

## ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2011 in the Memorial Hall

### Present:

Mr Pickering (Acting Chair), Mrs Adams Mrs Aylott, Mr Barnes Mr Boyce, 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. 2 Members of the Public.

### Public Forum

Mr Hodgson expressed concern over the reported use of the Truckstop Hotel as a 'swingers club'. He reported that he was concerned about the use of the hotel and the legality of activities there. Mr Pickering advised that Mr Senior had already spoken with HDC and although the planning enforcement team was investigating this, the owner does not need a change of use licence as it was still being used as a hotel. Mr Pickering advised that the Parish Council will monitor it but suggested that if individual people were concerned they should contact HDC direct. District Councillor Keith Baker advised that the hotel meets all planning conditions and regulations at the current time.

Richard Scott, Churchwarden, also expressed concern about the same hotel. He read out a short statement on behalf of a few residents within the village. Mr Pickering again advised Mr Scott to contact HDC direct but advised that at the current time, the Parish Council would not be joining any action or petitions against the hotel.

### 125. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Senior

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

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

### 127. To sign and approve minutes of previous meetings held on 30th November 2010 and 5th January 2011

Minutes of 30th November proposed by Mrs Aylott and Seconded by Mr Hardy. Minutes duly approved and signed.

Minutes of 5th January proposed by Mrs Williams and Seconded by Mr Watson. Minutes duly approved and signed.

### 128. Localism Bill

District Councillor, Sir Peter Brown, reported that the new Localism Bill was currently being passed through Government. He advised that the bill would give more power to local Parish and town councils. This could include various things such as power when dealing with Highways Agencies, power to make improvements and alterations within the village that would previously have had to have been passed through the district or County Council.

Councillor Brown also reported that roles for District Councillors would change and it would mean more involvement with Parish Councils and more work out and about. He also advised that Parish Plans would become much more important and recommended speaking with Cambridgeshire ACRE in order to put one together.

He requested that the Localism Bill be kept on the agenda monthly for the foreseeable future so that updates could be given when available. All agreed that this was a suitable plan.

#### 129. Hotel at the Truckstop

Mr Pickering advised that a local paper had reported the use of the hotel at the Alconbury Truckstop as a 'swinger's hotel'. Members of the public had already expressed their concerns about this during the public forum so Mr Pickering just reiterated his comments that people should contact HDC directly if they are concerned and as no law is being broken at the present time, the Parish Council would not be taking any further action.

#### 130. Lordsway Park Signage

Clerk advised that a sign had been ordered to direct people from the bottom of Rusts Lane left to Lordsway Park Homes. This was in response to many issues with emergency services taking longer than necessary to find people at the site due to lack of signs.

#### 131. Allotments

Mrs Aylott reported that she, Mr Lay and Mr Boyce had recently submitted a lottery grant application for £3500. If successful this would enable the Parish Council to complete their responsibilities to the allotments with tarmac chippings, fencing and hedging.

Mrs Aylott advised that free labour would be available from the Community Payback Service in order to help with spreading chippings, erecting fencing and planting hedging. It was also reported that the lease with the landowners had been amended to 15 years in order to meet the requirements for funding. The full Parish Council wished to thank Mr and Mrs Ayres for their support and co-operation in amending the lease.

AAGA were hoping to open the allotments during the open garden weekend later in the year.

#### 132. Chairman Update

Mr Pickering reported that no councillors had come forward in order to replace Mr Senior as chairman at the end of his 4 year term in May. If no chairman was found within the Parish Council, HDC would have to appoint another person to chair the meetings. Mr Pickering advised the Parish Council that as this would not be a solution conducive to maintaining the success had in previous years, that he was happy to step in to become chair from May 2011.

#### 133. Community Orchard

Clerk advised that a planting day had been arranged for 29th January at 10am. Mrs Adams, Mr Barnes, Mrs Williams, District Councillor Keith Baker and Mrs Scott (Member of public) all kindly offered to sponsor a tree. Mrs Aylott suggested that the Clerk spoke to the brownies, scouts, WI and other village groups in order to get support with the planting.

#### 134. Youth Group-Standing orders were relaxed for this item

Mr Pickering reported that he had attended a Youth Group Committee meeting recently. The main point to be discussed was the withdrawal of funding by Cambs County Council. During the Youth Group meeting, various options had been discussed including the possibility of the Parish Council employing a Youth Worker. This was something that would need to be discussed in more detail; however, this could not be done until after the Extraordinary meeting of the Youth group on 31st January. This was to be attended by Mr

Senior, Mr Pickering and Mrs Adams who would report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Richard Vanbergen, local businessman, advised that if the Youth Group committee and Parish Council could devise a 3 year plan for the Youth Group, he would be willing to assist financially. Mr Pickering asked that Mr Vanbergen attend the Extraordinary Youth Group Meeting on 31st January, as he felt it would benefit the Youth Group Committee.

#### 135. Memorial Hall

Mrs Adams reported that there had been no meetings since the last Parish Council meeting so would report back in February.

#### 136. ASSC

Mr Watson advised that Laurence Rickard was aware of the planting day and was trying to get support and volunteers in order to help with planting. Also, it had been reported that the ASSC income over the winter had not been as good as expected due to the severe weather causing the cancellation of various sporting events and also lack of trade due to people not attending the club in the bad weather.

#### 137. Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Hardy had attended the Neighbourhood Watch AGM recently. There were a number of concerns raised, which included:

Large Vehicles parking on Manor Lane - Passed to PCSO.

Bush and Tree Debris on the verge outside a property in The Leys - Clerk to contact owner.

Lorries parking at the top of Rusts Lane near the Truck Stop - Clerk to contact PCSO.

Refuse Lorries turning around in Frummety Lane and damaging the kerb and Village Green - Clerk to contact HDC.

The Neighbourhood Watch committee had requested that the Parish Council consider their request to place the newly designed Village Map on the ground near the Heritage Bridge on High St. The Parish Council all agreed that this would be fine and expressed thanks to the Neighbourhood Watch committee for producing such an attractive and informative map.

Mr Hardy reported that the last Neighbourhood Forum meeting held at Alconbury School had not been well publicized and he had only received a few hours notice for this. District Councillor Baker agreed to speak with the relevant persons at HDC to ensure that the Parish Council receive suitable notification before the next meeting.

Carols around the Christmas tree raised £147 for MAGPAS Air Ambulance.

#### 138. Committee Reports

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

Clerk reported that the trees at Mill Lane had still not been cut back and she was chasing HDC and Highways Agency to get this done. She will also send another letter to the property owner. There had also been complaints of the bin on Mill Lane being moved but this seemed to have been rectified at the time of the meeting. There had been reports that a previously damaged post in Maypole Square was again damaged. Clerk to investigate and arrange repair.

(i) Churchyard

Nothing to report at time of meeting.

(ii) Village Green

Mrs Aylott requested that the Clerk contacts local Horse Yard owners to request that riders are reminded not to canter or gallop along the village green, especially when it is wet.  
Clerk to action.

(b) Planning Applications Received:

None - PLEASE NOTE CLERK HAS EMAILED STEVE INGRAM HEAD OF PLANNING REF MISSING APPLICATIONS AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. AWAITING RESPONSE.

Applications determined by Huntingdonshire District Council/Appeal:

None

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

Mrs Williams reported that everything was ok at the playground. There was only a small amount of litter and the playground was still being well used.

139. Correspondence

Letter from Mrs Wolfe Ref Wind Farm - Mr Pickering acknowledged receipt of the letter and Clerk will keep on file.

Letter from Wind Farm Action Group - Mr Pickering acknowledged receipt of this letter and advised it had been circulated to the whole PC. Mrs Williams and Mrs Aylott felt that the letter was rude, insulting and reflected very badly on the Wind Farm Action Group.

Request for donation from Alconbury over 60's - All agreed that a donation of £200 as per previous years would be acceptable.

Letter from Richard Scott ref Hotel - Mr Pickering had already covered this under item 129.

140. 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 January - £456.75
- AAGA - Water Tank - £269.00
- Cream Ink - Mr Tait-Website - £576
- Memorial Hall - Youth Group Rental - £87.75
- Mr and Mrs Ayres - Allotment annual rental - £1000
- Easiprint-Newsletter - £40.00
- Dyers - Xmas Tree - £170.00
- Smiths Gore - Memorial Hall Rental - £1.57
- Smiths Gore - Memorial Hall Rental - £74.03

141. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting - 22nd February 2011 in the Memorial Hall.