

**Minutes of the meeting of Alconbury Parish Council
held on Tuesday 29th September 2015 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.**

Councillors present: Mrs. E. Adams, Ms. L. Isles, Mr. R. Sale (Chairman), Mr. S. Tarabella & Mr. A. Welsh.

Also present: County Cllr. P. Brown, District Cllr. K. Baker & Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. J. Aylott (personal), Cllr. C. Bodley (personal), Cllr. A. Bush (personal), Cllr. E. Elphick (personal) & Cllr. K. Tarabella (Personal). County Cllr. P. Ashcroft (attending another meeting).

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr. Adams declared an interest in item 9, being a trustee of the Alconbury Recreation Field Charity. Cllr. Isles and Cllr. Welsh declared an interest in item 11, being trustees of the Memorial Hall.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th August 2015: Approval of the minutes of 25th August 2015 proposed by Cllr. Welsh, seconded by Cllr. Tarabella and unanimously agreed.

4. Report from District & County Councillors: District Cllr. K. Baker had nothing to report. County Cllr. Brown advised that the Huntingdon town centre development was finally moving ahead after being delayed by Sainsbury's decision to remain in their present location. The small car park will be closed whilst infrastructure is put in and building will start on Chequers Court at the end of the year or early next year. The Ermine Street railway bridge is in urgent need of repair and this will mean road closures for long periods over the next 6 months. County Cllr. Brown is on the governing body of the first primary school at Alconbury Weald, due to open in September 2016.

5. Village entrance features: Urban & Civic have amended the draft drawings and will meet with Highways on 7th October before formal submission for approval.

6. Update on the proposal to lower the speed limit on North Road: The work has been ordered with Highways and the Clerk continues to press for an installation date.

7. Update on Alconbury Weald: The Clerk attended a meeting on 23rd September. Local Plan - The Local Plan has been delayed due to more work being required on the transport assessment and modeling and Flood Assessment work by the Environment Agency. The plan will be finalised next year, around Easter time.

Enterprise Zone – There has been lots of interest from companies wishing to relocate and there will be an announcement on a big tenant shortly. There is lots of interest in the “Mid-Tech Area” which will provide buildings with office, production and storage space. There will be a planning application at the end of October for the first of these buildings and it will include parking spaces and the adjacent park which straddles the Boulevard in front of the listed building. There will be a larger building behind the Mid-Tech Area, which will be occupied by a flower company relocating from Chatteris.

Residential Area – The planning application for the first houses will be resubmitted shortly to reflect changes required by HDC. These will be ready for occupation next summer and will coincide with the completion of the first primary school. The next phase of 350 homes will follow and a planning application for the grey and green infrastructure will be submitted at the end of 2015/early 2016,. The planning application for the houses will be submitted mid 2016, with construction starting at the end of 2016/early 2017.

The next meetings will take place on 24th November 2015 and 2nd February 2016.

8. Alconbury Sports & Social Club: No report available. There had been a misunderstanding regarding the removal of the netting and stakes from the trees in the orchard. However, Mr. Rickard had assured Cllr. Bodley that care would be taken not to damage the trees when the grass was cut.

9. Alconbury Recreation Field Charity: Cllr. Adams reported that the Family Fun Day and the Fashion Show had been very successful and the committee were now planning for the Bonfire Night Halloween Party on 31st October. The refurbishment of the Sports Bar is now complete. Charges for next year had been agreed with the Colts.

10. Community Orchard/Trees: Cllr. Tarabella is to attend a workshop on 21st November on tree pruning. He will then trim and shape the orchard trees. Cllr. Tarabella has removed the remains of the vandalised trees and will replace five of them and plant two new trees on the other side of the ford, next January.

11. Memorial Hall: Cllr. Welsh reported that following an electrical survey, the emergency lighting in the hallway would be replaced and the gas cooker in the kitchen will be replaced with an electric one. Other expenditure for the rest of the year will include a new kitchen sink for the Pre-school and annual insurance renewal. There has been an increase in Pre-school and private hire income but a slight fall in regular village group hire and a 22% fall in commercial fee income. However, the reserve fund remains very healthy despite expenditure increasing by 9% on last year due to planned expenditure on floor refurbishment, badminton court provision and new hall blinds. Cllr. Isles has prepared an updated Village Hall website. Next meeting will be on 8th December.

12. Neighbourhood Watch: Meeting date rearranged from 16th September to 30th September – Cllr. Aylott will be unable to attend. The police crime report for July shows 4 recorded crimes, classified as: Other theft – Sharps Lane, Violent/sexual offences – Brook Close, Anti-social behaviour – Chapel Street & Hillfield.

13. Bramble End playground: Creative Play completed the remaining repairs on 18th September. Clerk to contact Wicksteed Leisure to ask how best to tackle the weeds growing through the safety surface.

14. Youth Group: Cllr. Adams advised that 50 juniors and 11 seniors had attended the July bar-b-q and 33 juniors and 18 seniors had attended the September meeting. The children are busy planning their scarecrows and will complete them at the October meeting on Friday. Circus skills will be the theme for the December meeting. More volunteers would be useful. Finances are very healthy.

15. Infrastructure report:

a) Churchyard – A Churchyard Tidy will take place on Saturday 3rd October at 9.30am. All volunteers welcome.

b) Village Green – Nothing further to report.

c) Roads and footpaths – The temporary signage has been removed. The trees on The Maltings have been trimmed. The footpath behind Coulson Way has been cleared, although some arisings have been left behind. The condition of the footpath will continue to be monitored.

A volunteer has kindly offered to paint the railings by the bridge and he has also replaced a rotten rail. The Clerk has asked HDC to replace the “Crown Gardens” sign which was retrieved from the brook. The Clerk met with Highways on 17th September to discuss the Parish Council’s application for funding for the Local Highways Improvement Scheme 2016/17.

d) General – Nothing to report.

16. Planning.

a) New applications.

None received.

b) Update on previous applications.

5/00749/FUL Change of use from parking and maintenance of 2 HGV lorries and trailers and a pickup truck to a mixed use of parking and maintenance of 2 HGV lorries and 2 trailers and a pickup truck and storage and sale of aggregates. Including the construction of new aggregate storage bays.

In progress.

15/01117/REM Approval of appearance, layout, landscaping and scale in respect of the construction of 128 dwellings, pocket park, associated highways, landscaping and ancillary works. Alconbury Weald, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley. In progress.

15/00921/FUL Extension of sales forecourt and associated landscaping. Steve's Car Sales, Ermine Street, Alconbury. Refused by HDC.

15/00930/FUL Erection of one affordable bungalow. Land north-west of 17 Wren Close, Alconbury. In progress.

15/01054/HHFUL Ground floor extension to the side elevation. The Barn, 17 High Street, Alconbury. Pending decision.

15/00408/REP – Replacement of application TWA/99/APP/13 for proposed rail facilities and rail link to east coast mainline to extend the timescale for commencement, as set in condition 2 (Planning ref: 9701500OUT as replaced by 1000692REP). Alconbury Airfield, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley. Permission granted.

c) A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme.

Mr. Colin Cobbing from Arup had met with councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting to confirm that “very low noise surfacing” will be used on the section near to Alconbury village. The planned 4 metre barrier will be extended to provide protection to a number of properties to the south of the village and a new 2 metre barrier will be erected which will afford new protection for residents of Lordsway Park. This should mean that there will be no adverse noise implications for the village and a number of properties should experience less noise than at present. Traffic flow on minor roads will be monitored after the scheme is installed.

17. Financial report:

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Isles proposed approval of payment of items (1) to (5). Seconded by Cllr. Tarabella and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 864 A. Abbs, grass cutting (final instalment for 2015). £1160.00

(2) Cq. No. 865 PKF Littlejon LLP, external audit fee. £240.00

(3) Cq. No. 866 Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for September. £685.15

(4) Cq. No. 867 HMRC, PAYE/NI September 0.60p

(5) Cq. No. 868 SR Howell & Co., payroll services for 6 months to 30/9 £60.00

b) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was handed to each councillor.

The bank statements were available for inspection and Cllr. Welsh confirmed that the balance in the bank accounts was correct as shown on the bank reconciliation.

18. Correspondence:

a) Precept forms for 2016/17

b) Scarecrow Festival in aid of Project 21 on 17th & 18th October – Cllr. Isles and Cllr. Adams to organise the Parish Council's entry.

19. New agenda items for the next meeting: Small Grants applications to be considered. Grass cutting contract to be discussed.

20. Date of the next meeting: 27th October 2015, starting at 7.30pm at Alconbury Memorial Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....