Minutes of the Alconbury Annual Parish Meeting
held on Tuesday 30th May 2017 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. R. Sale, Chairman of Alconbury Parish Council.

Councillors present: Mrs. E. Adams, Mrs. J. Aylott, Mr. C. Bodley, Mrs. T. Gilbert, Mrs. R. McCormack, Ms. L. Isles, Mr. R. Sale, Mr. S. Tarabella & Mr. A. Welsh.
Also present: District Cllr. K. Baker, Mrs. B. Halford (HDC) & Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence: County Cllr. I. Gardener (personal).

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31st May 2016: Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2016 proposed by Cllr. Aylott, seconded by Cllr. Isles and unanimously agreed.

3. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council: A copy of Cllr. Sale's report is attached.

4. Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council: A copy of Mrs. Benham's report is attached.

5. Annual report from the District Councillor: Not available.

6. Annual report from the County Councillors: A copy of County Cllr. Ashcroft's and County Cllr. Brown's report is attached.

7. Resolutions received from parishioners: None received.

Signed.....

Date.....15/5/18

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Another year as chairman, my second, has gone by. I wish to thank all my fellow councillors again for another year of support. We have been working with two councillors down for some time now, but I think we have been doing alright, but we need to get our numbers up.

Our meetings each month are attended by our County and District Councillors to whom I would like to extend out thanks for their valuable input and support.

We have got over the bad financial times and now have a healthy bank balance with the equivalent of one years' precept in reserve. I would like to thank Denise, our clerk, yet again for all her hard work for getting us to this stage.

We have continued, as always, to make sure that the village is kept tidy by keeping the grass cut on the green and now we are also looking after the grass verges belonging the CCC around the village, with the help of a grant from them. There are also some 'orphan sites' in Manor Lane and Bramble End that we have taken over the maintenance of, as no-one has taken responsibility for, although I do thank some villagers for keeping their local areas tidy.

We are still having problems with unwelcome visitors in very large lorries, these need reporting to the police along with their company name and registration number.

We are still having big problems with dog mess, people must keep an eye on their pets and clear up after them.

I would also like to thank Steve, our tree warden, for his hard work keeping an eye on our trees, on the green and in the orchard. He has attended the Tree Forum and spent a lot of time corresponding with HDC for new trees etc.

We have also had representation on The Environmental Agency's flood prevention scheme, to ensure plans are in place to avoid future problems.

We have been in constant consultation with Urban & Civic with their development plans and their help with our new signage around the village.

A Parish plan is also being drafted by Lucy Isles, this will be out as a questionnaire on the internet and possibly presented in the flesh at the village fete.

We will continue to keep the best interests of the villagers at heart as we enter the next year and hope that any issues they may have will be brought to our attention in Public Forum at the beginning of our monthly meetings.

Thanks again to my fellow councillors for all their hard work through the year.

Roger Sale - Chairman

Alconbury Parish Council
Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer

We have finished the financial year ending 31st March 2017 with £37130.24 in the reserves . We have been able to fulfil all of our obligations and now that the 3 year loan, taken out in 2013 has been fully repaid, it was possible to lower the precept from £36,000 in 2016/17 to £32,000 for 2017/18. Parish Councils should keep between 1 and 2 times their annual precept in reserves . Alconbury Parish Council are now comfortably in that bracket and we aim for financial stability going forwards.

With continuing cuts to budgets at HDC and CCC, much of the routine maintenance that we took for granted a few years ago, and was relatively easy to arrange, is now no longer available. Most departments will only carry out emergency repairs and even then, the waiting time can be lengthy. As a result, Parish Councils have to be very proactive at seeking out sources of alternative funding or asking for volunteers to carry out some tasks.

In 2016/17, Urban & Civic were persuaded to pay for three new village entrance signs and another successful bid for funding from the Highways Minor Improvement Scheme, has allowed us to pay for a new footway in front of the Manor Hotel.

During 2016/17, i received numerous complaints about the standard of grass cutting carried out by HDC to the areas in the village that HDC own. We have been assured that this season the standard of work will be much better. I also received complaints about the grass verges, which are owned and cut by CCC. Due to budget cutbacks, these were only being cut 3 times a year and the grass was allowed to become very long and untidy.. The Parish Council has made a decision to take on the upkeep of the verges in return for a grant of £2261.98 from CCC. Our own grass cutting contractor will cut the verges 12 times a year, at a cost of £3000 and the Parish Council has budgeted to pay the difference of £738.02.

In 2016/17, donations were made to Alconbury Recreation Field Charity towards the upkeep of the sports field and to 1st Alconbury Scouts for new equipment. Going forwards, the Parish Council will still make a donation towards the upkeep of the sports field, which it owns, but no further donations to village groups have been budgeted for. This decision has been made because there is a large sum of money available to surrounding parishes every year, from the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Trust. This should now be the first port of call for applications for funding from village groups and the Parish Council may well be applying to the trust for funding to support projects in the coming year.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR SIR PETER BROWN TO ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

I cannot believe this is my final report to the Parish Council after twelve of what can only be described as most dynamic years.

Again the year has been financially dominated by the cuts in public expenditure which has meant all local Councils having to do more for less. In this se3nse the Parish Council has continued to deliver lean and efficient services to its parishioners.

The year has once again been dominated by the Alconbury Weald Development. Businesses are beginning to0 take root and the first tranche of housing is now occupied. The real pace of growth is witnessed by the opening of the new Primary School in September of last year. There is no doubt that this huge project spanning thirty years will change the local landscape forever

There are however signs that the development will also embrace much of the history of the site which will be a permanent reminder of the past whilst developing the area for the future. Economic growth.

This year has also seen the start of the upgrading of the A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge. We have been waiting a long time for this but in three or so years time hopefully our road networks will be much more efficient and safer

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Flooding issues continue to be progressed. The Village is one of many in the County that are vulnerable to our flat landscape and will be constantly on future agendas

Within the village I have been pleased to assist with local projects whenever necessary. One shining example is the development of the Youth Group. Parish Councillors and local Volunteers have done an excellent job. Special thanks to Liz Adams who has worked tirelessly with others to see the Group flourish.

I cannot think of many, if any, Parish Councils that have had to address such major projects. To that end it is remarkable that Alconbury is coming through these changes remarkably unscathed. This is in my mind due to the very high quality of past and current Parish Councillors who have been ably assisted by some really professional Parish Clerks. For this I thank you all.

The County Council Divisional Boundaries have changed for next week's election. I shall be seeking re-election in the Huntingdon Wrest Division whilst Alconbury becomes part of the new Alconbury and Kimbolton Division, a very big and diverse patch indeed!

I really want to thank you and your predecessors for the part you have played in Parish work. It has been a pleasure to work with you and I wish you all success for the future.

Peter Brown – 25th April 2017

2016 / 2017 REVIEW

County Council finances continue to change.
A Mayoral Combined Authority has been chosen, but with some misgivings. This will come into effect in May when the Mayor will be elected. His authority will cover Cambridgeshire County Council, plus all 5 District Council. And Peterborough Unitary Authority.
Most responsibilities will remain within each council, but some will be transferred to the Mayoral Combined authority.

Alconbury Weald is continuing to expand with more businesses and housing development coming up to completion.

The A14 Huntingdon Bypass is progressing as planned, but the break in the northern spur, and removal of the railway station viaduct is not due to occur before 2021.

Community Transport cuts are still possible because of Central Government restraints. Further budget cuts are possible.

The May 4th. Council Elections will place The Stukeleys in the Warboys Ward, and Alconbury linked with Kimbolton as another single seat ward. I will therefore not be representing you on the County Council as from that date.

Best wishes to you all in the coming Financial Year.

Peter Ashcroft of Sapley.