

## ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

### Present:

Mrs Aylott - Chair, Mr Barnes, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Pickering, Mr Senior, Mr Watson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk, District Councillor Keith Baker, County Councillor Sir Peter Brown, County Councillor Laine Kadic, 6 members of the public.

### Public Forum

Mrs Horsley, a resident from Lordsway Park, expressed her concern about building rubble that had been left near the flyover on High Street. Clerk advised that she had been in touch with HDC who had visited the builder responsible and asked him to remove the rubble. As this had not yet been cleared, Clerk agreed to contact HDC again as a matter of urgency. Mrs Horsley also expressed her disappointment that the grass on the Village Green was not being cut or strimmed all the way to the flyover. Clerk to contact grass contractor.

### 35. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mrs Adams (holiday) and Mr Lay (work commitments).

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

Mr Boyce expressed a personal interest in item 54 as the spouse of an allotment holder.

### 37. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 28th June 2011

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

### 38. Alconbury Telecom Presentation

4 members of a new group called "Alconbury Telecom" were at the meeting and made a short presentation about their new group and their aims and objectives within the Village. Mr Mel Bryan made the presentation which, in brief, gave the following information:

- Alconbury telecom is a committee of local residents who are dissatisfied at the slow internet service in Alconbury and Alconbury Weston
- Slow internet is affecting many people's daily lives with shopping, home working, banking and gaming to name a few
- There are no super fast, fibre optic cables from Huntingdon Town to Woolley exchange where Alconbury and Alconbury Weston's broadband comes from.
- Alconbury Telecom are preparing a business case by gathering data, seeking support and views from residents and liaising with local businesses and HDC
- Alconbury Telecom has already spoken with BT about getting super fast broadband or "BT Infinity" but unfortunately this is not in the foreseeable future.

Mr Bryan explained that in order to ascertain if it was going to be possible to achieve their objective to get faster broadband in the village a feasibility study would need to be carried out by Rutland Telecom. The study would be £500 + vat (£600) and they had already secured a promise of £200 from Alconbury Weston Parish Council. All agreed that Alconbury PC should pay the remaining £400 as it was very much in the best interests of residents and businesses within the village. The PC agreed to immediately fund the full amount and ask Alconbury Weston for their share. Cheque was signed immediately and Mr Bryan would report back with the findings of the study once it had been carried out.

#### 39. Actions from last meeting.

- \*Clerk added heading "Roads and Footpaths" to the agenda and minutes.
- \*Clerk arranged for litter bin on lamppost at Church Way to finally be emptied after chasing
- \*Mrs Elphick has planted new flowers at Maypole Square
- \*Clerk chased repair of Bridge (reported under item 41)
- \*Clerk chased insurance company ref borehole Insurance. Query sorted and reported under item 54
- \*Mr Senior made enquiries regarding the RoSPA work for playground at the ASSC
- \*Clerk had arranged printing of annual report and newsletter ready for distribution end of July.
- \*Clerk had ordered notice boards - reported under item 43
- \*Details of group training sessions obtained - reported under item 49

#### 40. Localism Bill - County Councillors

County Councillor Sir Peter Brown advised that there was nothing to report on the Localism Bill, however, a presentation was in the process of being put together by Cambridgeshire County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council that would be presented to Parish Councils at a later date to better explain the Localism Bill and how it would affect Town and Parish Councils.

#### 41. Heritage Bridge - Clerk

Clerk reported that Cambridgeshire County Council had advised a date for the bridge closure and repair works of 8th-16th September 2011. This was yet to be confirmed. CCC had also advised that they would be monitoring the bridge regularly until the scheduled repair and if it was found to be getting more fragile then a decision may be made by the bridge engineer to close it until the scheduled work could be completed in order to preserve the bridge.

Clerk to contact CCC and Stagecoach ref alternative bus arrangements whilst the works are being carried out.

#### 42. Annual Report/PC Newsletter - Clerk

Clerk reported that the Annual Reports and newsletters were in the process of being printed and should be ready for distribution before the end of July.

#### 43. Notice Board - Clerk

Clerk advised that 2 new notice boards had been ordered, however, would not be delivered until September due to delays at the manufacturers.

#### 44. Mission Statement - Mr Pickering

Mr Pickering reported that whilst attending his recent training session with Mrs Aylott, it had been mentioned that many Parish Councils have a mission statement. Alconbury Parish Council does not and therefore Mr Pickering had drafted a new mission statement and list of objectives to present to the Parish Council. All agreed that these were acceptable and Mrs Aylott thanked Mr Pickering for his work. Mr Pickering asked Councillors to read the statement in more detail so it can be finalised at the next meeting (and published after this time).

#### 45. Urban and Civic - Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that she had attended a meeting at the Alconbury Airfield with Mrs

Elphick. All Local Parish Councils were represented at the meeting. One of the main queries was the concern about how many jobs would be created as there had been some confusion between media reports and information from Urban and Civic but the estimation was 5-8k.

Urban and Civic were awaiting the results of the Enterprise Zone application, however, the development at the Airfield would go ahead regardless of the result but the timescale would differ greatly. Urban and Civic were in the process of carrying out various traffic/speed surveys in order to try and assess the infrastructure needs in the local area.

An open day has been arranged for 24th September where local people can visit the Airbase and view the plans, and then a feedback session for local Parish Councils will be held on 27th September. It was agreed that the September Parish Council meeting be moved in order to allow councillors to attend the feedback session on 27th September as the changes to the local community would, in time, be substantial. Mrs Aylott and Mr Watson will attend the next meeting at Urban & Civic on 3rd August.

#### 46. Flood Protection - Mr Pickering

Mr Pickering reported that he had attended the official launch of the new Flood Protection scheme on 15th July. This marked the completion of the Flood Protection measures put into various homes within the Village and was attended by local dignitaries and media.

#### 47. Emergency Planning/Parish Plan - Mrs Aylott

Mr Pickering reminded councillors that an emergency plan was still to be put together. In light of recent flood protection measures being added to some properties, it was agreed that the plan be resurrected. Mr Pickering to organise.

Mrs Aylott reported that the "Parish Plan" was nearing the end of its '5 year Action period' and may need updating. Mr Hardy and Mrs Williams reminded Councillors that the Action Plan had been reviewed in 2010 and Mr Hardy agreed to resend the update for Councillors to read. To be further discussed at the next meeting.

#### 48. Playgrounds/RoSPA - Mr Senior

Mr Senior reported that he had visited the ASSC playground with a local contractor in order to obtain a quote for repairs to some of the equipment. He needed to return for a second visit with more information, clerk to provide RoSPA report to Mr Senior.

#### 49. CPALC Training-Clerk

Clerk reported that she had obtained details of group training sessions from CPALC for all councillors. The course was split into 3 sessions of approximately 2 hours in length each. The cost for the course would be a total of £1050.

All agreed that the training was essential. Clerk to contact CPALC to organise dates then liaise with councillors before next meeting.

#### 50. Footpath at rear of Coulson Way/Odd Jobs - Clerk

Clerk reported that the path at the back of Coulson Way had been tidied up again by the contracted gardener. She had written to the owners of properties which had trees overhanging their boundaries onto the pathway and was awaiting a response. Clerk to obtain quotes for tree cutting prior to next meeting.

Following advice from CPALC, Mrs Aylott raised the issue of paying for "odd jobs" in the village and recommended that an amount be agreed to enable the Clerk so she would have the power to authorise payment for in the event of urgent works in the village. All agreed at £500. The Chair and Vice-Chair would be informed of any such work.

51. Youth Group - Mr Pickering

Nothing to report as Mr Pickering and Mrs Adams were absent at the last Youth Group committee meeting and their Minutes had not yet been issued.

52. ASSC - Mr Watson

Mr Watson reported that a business plan for the ASSC was in the process of being compiled. There was to be a family fun day on September 4th 2011 and a football training event on 31st August 2011. There was also a Band Night being planned for 19th November.

53. Memorial Hall - Mr Watson

Mr Watson had nothing to report as the next committee meeting was not until 31st August.

54. Allotments - Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that the issue over the insurance for the borehole had been rectified and the Parish Council's insurance would cover the borehole so long as the Parish Council were leasing the land from Mr and Mrs Ayres.

The Clerk had written to the fitter of the Borehole as it did not appear that the Borehole was functioning as promised.

Mrs Aylott also reported that she had been to an AAGA committee meeting on 12th July. Two committee members have stepped down from the AAGA committee and a further four would do so at their AGM which is on 23rd September. Mrs Aylott added that she would again raise the subject of Semi-Autonomy (Devolved Management) at that AGM. The completion of the fencing and hedging will take place in the Autumn.

55. Committee Reports

a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that there was a substantial amount of graffiti on the wall of the underpass on Rusts Lane. This had been reported to the Police and HDC for removal. There had been a complaint received about "fly tipping" and rubble left next to the Underpass on the High Street by a builder working locally. Clerk had passed this onto HDC earlier in the month who had advised that they would deal with the problem; however, the rubble was still there. Clerk to chase HDC and visit the builder. Confirmation had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council that the footbridge between The Maltings and Polecat Lane was to be repaired ASAP.

(i) Churchyard

Nothing to report

(ii) Village Green

Clerk had received a complaint about horses persistently cantering on the Village Green. All agreed that Clerk should write to local Horse Riding Yards to request that all riders limit their horses to a walk or trot on the green.

(iii) General

Mrs Williams expressed concern over reports that a dog had been escaping from its owners property and attacking other dogs. Clerk to investigate.

Mrs Aylott requested that the Clerk organise a litter pick along the Great North Road and on the slip road onto the A14 towards Huntingdon.

b) Planning Applications Received

None in time for meeting, however, a new application had been passed to the planning committee. Details to follow.

c) Bramble End

Mrs Williams advised that the baby swing needed new shackles. Clerk to obtain quotes.

56. Correspondence

Quality Panel Vacancy email from CPALC

Clerk advised of an email received stating that a vacancy had arisen on the Quality Status Panel. Email forwarded to all.

Email from resident Ref overhanging trees into property

Clerk had received an email complaining about trees overgrowing from his neighbour's property into his garden. All agreed that this was a civil matter and therefore the Parish Council would not intervene.

Email from resident ref erosion of bank in garden in The Maltings

This had been dealt with in the time between compiling the agenda and the minutes and was no longer a Parish Council issue.

Letter from resident Ref Luminous Street Representatives

Mr and Mrs Wall, residents of the Village, had received notification of a meeting held by Luminous Housing about "Street Representatives". Unfortunately, the Parish Council did not receive their invitation as it was sent elsewhere in error.

Mr and Mrs Wall kindly emailed some feedback from the meeting which was shared with councillors. Clerk has contacted Luminous to ensure that Alconbury Parish Council are informed of any future events.

57. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

Demon Web Hosting - Direct Debit - £11.75

Memorial Hall rental-Youth Group - £105.75

Jo Sharp - Salary - £427.25

Jo Sharp - Broadband - £25.50

Eileen Elphick - Maypole Square expenses - £16

Thursday Club - £200 donation as agreed at June meeting

Donarbon chippings for Allotments - £580.03 (from Lottery funding)

SRH Gardening - Clearing at rear of Coulson Way - Amount - £60.75

Nigel Murphy - Youth Group expenses - Amount - £114.17 (from Youth Group account)

Cheques proposed by Mr Senior and seconded by Mr Barnes.

58. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 30th August 2011 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall