

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

Meeting	Tuesday 27 th March 2012	
Venue	Monthly Meeting	
	Memorial Hall, Alconbury	
Present	Mrs Aylott	JA
	Mrs Adams	LA
	Mrs Elphick	EE
	Mr Hardy	IH
	Mr Lay	JL
	Mr Senior	DS
	Mr Watson	PW
	Mrs Williams	PWs
	District Councillor Keith Baker	

2 members of the public

Item

Action

Public Forum

Two members of the public were present (Mr Hodgson and Mr Lancaster from the car sales site on Globe Lane.)

Mrs Aylott advised Mr Lancaster that she would bring forward discussion on his correspondence to the start of the agenda proper.

Mr Hodgson queried when Urban & Civic would be attending an APC meeting or holding a public meeting to update the village as to progress at the base. He also raised concern that very little appeared to be happening and that jobs which should be coming to Alconbury may be going elsewhere as a result.

Mrs Aylott advised that these points would be covered later on in the agenda under item 185 'Urban & Civic'

Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mr Barnes, Mr Boyce and Mr Pickering. Apologies were also received from County Councillors Kadic and Brown.

207 Councillors' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda

Mr Lay declared an interest in item 217 as an allotment holder as did Mrs Adams as the spouse of an allotment holder

208 To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 28th February 2012

Mrs Aylott noted an error in the minutes – the Youth Group account figure should have been £5,750.44

This had been corrected and the minutes were proposed by Mrs Adams and seconded by Mrs Elphick and were duly signed.

209 Actions from last meeting-Mrs Aylott

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Mrs Aylott reported back on the actions leftover from the last meeting:

Garden Waste on Great North Road – nothing to report at the present time, will be reported back at the next meeting

Playground Quotes – To be covered under item 186

ASSC Invoice towards grounds man – to be covered under item 189

Tree Works – no date for commencement had yet been fixed

The Newsletter – this had been completed and copies provided to Councillors for distribution

Land in the Paddocks – response still awaited from HDC

Potholes – Have been reported to Highways

Maypole square, website, Jubilee – Chair noted these were all to be discussed later on the agenda

Footpath Diversion – Mrs Elphick advised that a meeting had been arranged but then called off so no progress had been made

Vacancies for Councillors had been advertised

Mrs Aylott was unaware of whether progress had been made with the Clerks printer

Participatory Budgeting – This had been advertised in the newsletter

210 Localism Act-County Councillor Sir Peter Brown

No update as Sir Peter Brown was not in attendance

*Mrs Aylott then brought forward Mr Lancaster's correspondence item – she explained that he is the owner of the Cr / Van sales premises on Globe Lane. He has made enquiries to HDC without success regarding the possibility of residential development on the land.

Mr Lancaster advised that the building is not really appropriate for vehicle sales, the access is not fantastic close to the cross roads and in addition his business has outgrown the site. He would like to change the existing building to residential use and build a new building of similar scale and design next to the existing one. This would be a three bedroom house. HDC had advised that it would be too prominent on the corner. Mr Lancaster had provided copies of his submissions to HDC which were circulated for Councillors to view.

Mr Lancaster had written to local residents and asked their opinions which had been positive and hoped that the PC would equally support his proposals.

Discussion took place with the general view of the PC being that HDC's response appeared harsh and that in principle a dwelling on the site would be supported by the PC. It was suggested that Mr Lancaster arrange a meeting with HDC and seek their view on what they will accept. A Bungalow or a one and a half storey property was suggested as a possible option to reduce HDC's concern over prominence. Mr Lancaster thanked the PC and said he would advise of his progress at a subsequent meeting.

District Councillor Keith Baker left the meeting at this point

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211 Urban and Civic-Update from Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott had attended the latest meeting of the liaison group on the 26th at which HDC had explained the process they will be going through to create a new Local Plan. Seminars will be being held around the district in May. In terms of the base the first works to commence will be the construction of the new access adjacent to Top Farm. U & C are carrying out a signage review around the area to look at all the different ways Alconbury in particular are signed. They will come to a PC meeting to discuss the findings and hear our thoughts. In principle they wish to make it clearer to minimise the likelihood of HGV's accessing the village. Mrs Aylott noted this was very important as the base is simply being referred to as Alconbury in all advertising that is taking place which could obviously lead to confusion and problems.

Some discussion took place about possible names for the new settlement at the base.

It was noted that Stukeley PC had been disappointed that APC were not sending a representative to their traffic group meetings. Mrs Aylott was to speak to neighbourhood watch to see if they would be interested in sending a representative.

In response to the points Mr Hodgson had raised in the public forum Mrs Aylott advised that U&C would be coming to the village (dates to be confirmed but probably June) to outline the programme of what will be happening at the base and when over the coming year. There would also be plans showing where the various elements, houses, school, open space etc. would be going.

It was noted that U & C are in talks with local schools, colleges and job centres to ensure that they are aware of the type of jobs likely to be coming up and so that local people have first chance to apply. If anyone is interested in potential employment at the base they can contact Rebecca Britten on 01480 413141 who will be pleased to guide them in the right direction.

212 Playground Repair-Clerk

Mrs Williams had inspected Bramble End and there were no new issues to report.

It was noted however that the 'No Dogs' signs had still not been erected. The Clerk would be asked to action this.

Mrs Williams met with the appointed contractor who is undertaking the resurfacing works at ASSC and Bramble End. Work commenced at ASSC on the 26th and should last 3 days. They will then complete Bramble End.

It was noted that the other improvement works at ASSC, new net, steps and chains had been undertaken the previous week.

Mrs Williams was congratulated for her work on this project and securing a discount from the contractor.

Mr Senior raised concerns over the paintwork on the Helicopter at Bramble End. He undertook to investigate possible options for repainting.

DS

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213 Neighbourhood Watch-Mr Hardy

Mr Hardy reported that the Neighbourhood Watch Group is keen to provide a seat by the bus stop on Great North Road and also to reposition the pole upon which the bus timetable is erected. It was agreed that this was a good suggestion. However it was also agreed that a letter with photographic detail should be forwarded to Highways to gain their approval for this on what is believed to be Highway land before any works take place.

214 Youth Group-Mrs Adams

Mrs Adams advised that the Club night would be taking place on the 30th of March. A Youth Group meeting was scheduled for the second week in April.

Mrs Adams was pleased to report that two new helpers had come forward to assist with the running of the group.

A summary of the Youth Group Accounts had been provided by the PC.

It was agreed that from the start of the new financial year all youth group money will be held by the group in its own bank account rather than by the PC

215 ASSC-Mr Watson

Mr Lay advised that ASSC had received some complaints regarding parking on the Great North Road frontage on Saturday mornings. Although ASSC do erect signage directing people down Polecat Lane to park this is often ignored and cones are removed. The PC pointed out it was the club's responsibility to manage the parking situation, however it was also suggested that ASSC should contact the PCSO Gemma and see if she would come down and have a word with those parking on the verge in an effort to prevent this.

Mrs Aylott noted that ASSC had provided a letter claiming the agreed donation of £4,666.00 towards grounds maintenance.

It was noted that the club had run a very successful St Patricks evening event.

Mr Senior queried the lack of debit card facilities at the club. He felt having the ability to accept card payments could assist in revenue raising.

216 Memorial Hall

Mr Watson & Mrs Adams noted that the meeting was taking place at the same time as the PC meeting so neither could attend. Therefore other than noting that the hall floor had been cleaned and re-polished they had nothing to report.

217 Allotments-Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that the fence is to be erected at the allotments on the 4th and 5th of April.

218 Maypole Square

Councillors had all looked at the plans kindly provided by Ruth King / Caroline Hannah. It was agreed that enhancements to the area should be supported. However the PC could not agree to any digging up / removal of the granite sets. It would therefore be more appropriate to look at options with raised planters. These would need to be well maintained and also removed in December to enable the erection of

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the Christmas Tree. Mrs. Adams suggested that some funding may be available from Neighbourhood watch. The Clerk would be asked to raise this with them.

Mr. Hardy was thanked for recent improvement works / painting he and his wife had carried out.

219 Website

Mr Lay outlined that the current website costs the PC £848 per annum to run. The company that he was recommending to provide a new PC web site would charge £865 to create the site (one off payment) then the annual running cost would fall to £697.99. This includes automatic linkages to the HDC website so that all planning applications within the Parish will automatically be downloaded to the PC site. It was felt that this would assist both members of the public in being able to easily view applications and also the PC as HDC's record in providing copies of applications to the PC was somewhat chequered.

A vote was taken with all Councillors agreeing that the fee proposal for the new web site should be accepted.

The old '.gov' site would be shut down and a new '.org. site created.

220 Queen's Jubilee

Mr Senior explained that two meetings of the Glyn Faulkner Memorial Fund (GFMF) Trustees had taken place since the PC's offer to assist with funding of a Jubilee event at ASSC.

The GFMF are also proposing a fund raising event on the same day and feel that it would be very beneficial to hold a combined event. This would be centered around a village picnic starting at 12pm and also an inter village cricket match between Alconbury and Alconbury Western. The match would start at 3pm. Various associated activities including music, bouncy castle, cake stalls etc. would also be provided. A BBQ will be provided (probably in the evening – possibly all day) The event will continue into the evening.

Councillors agreed that this was a good idea and agreed that the £500 donation previously discussed could be used toward the cost of the event.

Mrs Aylott undertook to advise ASSC.

It was noted that as the event was for both villages that perhaps Alconbury Weston Parish Council may wish to make a contribution towards the costs. Mrs Aylott undertook to raise this with them.

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221 Clerk's Infrastructure Report

i. Churchyard

Richard Scott had asked whether the grass in the churchyard could be cut before Easter Mrs Aylott will ask the Clerk to raise this with the contractor

ii. Village Green

Horse riding was again raised as an on-going problem. The bridge works / junction alterations were continuing. It was noted that the fence posts had still not been repaired.

iii. Roads and Footpaths

Mrs Aylott had received an email from Roger Reed advising that the Councils rights of Way Officer did not have sufficient manpower to assist with the footpath re-alignment to reconnect to Stukeley.

An issue was raised that blockages of the path had not been raised with the officer. Mrs Aylott was unaware of any blockages. It was agreed to note this as on-going.

iv. General

Mrs Aylott had been contacted by Rob Knight the AIM Road Services manager to advise that whilst works were being carried out on the A1 near Sawtry their recovery vehicles would be stationed on the balancing pond just outside the village. A person would be living on site in a caravan during this period for security reasons. Mrs Aylott undertook to advise the adjoining landowner.

222 Planning

Planning Applications Received

1200240FUL-Demolition of double garage. Build single storey rear extension and 2 storey and 1 storey side extension with associated internal alterations

Councillors viewed the application and resolved not to make any observations.

Planning Applications Determined

None

223 Correspondence

Letter from resident concerning speeding and litter outside Village Shop

Mr Lehal has agreed to install a waste paper bin and to relocate the skip to the side of the property on Bell Lane. However this cannot be done until he has obtained a licence from HDC. Mrs Aylott has advised the resident of the steps taken

Letter from Cambridgeshire ACRE ref Community Oil Buying Scheme.

A community organiser for Alconbury is being sought. Mrs Aylott will advertise the opportunity on the village notice boards

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Correspondence from local resident and business owner reference closure of local Van Sales

Dealt with above

Request for donation from Alconbury Over 60s group.

A donation of £200 was agreed. It was agreed that the group should seek a contribution from Alconbury Western given that a number of its members come from Alconbury Weston.

224 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

Demon Webhosting Direct Debit £12

J Sharp-Salary £427.25

J Sharp-Broadband £21.75

CPALC Training £1050

Alconbury Sports and Social Club-Grounds keeping donation £4666

The cheque signatures were proposed by Mr Senior and seconded by Mr Hardy

Balances – Deposit account - £26,727.51, Current - £1,847.06, Youth Group £5754.44, Ball Park £1,814.23

225 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 224th April 2012 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Jo Sharp-Clerk

5 Red Lion Close, Alconbury

Tel: 01480 896164

E-mail: ParishClerk@alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk