

# Alconbury Parish Council Annual 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 Parish Council Chair and Councillor Tarabella as Vice Chair.

This year has seen the Council 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. Initial 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

**Alconbury Parish Council**  
**Receipts and Payments for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>£</b> Rounded to the nearest pound	<b>Totals</b>
Precept	30000	
Bank interest	16.00	
AAGA	1400	
Grant for cutting CCC verges	2262	
Grant for cutting HDC grass areas	965	
VAT Reclaim	1397	
Waypost repairs	200	<b>£36240</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Grass cutting & bank cut	11820	
Tree work,	620	
Allotment land rent	1200	
Play areas – Repairs and inspections	608	
Litter bin emptying	1263	
Village Hall ground rent	76	
Repairs to damaged areas of Village Green	686	
Signage	248	
Waste bins x 3	841	
Clerks wages, PAYE, office expenses & payroll provider charges	7908	
Audit fees (internal & external)	260	
Parish Council Insurance	930	
Office expenses	831	
Parish Council insurance	632	
Website/IT support	216	
CAPALC affiliation fees	955	
Training	150	
Newsletter printing costs	222	
ICO registration	40	
Subscriptions	100	
<b>Donations</b>		
Alconbury Recreational Field Charity: Ground Maintenance	2000	
Royal British Legion – poppy wreath	50	
East Anglian Ambulance Service	500	
Churchyard tidy skip	201	<b>(£2751)</b>
VAT	889	<b>£32321</b>
Balance brought forward form 2019/20	46415	
Total Reserves		<b>£50334</b>

## What we did in 2019-20

- 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.
- Liaised with Cambridge County Council to ensure that public footpaths were kept clear.
- Held ongoing conversations with Highways to try and find ways to deter large lorries from entering the village.
- Installed and continue to monitor, 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
- Restored the electrical supply to the Maypole Square area allowing the Christmas tree and May Day events to continue.
- After receiving the Government Guidance regarding public meetings and the Coronavirus in April 2020 the Parish Council was able to conduct its business via video link.

## 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](mailto:parishclerk@alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk) or telephone 07849 107046.

## Contact Details for Parish Councillors 2020

Name	Address	Phone No
Tracy Gilbert (Chair)	37 Spinney Lane	01480 891347
Steve Tarabella (Vice Chair)	21 Great North Road	01480 896806
Sarah Brawn	Homefield Farm, Gt North Road	07979 802843
Mick Gunney	6 Elm End	07966 762324
Bob Johnson	6 High Street	07764 603003
Tom MacLennan	30 School Lane	07814 476605
David Moate	56 School Lane	07783 462318
Maralyn Moate	56 School Lane	07967 138399

**Parish Councillors are also Representatives for the following areas:**

Alconbury Weald	Mick Gunney, Charlotte Copley
CAPALC	All Councillors – when required
Churchyard	All Councillors
Flooding & Emergency planning	Tracy Gilbert, Bob Johnson, Maralyn Moate
Infrastructure	All Councillors
Planning	Sarah Brawn, Mick Gunney, Maralyn Moate, Bob Johnson
Bramble End Park	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	David Moate
Woolley Hill Wind Farm Trust Panel	Tom MacLennan

**Useful links;**

**Huntingdonshire District Council**

online reporting for dog fouling, trees, pest control, noise, nuisance & pollution, health

[www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01480 388388

**Cambridgeshire County Council**

online reporting for highways faults, rights of way issues, grass cutting, safeguarding children & vulnerable adults,

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 0345 045 5212

**Charlotte Copley – Parish Clerk**

37 Station Road  
 Ramsey  
 PE26 1JB  
 Tel: 07849 107046  
[parishclerk@alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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.*