually received. She also reported that the Youth Group was again looking for volunteers and the CRB checks for the current volunteers had been carried out. Club numbers had been down slightly in August due to holidays etc but there was an "offsite" activity planned for the October half term to a bowling centre.

79. ASSC - Mr Watson/Mr Lay

Mr Watson reported that finances had again been deeply discussed at the last ASSC

meeting and there had been donations received. The club was currently being redecorated by a team of volunteers. There were also volunteers offering refreshments on Saturday mornings whilst football was taking place.

A family fun day was planned for Sunday 4th September.

80. Memorial Hall - Mr Watson

Mr Watson reported that there had not been a meeting of the Memorial Hall committee since the last Parish Council meeting. Mrs Aylott advised that a new boiler had been fitted and locks were in the process of being changed.

81. Allotments - Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that the AAGA AGM would be held on 23rd September and she would be attending. She also reported that TMH Water Solutions had visited the site and cleared the borehole.

82. Committee Reports

a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk had received complaints about dogs fouling on Great North Road. All agreed there was little could be done, however a note in the newsletter was likely. The footbridges on Polecat Lane had been repaired and rubble cleared from the Rusts Lane underpass adjacent to Lordsway Park.

Mrs Elphick suggested that the Parish Council request a bin outside the Village shop. Clerk to contact Mr Lehal, the shop owner.

(i) Churchyard

Nothing to report

(ii) Village Green

Footbridge had been partially repainted. The remainder of painting and repair of boards would be completed January 2012.

(iii) General

All agreed that the flowers in Maypole Square looked lovely. Thanks expressed to Mrs Elphick.

b) Planning Applications Received

None

c) Bramble End

Mrs Williams reported that the safety surface had very large gaps at the edges. Mrs Aylott requested she should obtain quotes for new surfaces. Clerk to chase quotes for new shackles for baby swing.

83. Correspondence

Email from Cambridgeshire Acre ref Social Housing

All agreed that this was not of interest at the current time as 70% of residents were opposed to the idea at the last survey for the Parish plan and it was not felt that there was a need for social housing within the Village at this time.

84. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

J Sharp - Salary - £427.25

J Sharp - Broadband - £21.50

J Aylott - Expenses - £21.97

Fenland Locksmiths - Notice Board lock - £20.00

Easiprint - newsletters and annual report - £253

CPALC-Chair/Vice Chair training - £105.00

Grafton Projects - stationary - £69.60

Cheques proposed by Mr Watson and seconded by Mrs Adams.

Cleared Balances:

Deposit Account - £30244.71

Current Account - £5131.41

Youth Group Current Account - £4890.47

Youth Group Ball Park Account - £1812.14

85. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 22nd September 2011 in the Memorial Hall