

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL – MEETING PAPERS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2020

APM 2020.3

Chairman report 2020

I'm happy to report that during the period 2019/2020 the Parish Council (PC) has remained relatively stable. Two (2) new councillors were co-opted to the PC; David and Maralyn Moate. We welcome them warmly to the council. However, our PC Chair; Chris Bodley, decided to resign from the council in January 2020. We thank him for the many years he served on the council and for his excellent leadership over the past couple of those years.

I was duly appointed as PC chair and Councillor Tarabella as vice chair.

This year has seen the PC discuss several key community issues, some of which remain ongoing at the time of going to print:

- Successful tender by DEWS to operate the 46A bus service; a vital life line for the villagers enabling them to connect with our wider Huntingdonshire community.
- Installation of noise reduction barriers along either side of the A1 and a secondary barrier alongside the B1043 greatly reducing the road debris experienced by Lordsway residents.
- Opening, in December 2019, of the A1 link to the new portion of the A14 (Brampton to Swavesey). This has brought the village many challenges during 2019/2020 least of all with the volume of traffic, particularly HGVs, using the local roads as short cuts, avoiding lengthy official road diversions. The condition of our local roads has deteriorated considerably. We, along with other local parish councils, are lobbying Highways England to repair the damage done as a direct consequence of the A14 Improvement Scheme. However, this will take some time so please bear with us.
- Closure of the 'old' A14 between Huntingdon (Spittals) and Godmanchester has also brought us challenges with regards to significant and frequent HGV use of the B1043 causing increased noise and disruption to the residents of Lordsway. We are in contact with Highways England to investigate a solution in terms of the B1043 bridge structure (expansion strips). In addition, our county councillor, Ian Gardener, has also been in contact with Highways England and they have agreed to install signage to redirect traffic for Alconbury Weald (from the Brampton hut interchange along the A141 (formally the A14) to Spittals interchange and then northwards on the A1307 (formally the A1 to A14 link)) and avoid the B1043. We hope this will make a considerable difference to HGV movements in the area. We do not as yet have a timeframe for installation.
- Remodelling of Crown Gardens: as reported in our 2018/2019 annual report discussions were held between the PC, members of the public and the parties involved with the remodelling of Crown Gardens. Since this time, we have seen the remodelling work commence on site. This work is due to be completed for Summer 2020, although this may now be delayed. Once works have been completed parishioners are encouraged to attend an Open Day.
- We are considering the feasibility of merging Alconbury Parish Council with Alconbury Weston Parish Council as the two communities are very closely linked. Discussions have been initiated.
- Environment Agency (EA) have partially completed their scheduled weed and silt removal along the brook. Unfortunately, the excavated material has not yet been levelled and seeded as agreed. Again, due to the things beyond our control this will be delayed.

- The Environment Agency listened to our concerns regarding the flood warnings in place which cover Alconbury Brook. Previously flood warnings issued by the EA covered both Ellington and Alconbury brooks. However, each of these brooks functioned independently and flooded very differently (Alconbury Brook flooding much more swiftly with the potential to damage surrounding properties). They have now separated the flood warnings. The warnings for Alconbury brook are now triggered by water levels and the gauge in Hamerton, which is much more representative of our local conditions. There have been several alerts issued in 2019/2020 and I'm pleased to report no flooding of any individual properties. The flood groups of Alconbury and Alconbury Weston have worked closely during each event ensuring roads have been closed when necessary.
- We have been pleased to support our local Community First Responder Group. This group of individuals are volunteers who are trained by the ambulance service to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work.
- We have repaired the electricity supply to the Parish Pump which is used at least annually to illuminate the Neighbourhood Watch Christmas tree.
- We are continuing to pursue the installation of an electric vehicle charging point in the memorial hall.

Finally, I'd like to end by thanking all of the councillors and our Parish Clerk for their continued support and hard work through the year. I'm particularly proud that we have continued to deliver on all of our promises that we made in last year's Annual report and much more on top. I know that we will continue through the next year to make improvements and represent the best interests of our village.

Tracy Gilbert - Chair

APM 2020.4

Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer

We started the financial year with £46415.66 in the reserves and with careful management and an annual spend of £32321.37 we were able to carry forward £50334.78 in reserves at 31st March 2020. Parish Councils should keep between 1 and 2 times their annual precept in reserves. Alconbury Parish Council are within that bracket and remains financially stable going forwards.

By making savings and applying pressure on the District Council and County Council to carry out maintenance that they were responsible for, the Parish Council has been able to keep to the reduced level of Precept by of £30000.

The Parish Council has continued to be successful in taking over the Village grass cutting of the areas usually cut by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). The contractor will carry out cuts to the areas between April and October. The Parish Council has been able to claim the costs back from HDC and CCC so far with the Parish Council making up the shortfall.

In November 2019 confusion arose over responsibility and maintenance of the lighting unit to the village pump. Following investigation, it was established that although the District Council installed the unit initially they did not take responsibility for the asset. Due to emergency works required to enable the safe use of the supply for the annual Christmas tree lighting, the Parish Council agreed to cover the costs of the repairs at £691.

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus and the country going in to lockdown from the 23rd March 2020 many staff from the District and County Council have been redeployed elsewhere to ensure our communities are being looked after. Some areas of the village footpaths and highways continue to have their issues and the Clerk will continue to report these issues to the relevant authority.

The Parish Council has installed several new waste bins within the village.

We have fulfilled all of our obligations and have been able to make donations to Alconbury Sports and Social Club and the Alconbury Recreation Field Charity. A small donation was made to the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Day poppy wreath, £500 towards the East of England Air Ambulance First Response Unit and a donation to cover the cost of skip fire for the annual Churchyard tidy.

APM 2020 5 & 6

ALCONBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 30.06.20

REPORT BY Cllr IAN GARDENER , County & District Councillor for Alconbury

The County Council is currently made up of 35 Conservative Councillors, 16 Liberal Democrat Councillors, 7 Labour Councillors and 3 Independent Councillors

The Alconbury & Kimbolton Division of the County Council covers 30 Villages and Hamlets from Hail Weston in the South, Covington in the West, Great Gidding in the North and Upton in the East.

I was also elected to the Alconbury Ward at The By Election for the District Council on 12 December 2019. The ward covers the villages of Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Upton & Coppingford, Hamerton, Buckworth, Winwick, Woolley & Barham, Easton and Spaldwick

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Alconbury for their support in the December By Election

The Conservative Budget for this year's County Council Budget agreed a 16 million pound pot to invest in projects to support the Council's position on Climate Change.

Of which the Council agreed to invest 15 million in the decarbonisation of Council owned buildings approx. 69. As a consequence all Council owned buildings will be changed from Fossil fuels ie oil and gas to low carbon heating solutions. Such as air or ground source heat pumps This investment is expected to be recouped in full from savings delivered on the Council's Energy Bills. The buildings locally being converted to low carbon heating solutions ie ground or air source heat pumps are the Grafham Water Centre & Huntingdon Library

The County Council's aim is to also shift all its pool cars and small van fleet from petrol and diesel to electric by 2025. As a consequence the Council will invest in Electric Charging Infrastructure at its main offices to aid the conversion to electric Vehicles.

The Combined Authority i.e. the Mayor is designing a Cam Metro which is planned to come out to St Neots, Huntingdon & Alconbury.

East West Rail have issued their Preferred Route for the line between Bedford & Cambridge which will be via an Interchange Station on the East Coast Mainline between St Neots and Sandy and then via Cambourne to Cambridge.

Since March both the County Council and District Council have been responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Which lead to the formation of a Countywide Hub to deal with the shielded category of residents, supply of PPE to organisations looking after the sick and vulnerable, delivering of prescriptions to local pharmacies, food parcels etc

The District Council alone has referred 900 residents to support from community groups. 241 prescriptions have been collected for the vulnerable each week.

Staff across the County & the District have been redeployed to support the response

£29.04 million pounds has been paid out to 2324 local businesses to keep the local economy going, through the Small Business Grant & Retail, Hospitality, Leisure Grants.

£500k awarded to 3652 working age people in receipt of Council Tax support. Residents have been able to defer instalment payments on their Council Tax

There has been no disruption to the District Councils Waste and Recycling service throughout the pandemic. Huntingdonshire is one in only 5% of Councils that maintained these services throughout the entire period.

HDC has also maintain its grass cutting programme as well as cutting the grass on County Council owned land at its cost.

I have been working locally with the Parish Council re their LHI Bid and HGV traffic using the B1043 regarding the noise etc .

At this year's Full Council meetings I have been put on the following committees

County Council – Environment & Sustainability Committee

Planning & Pensions Committees of which I am Vice Chairman

Fire Authority

District Council – Development Management Committee – Vice Chairman

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Performance & Growth

Alconbury & Ellington Drainage Board

And I have also been elected to the Board of Governors of Kimbolton School as the HDC representative.

APM 2020.7

Alconbury Allotments and Gardens Association (AAGA)

Annual Report to the Parish Council dated 23 June 2020

The Alconbury Allotments consist of 47 individual plots ranging in size on an area of land located in the "Sheep Field" formally leased by the PC for £1200 annually from a local farmer and landowner Mr Sonny Ayres. A committee of 8 volunteers manage the site on behalf of the membership, currently chaired by Mr Nigel Murphy. Plot holders rent their plots from 1 November each year; the committee pay a rent of £1200 per year to the PC via a second formal lease agreement. An AGM was held in September 2019 at which the current committee was elected and annual accounts presented. AAGA currently have sufficient funds in the bank to cover improvements to the allotment facilities as well as general maintenance, grass cutting, vermin baiting and water provision. At the time of writing, all plots are let and probably as a result of the recent time spent at home in lieu of work, all plots are being maintained and utilised to a high standard. Regrettably the annual members' barbeque will not be held in July due to the current social distancing measures however if possible we may try again in the Autumn. There is a current issue regarding the poor condition of the boundary fence between the site and the sheep field, committee discussions are ongoing regarding the scope and timing of suitable repairs. We have made an approach to the PC regarding possible joint funding for the fence materials, further discussions will no doubt follow. There are also issues regarding the densely overgrown nature of the public footpath that runs along the back of the site, resulting in invasion of plots 1-13 by brambles, nettles etc and incursions by vermin. We await a response on this issue from the Parish Clerk, who has approached Cambs CC for action. The site remains a well-liked, healthy and viable village amenity and has been particularly popular during the recent pandemic lockdown.

Nigel Murphy

AAGA Chairman.

The Alconburys Youth Club

Annual Report to the Parish Council dated 23 June 2020

The Youth club continues to be held in the Memorial Hall on the first Friday of each month, except in August due to the summer holidays. The club is run by a small committee of volunteers, many of whom have been involved for more than a decade in providing this facility for the young people of our villages and the surrounding area aged 9 and up, at the request of the then PC to provide an alternative to youth anti-social behaviour. From September 2019 to March 2020, 573 members have attended, averaging 81 per club night split over two sessions, for aged 9-11 and for 11+. The club has a healthy bank balance which enables the club to function and supports the provision of craft materials, games and sports equipment. The highlight of this year was a Christmas event run by Aight Fingers Circus Training when members were taught to juggle, ride unicycles and try other circus type skills.

Regrettably since the lockdown began in late March, the Club has been suspended and there is no likelihood of it opening again before September 2020 at the earliest. There is a possibility that if the club cannot be run safely for members and for supervisors and within the extant Government guidelines it will remain closed for the foreseeable future. In addition, the issue previously reported concerning the long term viability of the Youth Club due to the age of the volunteers and a lack of new volunteers able and willing to take on the commitment remains as critical as before, therefore combined with the ongoing social distancing concerns, the Youth Club is in a precarious position.

Nigel Murphy

Chairman AYC Committee

Alconbury Community Pre-school

Learning and Fun in the
Heart of the Village



The Memorial Hall- School Lane Alconbury
Cambridgeshire PE28 4EQ

Tel: 01480 896006  acpschool@live.co.uk

 Alconbury Community Preschool

BACKGROUND

The Alconbury Community Pre-school (ACP) was established over 30 years ago in the Alconbury village hall. It then moved to a port-o-cabin in the grounds of the Primary School. When the village was lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the lottery for a new Village Hall, the Pre-school moved to a designated, secure and safe room in the hall accommodating all the Pre-school needs. We have a small kitchen and the children

have their own child friendly toilets and sink, helping them to become more independent. In 2017, we added a covering canopy to the outdoor area, allowing the children to enjoy the outdoors in all weather. In 2018, we received funding from a Tesco community grant fund to build a new outdoor area, opening up exciting options for learning adventures in the great outdoors. The Children are now enjoying planting their own vegetables, flowers, having fun in the sandpit and learning literacy/numeracy skills in nature. In May 2019, the Cambridge Community College carpentry department donated an oversized ornate wooden 'reading' chair to encourage the children to enjoy books outside. In March 2020, our application to the A14 community fund was successful and we received a grant to create a rubber crumb track for the children to ride trikes and scooters.

We are a registered charity (No. 293071), run by a volunteer committee, consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and at least three other members. We welcome members to join the committee at any time during the year, but the best time is at the Annual General Meeting held in the autumn term. The committee meet approximately every 8 weeks to discuss finances, fundraising, policies and anything else that might crop up. The Pre-school is fully compliant with the Government's Early Years Funding scheme eligible for 2 – 5-year-old children. However, this means that fundraising is a crucial role in supporting financial stability costs such as rental payments, equipment, staff wages, staff training, materials, and trip costs.

CURRICULUM

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our village setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

At Alconbury Pre-school, children are supported to develop their potential at their own pace within the group. The curriculum is tailored to each individual child's needs and overseen by the child's keyworker. Developmentally appropriate play activities and a high level of individual adult input ensures we support a child-led curriculum. This enables children to progress towards the early learning goals using the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as guidance. The EYFS Framework describes how and what a child will be learning to support their healthy development from birth to 5 years old. The Supervisor and staff plan each term's activities covering the EYFS curriculum, allowing for special events and with the flexibility to follow the children's interests.

The children will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development.**

3 prime areas are essential for a child's healthy development and future learning:

- Communication and language ○ listening and attention ○ understanding speaking
- Physical development; ○ moving and handling health and self-care
- Personal, social and emotional development; ○ making relationships ○ self-confidence and self-awareness
○ managing feelings and behaviour.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas:**

- Literacy ○ Reading ○ Writing
- Mathematics ○ Numbers ○ Shape ○ space and measure
- Understanding the world ○ people and communities ○ the world ○ technology
- Expressive arts and design. exploring and using media and materials ○ being imaginative

These 7 areas are used to plan a child's learning and activities. Children develop these by playing, exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking, which take place both indoors and outside.

KEY PERSON

We pride ourselves on meeting the needs of each individual child and helping them thrive in the early years. Our Key Person system gives each member of staff responsibility for a few children. Each child in the group has one special adult to relate to, which can make settling into the group very much easier. In addition, the Key Person tailors the group's curriculum to the unique needs of each individual child. The Key Person maintains links with the child's home setting, working with parents through shared record keeping ensuring all children are supported in reaching their full potential.

RECORDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Alconbury Community Pre-school keeps an interactive, fully secure online 'Tapestry' learning journal for each child. It is a wonderful tool for us document and celebrate their achievements. It is interactive and allows for parents to upload photos/videos of learning milestones from the home setting.

OFSTED:

In May 2018, the Pre-school was inspected by Ofsted and rated the Pre-school as 'Good'. Our policies and procedures are regularly updated to fit all Ofsted requirements.

RUNNING THE CHARITY

The Charity is governed by a governing document constitution and voted on by committee members. All members are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked and comply with Ofsted requirements for membership. Trustees are selected by election and we adhere to a constitution adopted by the Early Years Alliance (EYA). The names of Charity Trustees who manage the charity:

Amy Stewart: Chairperson

Anna Birne: Secretary

Jenny Longland: Treasurer

Brief Financial Statement:

The Pre-school Learning Alliance advise us to have at least 3 months running costs in reserve (£15,000). Funding is received from Cambridgeshire Council. All other funds are dependent on fees paid by parents, philanthropic donations, grants from local companies, applications to community grants and fundraising events hosted by the Pre-school.

May 2020: Alconbury/Alconbury Weston Keyworker Scarecrow Display Community Lockdown Event

Organised by the ACP Committee:

During the last May bank holiday, the Alconbury Community Pre-school committee organised and publicised a keyworker scarecrow event for the residents of Alconbury & Alconbury Weston. The invitation was to create a keyworker scarecrow in your front garden/outdoor area. The committee were keen to provide an event to celebrate the keyworkers and provide a beautiful spectacle for residents and visitors over the bank holiday. As a Registered Charity, we typically would create fundraising events, however due to this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, we were keen to be sensitive to the community needs and not request any donations. The team created a scarecrow spotting worksheet for our Pre-school children, which helped them learn about all the important jobs performed by different keyworkers. In total approximately 50 scarecrows were spotted around the villages. The Pre-school received many messages of support from the community and a large following on our Facebook site over the bank holiday weekend.

