

## ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd February 2011 in the Memorial Hall

### Present:

Mr Senior, Mrs Aylott, Mr Barnes, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Pickering, Mr Watson and Mrs Williams. Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk. 3 Members of the Public.

### Public Forum

Mr Huffman enquired as to the ownership of a small piece of land within 'The Paddock'. Clerk advised that she was already investigating this and was awaiting a response from the Land Registry department. She assured Mr Huffman that she would chase this in the coming days.

Mr Hodgson expressed concern over the lack of plans from the new developers of the Airbase, Urban and Civic. He reminded Councillors that the developers had assured the District Council that they would submit their plans for the future of the site by December 2010 but this had not been done. He had attempted to contact the District Council and his local MP to no avail so asked the Parish Council if there was anything they could do to chase the plans. Mr Senior advised that he would be visiting the site and meeting the developers with the Clerk and Mr Watson in March and would raise the concern at the meeting. Mr Senior agreed to bring any information back to the March meeting.

### 142. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mrs Adams.

### 143. Councillors' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda

Mr Lay and Mr Boyce expressed a personal interest in item 131 as allotment holders.

### 144. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 25th January 2011

Minutes of 25th January proposed by Mr Hardy and seconded by Mrs Elphick. Minutes duly approved and signed.

### 145. Localism Bill

Nothing to report.

### 146. Tree Work - Update from Clerk

Clerk advised that Peter Rowlings, Tree Warden, had been out to inspect the trees on the Village Green with Matthew from GTS who had previously done required tree work. The quote received by the Clerk was for -£440+VAT and there was still -£1000 in the precept to cover this. All agreed that Clerk could instruct GTS to carry out the required work.

### 147. Website - Mr Lay

Mr Lay reported that he had received 3 quotes to redesign and manage the Parish Council website. He thought the best quote, whilst not the cheapest, was from a company specialising in Parish Council websites. He suggested that a working party be formed in order to decide what content would be required on the site and who would be responsible for updating and managing the site. Mr Senior agreed and suggested that he and Mr Lay meet in the first instance to discuss putting the working party together. Mr Lay to report back at next meeting.

### 148. Allotments

Mrs Aylott reported that the chippings at the allotment site had still not been spread under the allotment gate and at the top end of the access track. The allotment list had now been updated and following this there were 2 vacant plots. Mrs Aylott suggested that the Clerk advertise this on the notice board. Clerk to Action.

#### 149. Newsletter/Parish Pump

Mrs Aylott informed the Parish Council that it had been suggested that the bi-monthly newsletter was no longer necessary as the Parish Pump was delivered to all homes within the village. All councillors agreed that the newsletter was a vital source of community information and should be continued indefinitely.

The Clerk reported that she had received communication from the current editor of the Parish Pump as she was considering her position as editor due to unfounded criticism about her editorial skills in her first issue of the Parish Pump.

All councillors agreed that the latest issue of the Parish Pump was very well put together and had been well received by the Village. Mr Senior felt that it was a very positive step that the publication was now being delivered to all properties within the village free of charge and voiced his support for the whole editorial team on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### 150. Royal Wedding

Mr Senior reported that the Clerk had received an email from the Alconbury Sports and Social Club enquiring as to whether or not the Parish Council would like to make use of the field on site, in conjunction with Alconbury Weston PC, to host an event to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

Mrs Aylott advised that she had been made aware of plans to hold street parties within Alconbury Weston and an event at the White Hart Public House. Mr Senior proposed that it would be good for the village if the Parish Council were to hold a community event and suggested that the Clerk contacted ASSC with the suggestion that if they were to organise such event, the Parish Council would donate towards it. Clerk to Action.

#### 151. Youth Group

Mr Senior reported that he, Mr Pickering and Mrs Adams had attended an EGM of the Youth Group committee on 31st January in order to discuss the future of the Youth Group. The meeting had been well attended and those in attendance included members of the committee, County Councillors and Local Business owners.

During the EGM, there had been 3 ideas for the future of the Youth Group suggested. One was that the Parish Council employs a Youth Worker to run the group. The second was that the Youth Group pays Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a Youth Worker and resources. The third and most preferred option was for the Youth Group to contract out a Youth Worker who would invoice the Youth Group for their services on a monthly basis. This would mean that the Youth Group would not have to be responsible for Tax, NI, sick pay and holiday pay.

Mr Senior informed the meeting that local businessman, Richard Vanbergen, had very kindly offered to assist in making a 3 year business plan to help ensure the funding and running of the Youth Group. Mr Vanbergen had also kindly pledged a substantial amount of funding to the Youth Group, subject to the 3 year business plan being successfully put into place. Mr Senior offered thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for his support and would

be meeting with Mr Vanbergen in the near future.

#### 152. Memorial Hall

Mr Watson reported that although a Memorial Hall meeting had been held, there had been nothing at the meeting to report back the Parish Council. He reminded Councillors that the Memorial Hall AGM was to take place at 8pm on Monday 28th February and that a fund raising day was to be held on 26th March with a children's event in the afternoon followed by an adult's event in the evening.

Mrs Elphick asked Mr Watson if the Memorial Hall committee were aware of heating problems in the hall as other users had reported being extremely cold at times. Mr Watson assured Mrs Elphick that the committee were aware of issues with the boiler and were in the process of sourcing a suitable engineer to investigate and subsequently repair the problem.

#### 153. ASSC

Mr Watson reported that neither he nor Mr Lay were available to attend the latest ASSC committee meeting, however, no issues had been raised at the meeting that would affect the Parish Council.

Mr Lay reported that a second planting day to complete the Orchard was to be held on 6th March at 10am and all volunteers would be welcomed to assist with planting.

Mr Barnes asked if a date had been set for the annual charity cricket match. Mr Watson advised that although a provisional date had been set for 15th July this was yet to be made final.

#### 154. Village Shop

Mr Senior reported that extensive refurbishment of the Village Shop had taken place since the new owner, had completed the sale. The Post Office had remained open throughout the works; however, the shop and newspaper service had been temporarily suspended. The new owners, Mr Lehal Snr and Mr Lehal Jnr, hoped to have the shop stocked and open by the beginning of March.

Mr Senior also reported that the new owner had expressed concern over the possibility of problems with parking outside the shop once it was fully open and operational. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation and liaise with the owners if a problem arose.

The full Parish Council agreed that it would be vital to support the shop as a much needed amenity for members of the community, especially those more vulnerable, and would do so in the future.

#### 155. Committee Reports

##### (a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that the trees at Mill Lane had still not been cut back and she had now written a second letter to the property owner. She also informed the Council that a local repair man was going to inspect the post at Maypole Square that needed repairing and would inform the Councillors once she had received a quote for the work.

Mrs Elphick expressed concern about the state of the footpath between Bell Lane and Rusts Lane. She reported that due to the falling tree and plant waste it had become

extremely slippery and somewhat dangerous. Clerk agreed to arrange to visit the area with Mrs Elphick and a repair man to inspect.

Mrs Elphick informed the Parish Council that a parishioner was kindly tending to the plant pots in Maypole Square at her own expense. The Parish Council all agreed that a gift of –£25 garden centre voucher should be given to thank her for her kind actions. Clerk to action.

Mr Barnes expressed his concern over large articulated lorries parking and turning within School Lane and Hillfield. He felt that this caused a danger to the local residents and other road users. Clerk to investigate if there is any way to reduce the number of trucks entering the village.

Mrs Williams expressed concern at the large number of potholes along the end of Rusts Lane. Clerk to email Highways Agency to report.

(i) Churchyard

Clerk reported that a light was not working but had already been reported to the Highways Agency.

(ii) Village Green

Clerk reported that she had been in contact with local horse yard owners to request that horses were not galloped or cantered along the Village Green. Mrs Aylott felt that this had reduced; however, Clerk would continue to monitor.

(b) Planning Applications Received:  
None.

Mrs Aylott expressed concern at a large list of planning applications that had not been received by the Parish Council by HDC. All agreed that the Clerk should check the planning website on a weekly basis and report back to both the Parish Council and HDC if there were applications listed that had not been received. In the meantime, Clerk agreed to speak with HDC head of planning and also the Royal Mail sorting office to try and establish if there was a problem with delivery or a problem with applications not being sent.

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

Mrs Williams reported that the playground equipment was in good order. She informed the meeting that the land at the gateway nearest to School Lane was very worn and suggested that some hardcore or chippings may be needed to try and preserve the area and make it safer. Clerk to contact local repair man in order to obtain a quote for this.

156. Correspondence

Request for donation from Alconbury Pre School-The Pre School had requested a donation to help fund a garden project. The Parish Council agreed a donation of £200 would be appropriate as the facility would benefit children using the Pre School in the future as well as current children.

157. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

- Demon - Web Hosting September 10 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp - Clerk Salary (and broadband) for February - £456.75

- Alconbury Over 60's - Donation of £200 (agreed to January meeting)
- Cambridgeshire County Council - Youth Worker Invoice - £756.02 - The Parish Council all agreed that this should be deferred to the March meeting as it was an invoice for services not yet received.
- Cambridgeshire County Council - JFMI contribution - £1375.00

Cleared Balances

Current Account - £3471.68

Youth Group Account - £127.63

Deposit Account - £35,693.54

Ball Park Fundraising Account - £1811.91

158. Date of next meeting

29th March 2011 in the Memorial Hall.