

Alconbury Parish Council

www.alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Annual Report 2017 / 2018

It has been a year of change for our council with our previous chair, Lucy Isles, moving on in December and my election as chair in January. Great news that we have had 3 new councillors elected this year, although with Lucy having left and Roger Sale also standing down we remain one councillor down overall. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lucy and Roger for their service to our village over the past few years.

Flooding continues to be an area of focus following a number of incidents in the past year. We continue to work with the Flood Partnership Group to explore ways to manage the flood risk to our communities and have worked with the EA to install a camera to monitor flood levels at the Brook. We have also developed our own local Flood plan which helps define risk areas to our village and provides a means of improving communications and warnings to our villagers. I'd like to thank Tracy and Bob for their efforts in putting together this plan which will be published soon.

The latest revision of the HDC Local Plan has included an allocation of 98 homes on the 'cow field' behind the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council issued strong objections to this plan and will continue to review all planning proposals affecting our village acting in the best interests of our communities. It is worth reminding our parishioners that we have an open forum at the start of each Parish Council meeting which provides an opportunity for any issues or concerns to be aired.

Last year we issued our Parish Plan questionnaire and had a low level of return with only 56 forms completed. The low return hasn't provided us with enough information to form any strong themes of areas to focus on so we have decided not to create a Parish Plan this time round. However, we will use the views reflected in the forms returned to help identify any opportunities for improvements over the coming year.

We continue to explore how we can limit the number of HGV's driving through our village and I'm pleased to say we have secured funding to improve the weight limit signage at the village entrances.

We have continued to make improvements to the recreation facilities in our village with the installation of an adult gym and new roundabout at the Bramble End playground thanks to funding from the National Lottery and Woolley Hill Wind Farm Trust. A big thank you to Judith and Denise for battling with the forms to secure the funding needed for these.

In October we held our first Apple Day with families from our village and Alconbury Weston pressing juice from the apples in our community orchards. It was a fantastic occasion and a great way to celebrate the hard work of Steve, our tree warden, in monitoring the trees on the green and in the orchard.

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 delivered on all of our promises that we made in last years 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.

Chris Bodley - Chairman

Denise Benham – Parish Clerk

Tantallon
Ramsey Road
Kings Ripton
PE28 2NJ
01487 773177
parishclerk@alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm in the Alconbury Memorial Hall on the last Tuesday of each month, except December. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings and speak on any item on the agenda, at the start of meeting during the 15 minute public forum.

Alconbury Parish Council
Receipts and Payments for year ended 31st March 2018

Receipts	£ Rounded to the nearest pound	Totals
Precept	32000	
Bank interest	4	
AAGA	1000	
Grant for cutting CCC verges	2262	
Lottery grant	7955	
Cambs Community Foundation grant	3500	
Insurance claim	441	
Contribution from Old Hurst PC for Clerks attendance at GDPR workshop	17	
Receipts from Apple Day	32	£47211
Payments		
Grass cutting & bank cut	10620	
Tree work,	280	
Allotment land rent	1000	
Supply & installation of Outdoor Gym	7955	
Bramble End Playground repairs and inspection	872	
Litter bin emptying 2016/17 and 2017/18	2526	
Ground rent for Memorial Hall	76	
Repairs to posts around village pump	299	
Replacing pots around village pump	142	
Purchase of new grit bin	188	
Contribution to LHI scheme 2016/17	750	
Clerks wages, PAYE, office expenses & payroll provider charges	8732	
Audit fees (internal & external)	320	
Parish Council Insurance	824	
Website/IT support	96	
Newsletter printing costs	341	
CAPALC affiliation fees	355	
Councillor training costs	70	
Parish Plan costs	197	
ICO registration	35	
Sundries for Apple Day	21	
Donations		
Alconbury Recreational Field Charity: Ground Maintenance	2000	
Royal British Legion – poppy wreath	30	
VAT	2516	£40245
Income over expenditure		£6966
Balance brought forward form 2016/2017	37130	
Total Reserves		£44096

What we did in 2017-2018

- Continued to ensure that the village green, churchyard and Memorial Hall grass areas were cut regularly.
- Took over the cutting of the grass verges that are CCC owned.
- Arranged for the Guides and Brownies to wash down the footbridge by the Heritage Bridge.
- Ensured that the Bramble End playground was safe to use and replaced any damaged items as required.
- Continued to care for all the fruit trees in the Community Orchard and trees on the village green.
- Regularly attended Joint Parish meetings with Urban & Civic where all developments at Alconbury Weald were explained and discussed.
- Worked with the Environment Agency for them to install a camera at the Heritage Bridge so the level of the water in the brook can be viewed by residents.
- Continued to meet with the Alconbury Brook Flood Management Partnership Group at the Environment Agency to discuss the issues with flooding and to set up the Village Community Emergency Plan.
- Held our first Apple Day and invited residents to use the apples in the Community Orchard to make their own apple juice, as well as purchase homemade apple cakes.
- With funding from the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Trust we installed a roundabout and special safety surface in the Bramble End play area.
- With money received from The Big Lottery Fund we purchased four pieces of adult gym equipment and had them installed immediately outside the children's play area at Bramble End.
- Prepared a Parish Plan questionnaire, which was available both on Survey Monkey and in paper copy, for all residents to complete with their views and opinions.
- Liaised with Cambridge County Council to ensure that public footpaths were kept clear.
- Attended meetings at HDC to discuss their Draft Local Plan for Huntingdonshire and subsequently invited Planning Officers to one of our meetings to discuss the allocation of 98 homes in the Local Plan to be built on the site known as 'Cow Field'.
- Are in the process of trying to extend the lease for land used by Alconbury Allotments and Garden Association (AAGA)
- Met with Highways to try and find ways to deter large lorries from entering the village.
- Bid to the Local Highways Improvement Scheme, to improve weight limit signage. This was successful.
- Keeping in close touch with Highways regarding the A14 and A1 road improvements

Would you like to join the Parish Council as we currently have a vacancy?

We only meet once a month (except December) and we only ask that all new councillors attend a training session at a time convenient to themselves. We try to have a good representation from the residents in the village and currently have a mix of men and women, those who are employed and those who have retired. If you like where you live and want the village to continue looking good, PLEASE come and join us.

If you are interested and would like to know more about the role and the responsibilities, please contact our Parish Clerk whose details are on the front page.

Contact Details for Parish Councillors 2018 -2019

Name	Address	Phone No
Chris Bodley (Chairman)	6 Bell Lane	07736 175798
Alan Welsh (Vice Chair)	18 Manor Lane	01480 891970
Liz Adams	2 Old Glebe	01480 890543
Judith Aylott	1 The Acre	01480 896565
Sarah Brawn	Homefield Farm, Gt North Road	07979 802843
Tracy Gilbert	37 Spinney Lane	01489 891347
Lillian Grainger	9 Bramble End	01480 891194
Mick Gunney	6 Elm End	07966 762324
Bob Johnson	6 High Street	07764 603003
Steve Tarabella	21 Great North Road	01480 896806

Parish Councillors are also Representatives for the following areas:

Alconbury Weald	Judith Aylott
CAPALC	All Councillors – when required.
Churchyard	All Councillors
Flooding & Emergency planning	Tracy Gilbert, Bob Johnson
Infrastructure	All Councillors
Planning	Chris Bodley, Sarah Brawn, Mick Gunney, Alan Welsh
Bramble End Playground & Gym	Judith Aylott
Tree Warden	Steve Tarabella
Village Green	All Councillors

The following are also Representatives on other Committees:

Alconbury Memorial Hall	Alan Welsh & Steve Tarabella
Alconbury Recreational Field Charity	Liz Adams & Mick Gunney
Alconbury Sports & Social Club	Chris Bodley
Alconbury Youth Group	Liz Adams
Woolley Hill Wind Farm Trust Panel	Alan Welsh