

Alconbury Parish Council

www.alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk



Annual Report 2018 / 2019

It has been another year of change for our council with our Parish Clerk, Denise Benham, leaving her post replaced by Charlotte Copley and 4 of our Councillors leaving the council this year; Alan Welsh, Judith Aylott, Lilian Grainger and Liz Adams who have all been part of the Parish Council for many years. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Denise, Judith, Liz and Alan for their outstanding contributions to our council and particularly highlighting Denise's contribution in helping us put the council back on a healthy financial standing. I'm pleased to report that we now have now one year's precept in our account which ensures our finances are in the recommended state and recognition of Denise's hard work as Clerk for our council. With such a high turnover of councillors this year this does, however, leave us with 5 councillor vacancies which is a cause for concern and we'll be working hard to drum up some volunteers to join the Parish Council.

We have continued to work hard this year to make improvements to our village. This year the Parish Council took over responsibility for the grass cutting of the Huntingdon District Council (HDC) owned areas within the village for which we received a grant from HDC to cover the cost of doing this. Having taken over the Cambridgeshire County Council owned grass in the previous year we are now able to ensure that all grass in the village is receiving the same number of cuts in future to help ensure our village grass is regularly maintained and tidy. We have also continued to progress our local Flood Plan and we have now installed a storage facility behind the Memorial Hall to store our Flood Plan equipment.

Last year I reported about the latest revision of the HDC Local Plan which included an allocation of 98 homes on the 'cow field' behind the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council made representation along with a number of our parishioners at a meeting chaired by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in September to assess the feasibility of the Local Plan. During this meeting we issued strong objections to this plan and we were pleased to hear in December that the inspector had found the plan unsound and removed the proposal for the 'cow field' from the plan. As ever we 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.

An example of this is with regard the Luminus proposal to change the use of Crown Gardens to accommodate homeless people waiting to be permanently housed. The Parish Council invited Luminus to our November meeting to allow our parishioners to ask questions of the Luminus team and raise their concerns directly with them. Whilst the plan is developing, we have been communicating with Luminus on a regular basis to urge them to continue providing updates to our parishioners.

HGV's driving through our village continues to be a major concern and worry for our parishioners and the Parish Council. New signs are being installed in May this year at the top of Sharps Lane, Rust Lane and Mill Road warning that the roads are not suitable for HGV's. We are continuing to discuss what other measures we can put in place and are looking at applying to the A14 Legacy fund for funding of these. 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 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 - Chair

Charlotte Copley – Parish Clerk

37 Station Road

Ramsey

PE26 1JB

Tel: 01487 813606

parishclerk@alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm in the Alconbury Memorial Hall on the last Tuesday of each month, except August. 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 2019

Receipts	£ Rounded to the nearest pound	Totals
Precept	32000	
Bank interest	16.00	
AAGA	1000	
Grant for cutting CCC verges	2262	
Grant for cutting HDC grass areas	869	
Insurance claim	350	
VAT Reclaim	3776	£40272
Payments		
Grass cutting & bank cut	11520	
Tree work,	320	
Allotment land rent	1200	
Remove metal bench	280	
Play areas – Roundabout and installation	3400	
Play areas – Repairs and inspections	718	
Litter bin emptying	1263	
Village Hall ground rent	76	
Flood store	466	
Repairs to damaged areas of Village Green	110	
Replace Village Sign	140	
Clerks wages, PAYE, office expenses & payroll provider charges	9532	
Audit fees (internal & external)	320	
Parish Council Insurance	930	
Website/IT support	1063	
Newsletter printing costs	216	
CAPALC affiliation fees	511	
Councillor training costs	425	
ICO registration	40	
Elections May 2018	165	
Advertising – Clerks position	233	
Solicitor fees for new Allotment lease	505	
Donations		
Alconbury Recreational Field Charity: Ground Maintenance	2000	
Alconbury Sports and Social – Defibrillator	29	
Royal British Legion – poppy wreath	50	
VAT	1839	£37952
Balance brought forward form 2017/18	44095	
Total Reserves		£46415

What we did in 2018-19

- Continued to ensure that the village green, churchyard and Memorial Hall grass areas were cut regularly.
- Continued the cutting of the grass verges that are CCC owned.
- 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.
- 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.
- Purchased and installed a new flood store and kit for the village, which is located at the Memorial Hall.
- Prepared a survey via Survey Monkey, which was circulated to establish a need for public electric vehicle charging points in the village.
- Liaised with Cambridge County Council to ensure that public footpaths were kept clear.
- Successfully completed a new extended lease for land used by Alconbury Allotments and Garden Association (AAGA)
- Held ongoing conversations with Highways to try and find ways to deter large lorries from entering the village.
- Installed some new signage within the village advising roads not suitable for HGVs
- 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?

Your Parish Council needs you! We only meet once a month (except August) 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 at parishclerk@alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01487 813606.

Contact Details for Parish Councillors 2018 -2019

Name	Address	Phone No
Chris Bodley (Chairman)	6 Bell Lane	07736 175798
Tracy Gilbert (Vice Chair)	37 Spinney Lane	01489 891347
Sarah Brawn	Homefield Farm, Gt North Road	07979 802843
Mick Gunney	6 Elm End	07966 762324
Bob Johnson	6 High Street	07764 603003
Steve Tarabella	21 Great North Road	01480 896806
Tom MacLennan	30 School Lane	07814 476605

Parish Councillors are also Representatives for the following areas:

Alconbury Weald	Mick Gunney
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
Bramble End Playground & Gym	Tom MacLennan
Tree Warden	Steve Tarabella
Village Green	All Councillors

The following are also Representatives on other Committees:

Alconbury Memorial Hall	Steve Tarabella & Sarah Brawn
Alconbury Recreational Field Charity	Mick Gunney
Alconbury Sports & Social Club	Chris Bodley
Woolley Hill Wind Farm Trust Panel	Tom MacLennan