

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 29th March 2011 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mr Senior - Chair, Mrs Adams, Mrs Aylott, Mr Barnes, Mr Boyce, Mrs Elphick, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Pickering, Mr Watson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk, 6 members of the public.

Public Forum

Mrs Williams and Mrs Howlett enquired as to whether or not the Beaver Scouts could erect a flower display celebrating their 25th anniversary within the village and if so, where this would be best placed. It was agreed that this could be placed in Maypole Square, or if too large, outside the Memorial Hall subject to agreement from the Memorial Hall committee.

Roger Read advised that the Parish Council that he had experienced problems when attempting to print out the minutes from PC meetings due to the format and colour of the website. Mr Senior advised that the website was currently being looked at with a view to a "revamp" and this would be taken into consideration. Mr Read also asked if agendas could be published.

Mr Hodgson expressed his concern over plans for a new entrance to RAF Alconbury. He had seen plans at Huntingdonshire District Council and was worried that it would cause traffic problems for drivers travelling from Alconbury towards Huntingdon. Mr Watson agreed to look at the plans on the HDC website and report back at the next meeting as to whether it would affect residents.

162. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from County Councillors Laine Kadic and Sir Peter Brown.

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

Mr Senior expressed a personal interest in item 172 as a relative of Gary Brunt who carried out the Maypole Square work.

Mr Pickering expressed a personal interest in item 172 as a friend of Gary Brunt carrying out the Maypole Square work.

Mr Lay expressed a personal interest in item 178 as an allotment holder. Mr Boyce also expressed a personal interest in item 178 as the spouse of an allotment holder.

164. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 22nd February 2011 and planning meeting held on 3rd March 2011

Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 22nd February proposed by Mrs Aylott and seconded by Mrs Williams.

Minutes from the planning meeting on 3rd March proposed by Mr Watson and seconded by Mr Barnes.

165. Localism Bill

County Councillor Sir Peter Brown did not send an update; however, he did request that the Clerk ensures that this item stays on future agendas as it is an ongoing issue.

166. Heritage Bridge

Mr Senior reported that the Heritage Bridge had been hit by the Sawtry school bus earlier in March. There was no visible damage, however, Cambridgeshire County Council were in

the process of arranging for an engineer to visit. Cambridgeshire County Council would be in touch with the Clerk if any work was required.

167. Urban and Civic - Mr Senior/Mr Watson

Mr Senior reported that he, Mr Watson and Mrs Sharp (Clerk) had visited the Alconbury airfield site and met with the new owners, Urban and Civic. Tim Leathes, project director, had outlined their plans for the foreseeable future which included 5,000 new homes with 5,000 new jobs in various industries. He had hoped that a planning application would be submitted by the end of the year and would advise the Parish Council nearer the time when he had a better idea of when this might be.

Mr Senior advised the Parish Council that Urban and Civic were keen to work with local people and that they had arranged to hire a planning consultant for Stukeleys Parish council. It had been offered that Alconbury Parish Council could also use this service in conjunction with the Stukeleys PC and all agreed that a meeting with Stukeleys PC to discuss this would be a favourable idea. Clerk to contact Stukeleys PC.

168. Chapel Street Speeding

Mr Senior informed the Council that he had received a number of concerns and complaints about speeding within the village, especially in the Chapel St/High St area. He reported that he had done some research and found an organisation called "twenty's plenty" who promote and campaign for 20mph speed limits. Mr Senior agreed to try and contact the organisation before the next meeting in order to ascertain whether or not Alconbury PC could benefit from their assistance.

Mr Boyce expressed his concern over the Royal Mail collection van that visits the village late afternoon most days. He reported that he had seen the van speeding on more than one occasion. Clerk to contact Royal Mail in Huntingdon.

Roger Read, a village resident, advised that Neighbourhood Watch were also looking into this issue and he agreed to report the Parish Council views and plans back to the Neighbourhood Watch committee.

169. Parish Pump

Mr Senior informed the meeting that the newly appointed editor had decided to continue her role after doubts last month that she may be resigning. He also advised that with immediate effect, all comments and complaints were to be directed to Mrs Liz Adams or Mr Richard Scott.

170. Grass Cutting

Mr Senior reported that the first grass cut was to be done W/C 4th April. The company responsible, 4 seasons, had requested that payments be amended to six standing order payments over the 6 month cutting season. This was agreed by all councillors unanimously.

171. Village Shop

Mr Senior advised that the Village Shop was now open and was a very well received amenity in the village. All councillors agreed that it was really good to have a well stocked shop and offered their congratulations to the Lehals on their first few weeks.

172. Odd Jobs

Clerk reported that local repair man, Gary Brunt, had almost finished repairing the broken post at Maypole Square and repainting the existing posts. She informed the meeting that quotes had been requested from 2 local repair men to clear the area of pathway from Bell Lane to Rusts Lane as it had become dangerous with falling shrubbery and overgrown hedges. Clerk will chase in the coming week.

173. Royal Wedding

Mrs Adams reported that she had attended a meeting with Mrs Aylott and other local committee members in order to discuss celebrating the Royal Wedding at the Alconbury Sports and Social Club. It was reported that the wedding was to be shown in the ASSC with the bar opening afterwards. A free Barbecue, Bouncy Castle and Cream teas would be provided with the PC funding. Mrs Aylott advised that volunteer helpers would be required to co-ordinate the activities.

The whole Parish Council agreed that a donation of £500 should be given in order to support this as a Village event. Cheque to be raised at the next meeting.

174. ASSC - Mr Lay/Mr Watson

Mr Watson advised that he and Mr Lay had attended an ASSC committee meeting but had nothing to report to the Parish Council.

175. Memorial Hall

Mr Watson reported that he had attended the Memorial Hall AGM recently. At the meeting, the chair had resigned leaving the position open at the current time. Four new members joined the committee. Other than the committee changes there was nothing to report to the Parish Council.

176. Youth Group

Mr Senior and Mr Pickering had recently attended a Youth Group Committee Meeting. Mr Senior outlined the details of a business plan put together by Jacqui Fairbrass which all agreed had been well detailed. Mr Senior advised that there were 2 outstanding invoices for Cambridgeshire County Council for monies that had not been invoiced previously and all agreed that these should be paid ASAP. Further to this, it was agreed that once these had been paid by the Parish Council, all money in the YG bank account should be transferred to the PC account ready for the precepted money to be transferred into the YG account so that they started the new financial year with the money allocated to them from the precept.

177. Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Hardy reported to the Parish Council that the NHW committee had asked when the new village map could be erected. Parish Council agreed that this could be done immediately.

178. Allotments - Mrs Aylott/Mr Lay/Mr Boyce

Standing orders were relaxed for this item.

Mrs Aylott reported that work was being organised to erect a new boundary fence and hedging and also to lay chippings on the access track for safety. The work was to be carried out by the community payback scheme which would be free of charge with the exception of the provision of toilets. Along with these tasks, the Parish Council still had to carry out a risk assessment of the site and produce clear, concise instructions for when a plot holder wishes to terminate their agreement. The risk assessment would be carried out

by Mr Boyce with the help of Mr Senior and the instructions for plot resignation by Mrs Aylott and the Clerk.

Mrs Aylott also reported that she had met with Mr Lay and Mr Boyce to discuss semi-autonomy of the site so that the AAGA could partially take over management. The suggestions put to the AAGA by the PC were that the AAGA would still lease the land from the PC who would continue to pay Mr and Mrs Ayres their annual rent. The AAGA would organise and issue tenancy agreements each year ready for payment of rent on 1st November. Also, the AAGA would collect rents and reinvest revenue on maintenance, repairs and capital items. Mrs Craig and Mr Womersley from AAGA were in attendance and advised that they would take the suggestions back to the AAGA committee and report their decision to the PC in the near future. Mr Womersley offered his thanks on behalf of the AAGA to the PC and the allotment representatives for all their hard work.

179. Actions from last Meeting

Mr Senior reported that the following actions from the last PC meeting had been completed:

- Maypole Square post repaired and other posts painted
- Quotes requested to clear the area along Bell Lane-Rusts Lane
- Potholes at Rusts Lane had been repaired
- Planning department and Royal Mail contacted to rectify issues received planning applications
- Letter sent to TK Mistry upon his leaving the Village Shop
- Notice for vacant allotments had been put on the PC notice board.

180. Clerk's Appraisal

Mrs Aylott informed the meeting that the Clerk's appraisal had taken place with Mr Senior and Mrs Aylott. All councillors had seen the report and were satisfied with it.

181. Committee Reports

a) Clerks Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that the area between Bell Lane and Rusts Lane was still causing concern due to a lot of overhanging greenery and fallen leaves. Clerk had requested quotes from local repair men and would chase ASAP.

(i) Churchyard

Clerk had received an email from Richard Scott requesting a grass cut ASAP. Advised that the first cut is to be W/C 4th April.

(ii) Village Green

Mr Senior reported having seen further damage to the green by people riding horses too fast. Clerk advised that a note had gone into both the newsletter and Parish Pump article requesting horse riders do not exceed walking pace on the green. Mrs Aylott requested if and when the footbridge next to the Heritage Bridge could be painted. Clerk to enquire at CCC.

(iii) General

Concern was expressed over the amount of litter on the Great North Road from Mill Lane to the ASSC. Clerk agreed to speak to HDC about a litter pick. Mr Hardy reported that he had seen some discarded tyres along Globe Lane. Clerk to investigate and report to HDC.

Mr Senior requested that the Clerk obtain information about a possible future brook clear and that the clearance of the brook be put on next month,Âs agenda.

b) Planning Applications Received

None since planning meeting on 3rd March 2011

c) Bramble End

Mrs Williams reported that there seemed to be more litter than usual at the playground and the bin inside the playground had been full when she visited. Clerk to request HDC empty more often.

182. Correspondence

Complaint from resident ref overgrowing hedges

Mr Senior read an email complaint from a resident to the Parish Council about hedges protruding onto the path in Maple End. Clerk agreed to investigate and write to the owner of the property concerned if deemed necessary.

Information from Village Walks

Mr Senior read an email he had received about "Village Walks" who are trying to produce historical walks in villages, including Alconbury. Mr Senior requested that the Clerk passed this onto village resident Mary Watkin.

Email from resident about dangerous driving

Mr Senior read an email from a resident concerned about speeding in the village. All agreed that this had been covered under item 168 and Clerk would reply to advise of the Parish Council's plans to alleviate speeding.

183. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

- Demon - Web Hosting September 10 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp - Clerk Salary for March - £427.25
- Alconbury Pre-School - Donation of £200 (agreed at February meeting)
- Cambridgeshire County Council - Youth Worker Invoice - £398.15
- Cambridgeshire County Council - Youth Worker Back Pay - £1987.20
- Alconbury Church - £1500 as precepted for Church Works

184. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 26th April 2011 in the Memorial Hall.