

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

Date

Tuesday 28th August

2012

Meeting

Monthly Meeting

Venue

Memorial Hall, Alconbury

Present

Mrs Aylott

JA

Mrs Adams

LA

Mr Adams

JAd

Mr Bush

AB

Mrs Elphick

EE

Mr Hardy

IH

Mr Lay

JL

Mrs Williams

PWs

Mrs Sharp-Clerk

2 members of the public

Item

Action

Public Forum

Mr Eddie Baker local resident, reiterated his concerns from last month over the state of the High Street from Lordsway Park Homes up to Rusts Lane. He mentioned that upon inspecting the problems he found some 87 areas of damage on the footpath and road. Clerk reassured Mr Baker that she had reported the problems again but the Highways Agency had a long wait on road repairs due to budget limitations. Mr Baker commented that he had reported the defects to HDC who told him that they would be checking out the area

Mrs Williams, Parish Councillor, reported that she had received a complaint about the new fast food van that was parked in Maypole Square twice a week; the smell that was emitted from the van, together with parking problems in the area, especially when the shop was open at the same times that the van operated. Clerk agreed to investigate with HDC if any permit or licence had been obtained by the vendor and to monitor the situation. A resident of Church Way had also complained to Mrs Williams about the way the queue at the fish & chip van blocked Church Way. The Council felt that most people readily moved aside when cars wanted to enter Church Way.

JS

66 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Mr Watson and Mr Pickering due to work commitments. Apologies also noted from Mr Fayers-Hallin due to holiday and County Councillors Brown and Kadic due to other commitments.

67 Councillor's declaration of interest for items on the agenda

Mrs Adams and Mr Adams expressed an interest in item 77 as spouses of allotment holders. Mr Lay also expressed an interest in item 77 as an allotment holder

68 To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 23rd July 2012

Minutes proposed by Mrs Elphick and seconded by Mr Adams. Minutes duly approved and signed.

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

69 Actions from last meeting-Mrs Aylott

- Clerk to contact Highways Agency to report potholes and general state of disrepair on High Street leading to Lordsway Park –Reported to HA and Tony King, Local HA Officer
- Mr Pickering to contact County Council with concerns around the new street lighting being erected within the village-Mrs Aylott advised that she had not received an update from Mr Pickering on this
- Clerk to Ascertain which paint to use on the Milestone-Clerk has been in touch with the Milestone Society. Clerk to further search archived files.
- Mrs Aylott to organise a weeding session at the Community Orchard-In the process of being sorted with tree warden.
- Mr Pickering to monitor the Community Orchard-No update received.
- Mr Adams to have a look at and possibly repair the gate at the ASSC playground-Done and repaired
- Mrs Sharp to contact local grass cutting contractors in order to go to tender for the new grass cutting contract-One new contractor approached plus a tender from the current contractor expected
- Mr Lay/Mrs Sharp to organise domain transfer for website. Done.
- Clerk to contact County Council ref footbridge at Polecat Lane-Reported to Gareth Guest, bridge engineer. No date for repair given yet.

70 Update from County Councillors

County Councillors Laine Kadic and Sir Peter Brown had sent apologies for their absence for the meeting so no update was available.

71 Community Orchard and new Tree Warden

Mrs Aylott welcomed Steve Tarabella, new Tree Warden, to the meeting. He reported that he had already been in touch with the Community Tree Warden Co-Ordinator, Bridget Halford and also with the previous tree warden, Peter Rowlings. He had been to the Community Orchard and had removed some of the weeds around the fruit trees. Mrs Aylott thanked him for his hard work and pointed out that he was not obliged to carry out the work on his own, but to report back suggestions and requirements to the Council. Mr Tarabella suggested putting together a working party for weeding and other works around the orchard site and the hedgerow at the ASSC.

Mrs Williams enquired about the Red Chestnut tree on the village green which appeared to be in poor condition. Mr Tarabella confirmed that he had visited it with Peter Rowlings and they had agreed that it should be monitored for now and reviewed at a later date. Mrs Williams also requested that the Clerk write to the owners of the Leylandi trees on the corner of Mill Road as they were causing a road obstruction.

JS

72 Urban and Civic-Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that the outline application for Urban and Civic had now been submitted to HDC. Every household in the surrounding villages had been sent a

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

postcard informing them that the plans were available to view either at the HDC planning office, Huntingdon library and in the near future, at a shop in Huntingdon town centre. Mrs Aylott had been asked whether the Parish Council would like a copy of the plans but declined as they are over 10,000 pages. *There will be a meeting held at the Memorial Hall on 21st September 1400-2100 for local residents to view the plans.*

Mrs Aylott confirmed that building work on the new access road and welcome building would soon be starting.

73 Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Hardy had nothing to report from the Neighbourhood Watch committee. Mrs Aylott reported that she had received from Cambs Police an email advertising for a new area co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch.

74 Youth Group

Mrs Adams reported that there had been a YG committee meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting although there was nothing to report to the Parish Council. The last club had slightly lower numbers due to the summer holidays but had been a successful night. Volunteers always required.

75 Alconbury Sports and Social Club

Mr Lay reported that there had been a committee meeting recently during which a new Chairman had been appointed. Flyers had been produced advertising the club and would be distributed to local residents in the near future.

76 Memorial Hall

Nothing to report.

77 Allotments

Mrs Aylott reported that the AAGA AGM meeting was to be held on 14th September, although she would be unable to attend and asked Mr Adams if he would report back to the Parish Council at the next PC meeting.

JAd

78 Playgrounds

Mrs Williams had nothing to report from her monthly inspection of the playgrounds. Mrs Aylott thanked Mr Adams for repairing the gate at the ASSC playground.

Mrs Aylott also reported that an email had been received from a local resident who had concerns about older children using the Bramble End playground and had requested that age restrictive signs were erected at the site. This was discussed in detail and it was felt that at the current time, age restrictive signs were not appropriate as the “trim trail” part of the playground had been designed for older children to use and also, it would not be possible to police the area or enforce the age restriction. Clerk to confirm with RoSPA if any other signage is essential at either playground site.

JS

79 Grass Cutting in the Village

Clerk confirmed that she had appointed one company to tender a quote for the grass

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

cutting within the village from March 2013 and also that the current contractor wished to tender a quote. Mrs Aylott suggested that the Clerk contact HDC for a third quote and report back at the next meeting. JS

80 PC Website

Mr Lay confirmed that the website was progressing and the domain transfer had been completed. Clerk was waiting for confirmation from CAPALC regarding some of the proposed content and would forward the final parts to the webmaster ASAP in order to get the site live. JS

81 Footpath Diversion-Mrs Elphick

Nothing to report

82 Clerk's Infrastructure Report

i. Churchyard

Mrs Aylott reported that a "tidy up" of the churchyard had been planned by Rev Mary Jepp for Saturday 22nd September at 9.30am. All volunteers welcome.

ii. Village Green

Clerk confirmed she was going to make contact with Terry Peck, local builder, to repair or remove the concrete plinth on the metal bench on the green. JS

iii. Roads and Footpaths

Mr Adams enquired on behalf of a resident whether the roads would be gritted as usual this year in light of the loss of the Stagecoach bus route. Clerk to confirm with the County Council. JS

iv. General

Nothing to report.

83 Planning

Applications received:

1201218FUL-44 Manor Lane Alconbury Huntingdon PE28 4EH-Single storey rear/side extension-Clerk confirmed that this had only just been received and therefore would be passed to the planning committee in the coming days.

1201158OUT-Urban and Civic outlining application-Discussed under item 72

Applications Determined

1200797FUL-Change of use from vacant land to provide 6 permanent pitches for gypsies and travellers-Fromer Megatron site, Alconbury - Application Refused

84 Correspondence

Email from resident ref older children at Bramble End playground

Discussed under item 78

Email from fund raising committee based at Sawtry College but including

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

youths from Alconbury requesting fundraising.

An email had been received from a sixth form student at Sawtry College who resides within the village. He outlined details of a project that the students at Sawtry were fundraising for and had enquired as to the possibility of a donation of something for their “auction of promises”. Unfortunately it was felt that the Parish Council were unable to help however, Clerk was asked to reply with ideas of other organisations that may be able to help.

Emails from various residents concerned about the bus service

Clerk reported that she had received 3 emails from residents who were concerned that the timetable for the new bus service was not appropriate. She confirmed that County Councillor Laine Kadic was dealing with them. The Council commented that they were disappointed that so many of the buses were empty.

Email from resident concerned about horse riders within the Village

Clerk had received an email from a resident concerned about horses defecating outside his property on Brookside. This was discussed and felt that the Parish Council were unable to help. Clerk was asked to respond.

Email ref branches in the Alconbury Brook

Clerk had received an email with concerns about branches that had fallen in the brook and could be blocking water flow. She confirmed that Mr Pickering had been in contact with the Environment Agency and the branches were to be removed imminently.

85 Responsible Finance Officer’s Report

Cheques for signature:

Demon Web Hosting Direct Debit-£11.50

J Sharp-August Salary £445.95

J Sharp-Broadband expenses £21.75

Cheques proposed by Mrs Elphick and seconded by Mrs Adams.

86 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25th September 2012 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Jo Sharp-Clerk

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