

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2011 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mrs Aylott - Chair, Mrs Adams, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Pickering, Mr Senior, Mr Watson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk. 3 members of the public.

Public Forum

Jennifer and Mary Bacon enquired as to whether or not the Parish Council knew of any plans for development of Alconbury Airfield. Mrs Aylott advised that this would be discussed under item 26 and she would relax standing orders.

Roger Read expressed his concern over the standard of resurfacing of roads in the Village, especially near the entrance to Alconbury Airfield. Following a meeting that he had with a senior member at Cambridgeshire County Council, he advised the Parish Council that inspections of these works and roads would only take place once every 6 months. Mrs Aylott suggested to the Parish Council that a monthly inspection takes place by the PC and an extra item of 'roads and footpaths' is added to future agendas and minutes. All agreed.

Mr Watson (Councillor) enquired as to who was to replant the flowers in Maypole Square and maintain them. Mrs Elphick agreed to get this done.

Mr Hardy (Councillor) reported that the clearing of the footpath at the back of Coulson Way had been done to a high standard and it looked much better.

Mrs Williams (Councillor) advised that despite numerous requests, the litter bin on the lamppost in Chapel St had not been emptied. Clerk to chase again.

15. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Barnes, District Councillor Keith Baker and County Councillors Laine Kadic and Sir Peter Brown.

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

Mr Lay expressed a personal interest in item 19 as an allotment holder. Mr Boyce also expressed a personal interest in item 19 as the spouse of an allotment holder.

17. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 24th May 2011

Minutes proposed by Mr Senior and seconded by Mr Pickering.

18. Actions from last meeting

Clerk has chased up repair of Heritage Bridge and requested County Councillors to chase. Clerk has queried the insurance cover of the Borehole and the insurance co is going to come back on this.

Dead trees in The Maltings has been reported to HDC Environmental Dept

Clerk investigating the possibility of dog waste bags to be put along Church Way

Clerk has chased and received the ROSPA report as requested.

19. Localism Bill

County Councillor Sir Peter Brown was not in attendance at the meeting however he did send a report. He advised that grass cutting by HDC (some verges but not the Green)

would cease to take place until the end of August as it was not deemed necessary. Both County Councillors had put forward an idea of holding a 'surgery' where residents could come along informally to meet their County Councillors and raise any concerns or questions that they may have. It was suggested that they may want to get a stall at the Village Fete instead. Clerk to contact them with the idea.

20. Youth Group

Mrs Adams reported that there had not been a committee meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. The Youth Group committee was in the process of preparing a leaflet to go home to parents in order to try and recruit volunteers and there was also to be a BBQ at the July club night. Clerk to chase up funding promised from local businesses.

21. Wind Farm

Standing orders were relaxed for this item.

Mrs Aylott advised that Roger Read, local resident, had attended the recent determination meeting for the proposed Wind Farm at Woolley Hill. She asked Mr Read to give a brief summary of the meeting.

Mr Read reported that at the meeting, the vote went against the wind farm 9 votes to 5. During the 2 hour meeting, opposers to the meeting, along with RES (the Wind Farm company) were given the opportunity to speak. Mr Read advised that the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Action Group (against the Wind Farm) were in the process of clarifying some details of the meeting that were suggested may not be factually correct and Mr Read felt that it was almost certain that RES would appeal the decision against the Wind Farm.

Mrs Aylott thanked Mr Read for his report and all agreed that if the decision was appealed then the Parish Council would hold a meeting to discuss its stance on the Wind Farm.

22. Annual Report/PC Newsletter

Mr Lay reported that he was still in the process of putting together the Annual Report. Mrs Aylott reminded him that it needed to be distributed with the next newsletter on or around 30th July. Mr Lay requested that councillors send him some articles for the newsletter.

23. Notice Board

All Councillors confirmed that they had seen the quote for 2 new notice boards for outside the Village shop. Mrs Aylott confirmed that she had spoken to the owner of the shop who was happy for the boards to be sited anywhere on the building, however, the Parish Council would liase with him before putting them up.

24. Allotments

Mrs Aylott reported that Mr Lay and Mr Boyce had stepped down as PC representatives from the Allotment Committee leaving Mrs Aylott as the only representative. She had liaised with the Clerk and all admin was being dealt with, generic letters had been agreed on and plot holder lists and waiting lists were all up to date. She also reported that the AAGA were dealing with the borehole which was not running as well as hoped. The hedging and fencing would be completed when the ground was suitable (probably early autumn).

25. Heritage Bridge

Clerk reported that the urgent repair work to the damaged bridge had still not been carried

out. She had been in contact with Cambridgeshire County Council; however, they advised that they were not going to be treating the repairs with urgency. With that in mind, clerk contacted County Councillor Laine Kadic who agreed to chase this further. Councillors expressed their concerns as the bridge appeared to have been damaged further since the original reported collision by the school bus.

The idea of a preventative measure was discussed. The option of a metal bollard in front of the bridge was considered, however, it was agreed to wait until more information on the localism bill was available before a decision was made.

26. Urban and Civic/Airfield

Mrs Aylott reported that there had been a meeting of local Parish Councils at the Urban and Civic offices at Alconbury Airfield on 25th May 2011; however, nobody from Alconbury PC was available to attend.

The next meeting was to be held on 29th June 2011 which Mrs Aylott would be attending along with Mrs Elphick. They agreed to report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Mrs Aylott outlined the main points from the minutes of the meeting on 25th May 2011 and advised the members of the public, Jennifer and Mary Bacon, that Rebecca Britton was the liaison officer at Urban & Civic. Mrs Aylott suggested that she pass Mrs Bacon,Ãs details to Rebecca Britton, to which Mrs Bacon agreed.

27. CPALC Training

Mrs Aylott reported that she had attended the first part of a 2 day Chair/Vice Chair training course at the CPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough association of local councils) head offices. She felt the training had been very useful and Mr Pickering, Vice Chair, would also be attending the next session on 6th July 2011.

Mrs Aylott suggested that a group training session for Councillors would be of use. All in agreement so Clerk to contact CPALC to obtain some convenient dates.

28. ASSC

Mr Lay reported that he and Mr Watson had attended a meeting on 27th June to discuss finances at the ASSC. There had been a presentation of accounts with information offered as to the profit and loss margins. Actions were delegated and there was to be another meeting within 2 weeks in order to discuss the actions and also discuss the way forward.

Mrs Aylott enquired as to whether or not the ASSC would like to produce a flyer to be distributed with the next Parish Council newsletter. Mr Lay and Mr Watson to put this suggestion to the ASSC committee.

29. Memorial Hall

Mrs Adams had attended a committee meeting for the Memorial Hall during which a Manager's Report had been presented. The report identified substantial problems with the boiler at the hall and the committee was in the process of sourcing a new one. There had also been concern over the condition of the grass at the back door of the hall which had been damaged by vehicle movements getting to and from the Scout store. The committee was in the process of sourcing some protective materials.

30. ROSPA

Mr Watson reported that after a lot of chasing, the Clerk had finally received the RoSPA inspection report for the playgrounds at the ASSC and also Bramble End. The new equipment at Bramble End was reported as safe for use, however, there were some concerns about the swings at both playgrounds and also the climbing net and ladder at the ASSC playground. There was also continued concern about the wet pour surface as per previous years. Clerk to contact local handymen in order to obtain quotes for repair. Mr Senior agreed to meet and discuss with handymen.

31. Committee Reports

a) Clerks Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that the footbridges on the Village Green and the footpath at Brookside were to be inspected by Cambridgeshire County Council ASAP. Dead trees in the Maltings had been reported to Huntingdonshire District Council and passed to environmental health to inspect. The dog fouling problem in Church Way was still very much prevalent; Clerk to investigate getting a 'dog waste bag' dispenser and dog waste bin.

Mrs Elphick reported that there was a loose board on the footbridge on Polecat Lane. Clerk to report to Cambridgeshire County Council. There was also a report of brickwork being placed in the brook near the flood gates. Clerk to report this also.

(i) Churchyard

Nothing to report

(ii) Village Green

Mrs Aylott felt that the green had been very well cut and was pleased to see that strimming had taken place near the Heritage Bridge as requested. Clerk to confirm cut of grass on Village Green ready for the Village Fete.

(iii) General

Nothing to report under 'General' however, noted that as of next month a 4th heading will be entered as 'Roads and Paths'.

b) Planning Applications Received

None

c) Bramble End

Mrs Williams reported that the litter bins had been emptied.

32. Correspondence

Email from Lordsway Park Resident

Clerk had received an email from a resident of Lordsway Park expressing concern at the grass not being cut right up to the flyover and also the state of the road leading up to the gate at Lordsway Park. Clerk reported that she had contacted the grass cutter and also HDC to rectify the problems. There was also a complaint about the noise when the gate is shut. Clerk to pass this onto the land owner to investigate.

Email from resident Ref road at Alconbury Airfield.

The email from Mr Read ref road surfaces was dealt with under Public Forum.

Request for donation from Alconbury Thursday Club

All agreed a donation of £200.

Email ref Paths at back of Coulson Way

Clerk received an email from a concerned resident about the trees that overhang the path at the back of Coulson Way. She met with the concerned people and investigated. There were some trees overhanging from private gardens in Coulson Way and some from outside the boundary fences. All agreed that Clerk to write to the residents who have the offending trees inside their boundaries and then obtain a quote for clearing those outside of the boundary fences.

33. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been called to audit for 1st July and a new internal auditor had been appointed.

Annual accounting figures were made available to all in attendance and all were in agreement that they were happy for the annual return to be signed. Mrs Aylott and Mrs Sharp signed the return.

Cheques for signature:

- Demon - Web Hosting September 10 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp - Clerk Salary for June - £427.25
- Jo Sharp - Broadband for March-June - £76.50
- Aqua Loos - Allotment portable toilet - £108
- Came & Co - Insurance - £459.62
- Cash (for YG) - £250
- Cheque to PC from YG - £250

Cheques proposed by Mr Senior and seconded by Mrs Adams.

34. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.