Alconbury Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 21st May 2019 at Alconbury Memorial Hall.

Minutes

Due to absence the Vice Chair Tracy Gilbert stood as Chair for the meeting.

<u>Councillors present:</u> Mrs. T. Gilbert, Mr. M. Gunney, Mr. R. Johnson, Mr. S. Tarabella Also present: Ms. C. Copley (Clerk) and 5 parishioners.

- 1. <u>Apologies for absence:</u> Chair Mr C Bodley (prior engagement), Mrs S Brawn (sickness), Mr T MacLennan (did not attend), County Cllr. I. Gardener (attending another meeting).
- 2. <u>To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th May 2018:</u> Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2018 proposed by Cllr. Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Johnson and unanimously agreed.
- 3. <u>Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council:</u> Cllr Gilbert read the Chairman's report in his absence, a copy of Cllr. Bodley's report is attached.
- 4. <u>Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council:</u> A copy of Ms Copleys report is attached.
- 5. <u>Annual report from the District Councillor:</u> District Cllr J. White forwarded his report after the meeting, his report is attached to the minutes
- 6. <u>Annual report from the County Councillor:</u> In County Cllr I. Gardeners absence the Clerk read out his report.
- 7. Resolutions received from parishioners: The following organisations forwarded their reports. Due to the size of the reports we are unable to display them on the village noticeboard, but they can be viewed on the website or by contacting the Clerk.

Alconbury Pre-School – attended in person
District Guiding – attended in person
Alconbury Allotment Gardening Association – attended in person
Alconbury Youth Club – attended in person
Village Show Committee – attended in person
Neighbourhood Watch

Details regarding the funding opportunity from the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund was passed to the organisations. A poster will be available on the noticeboard and circulated via email to the organisations that were unable to attend this meeting. The deadline for applications is 1st August 2019.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm
Signed
Date

2019 Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

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 including Judith Aylott, Liz Adams and Alan Welsh 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 years 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 taking 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 this year 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 parishoners 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 will continue to review all planning proposals affecting our village acting in the best interests of our communities. It is worth reminding our parishoners 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 parishoners to ask questions of the Luminus team and raise their concerns direct 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 parishoners.

HGV's driving through our village continues to be a major concern and worry for our parishoners 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 continue make improvements and represent the best interests of our village.

Chris Bodley – Chair

2019 Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer

We started the financial year with £44095.87 in the reserves and with careful management and an annual spend of £37952.41 we were able to carry forward £46415.66 in reserves at 31st March 2019. Parish Councils should keep between 1 and 2 times their annual precept in reserves. Alconbury Parish Council are now 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 reduce the level of Precept by £2000 from £32000 to £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.

Budget cuts at HDC and CCC continue and it remains a challenge to persuade them to carry out routine maintenance in a timely manner, these jobs usually get done eventually after much chasing and determination which understandably becomes rather frustrating for villagers and the Council.

The Parish Council have also installed a secure Flood Kit Store and its contents for the village

From the Parish Council's viewpoint, this last year has been a good year. 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 along with a small donation to the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Day poppy wreath.

Charlotte Copley Clerk and RFO

Report from District Councillor White

The Parish Council will be aware of the great work the Huntingdonshire District Council Conservative Administration has achieved in the last 12 months; keeping Council Tax low, adopting a Commercial Investment Strategy that provides income for the future (anticipating the day when grants from Central Government will decline/cease, and therefore maintaining low Council Tax payments from residents in the future), more efficient/effective services (waste collection, street cleaning and investment in our Parks), an exciting and forward looking Car Parking Strategy that encourages visitors and economic growth in our Market Towns, the revival of Huntingdon and St Ives markets and enhanced customer service portal on the HDC website that allows access to help and assistance outside normal working hours.

But, that said, the really big news is the adoption of the Huntingdonshire District Local Plan to 2036. I'm calling this our 'Magnus Opus'. (!).

The Local Plan is exactly that; it impacts on all the Parishes in our area. The Secretary of State empowered an Inspector to review the HDC Local Plan. The plan was endorsed by the Inspector and adopted by HDC at a meeting of Full Council on 15th May. Prior to adoption of the Local Plan, planning was weighted in favour of the developer to an extent (the dark period known as 'tilted balance'). As you know only too well, there were many proposed planning developments that were cluttering up our planning system, simply because a parcel of land became available. The Cow Field in Alconbury is a perfect example of this.

What the Local Plan sets out is a defined set of criteria for future planning applications. It further defines those areas within the District that have been identified as potential development sites (to meet the target growth of 21,000 new homes by 2036). If a developer selects a site outside of these defined areas, from 15th May 2019 onwards, they will not receive permission to proceed. Alconbury was identified as an area that could be considered for up to 90 new homes (Cow Field), but this was removed by the Planning Inspector as there is adequate potential elsewhere. I can't deny that for the last 12 months I've been on tenter-hooks about this, but I was confident the Inspector would rule the Cow Field out of the plan. The reality is that other Authorities have struggled to get their Local Plans approved by the Inspector (South Cambs has so far taken 4 years and been told to find additional housing development sites): HDC deliberately over-egged the pudding to achieve a great result in only 12 months.

You can see from the plan and maps (link below) that the whole District will benefit from the Local Plan.

http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/new-local-plan-to-2036/

Jim White Alconbury Ward District Councillor

Report from County Councillor Ian Gardener

Outlined below are some of the main areas of my work on the County Council. I am always available to discuss County Council issues with residents or Parish Councils and to try and assist with the issues. I can be contacted on 07970 613498 or by email at lan.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The make up of the County Council remains the same following the By -Elections in Soham North & Isleham & Trumpington .The Conservatives hold 36 seats, Liberal Democrats 15, Labour 7 and the Independents 3

The new Alconbury and Kimbolton seat covers 30 villages and 24 Parish Councils From Hail Weston in the south, to Great Gidding in the north and out to the County Boundary in the west and the A1 in the east excluding the villages of Southoe & Grafham .

I currently sit on the Highways & Infrastructure Committee and I am the Vice- Chairman of the Pensions & Planning Committee's. I also sit on the Fire Authority where I am the Vice Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny committee

The County Council are relocating from Shire Hall in Cambridge to a new Civic Hub at Alconbury Weald. This will be the Hub of the Hub and spoke model for our offices across the County. Other offices will be based in existing office space which services are going to per based where is yet to be determined.

Smart Energy Grids will provide renewable energy to facilitate the charging of buses, cars and freight and allow for the selling of surplus energy to local customers via power Purchase Agreements. The sites where Smart Energy Grids are being implemented at are St Ives, Trumpington & Babraham Park & Ride Sites

The County Council has agreed a Plastics Strategy, which is aimed at reducing/removing the Councils use of Single Use Plastics. The Council will influence its supply chain provision of goods and services by setting standards on plastics via procurement.

At the end of 2018 Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service was named as one of the best two performing Fire & Rescue Services of the 14 inspected. The inspectorate found that the service was GOOD across the entire inspection process and is now held as an example to other authorities.

With regard to East West Rail there are 5 proposed routes for the line between Bedford & Cambridge, two of which are to the north of Sandy. The preferred route is the route via Sandy & Bassingbourn as it avoids the route of the Mayors Cam Metro between Cambridge & St Neots Ofsted undertook an unannounced two week inspection of Children's Services in January and their report highlighted the fact that the County Council had put the foundations in place to deliver positive change and a much improved service.

To protect services within Cambridgeshire the County Council agreed to increase its proportion of Council Tax by 2.99%, plus an additional 2% for Adult Social Care. This increase is to protect services within Cambridgeshire. No Libraries are being closed in fact 3 new libraries are to be built and 2 new replacement mobile libraries are being delivered.

On completion of the A14 work is expected to commence on the duelling of the A428 between the Black Cat & Caxton Gibbet. The route will the orange route, with Option C for the Black cat roundabout, which will allow a continuous flow of traffic in both directions.

As your County Councillor I will work with the Parish Council & Residents to address the issues that affect them, such as Bus Routes ie Route 46a which has been kept running after HACT stated they could no longer run the service due to a lack of Drivers. The County Council were able to get a driver from Whippet to operate the service. The service is now up for retendering as HACT have stated their intention to cease the service at the end of July.

Cllr Ian Gardener
County Councillor Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

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

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www.alconburypreschool.com

Alconbury Community Preschool

BACKGROUND

The Alconbury Community Pre-school 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.

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
 - o managing feelings and behaviour.

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

- Literacy
 - o Reading
 - Writing
- Mathematics
 - Numbers
 - Shape
 - space and measure
- Understanding the world
 - people and communities
 - o the world
 - o technology
- Expressive arts and design.
 - o 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. The names of Charity Trustees who manage the charity:

Amy Stewart: Chairperson

Anna Birne: Secretary

Jill Suckling: Treasurer

Brief Financial Statement:

The Pre-school Learning Alliance advise us to have at least 3 months running costs in reserve (£12,000). Funding is received from Cambridgeshire Council. All other funds are dependent on fees paid by parents, philanthropic donations, grants from local companies and fundraising events hosted by the Pre-school.

Attendance during 2019:

Autumn Term: 19 children

Spring Term: 24 children

Summer Term (so far): 27 children

Important Upcoming Fundraising Events Organised by the Committee:

Barn Dance, Memorial Village Hall, 8^{th} June 7-11pm (University of Cambridge Ceilidh Band). Tickets on sale for £10 (inc. hot food)- alcohol and soft drinks available to purchase. We are hoping this will be a success as we are hugely dependent on these funds for our operations.

District Guiding Report for the Parish Council

Alconbury District – we have now grown to a total of **80 girls and 10 leaders** (Quite an increase from earlier reports to the PC when we had 3 units and approx. 40/50 girls). Breakdown of numbers:

- Rainbows 15 girls (5-7yrs), 2 leaders and currently 3 DofE young leader helpers (for this term only)
- 1st Alconbury Brownies (7-10yrs) 18 girls, 2 leaders, 3 Young Leaders. Due to lose a Rainbow leader. Will be relying on parent rota support or (in extreme), suspending the unit.
- 2nd Alconbury Brownies: (7-10yrs) New unit opened Sep 2016 on the Weald (ESCA) now grown to 19 girls, 3 leaders, 1 YL. About to lose one of the 18yr old leaders to uni.
- Guides: (10-14yrs): 21 girls, 3 leaders. A huge unit and very challenging numbers for this
 age group. Newest leader just started last term. We need to open another Guide unit –
 looking at the Weald again, but cannot progress until we recruit more leaders. Looking at
 increased Weald PR
- Rangers: (14-18yrs): 6 girls, 1 leader. In addition, a Rainbow leader and Brownie leader also support this unit rotationally.
- And one DC (me) and a few harangued spouses for support with larger events.

Very are very pleased with our numbers of girls and after a little steady movement over the last few years, we see our numbers about to increase again. We needed our Weald Brownie unit as we couldn't have manager running a single unit in the area with 40 girls.

The girls mostly come from Alconbury, AWeston, Spaldwick, Ellington, Abbots Ripton, the Weald. The girls across the A14 are attracted to Alconbury due to the reputation we have created.

Greatest growth is from Alconbury and The Weald.

Key activities 2019:

- New guiding programme for all units exciting and huge variety for girl led activities. Themed into 6 areas that girls at each age group work around according to ability levels. Very tailored to meet the needs of modern girls and young women.
 - Skills for my future;
 - have adventures;
 - be well;
 - know myself;
 - express myself;
 - take action
- District camp in June all units
- Supporting the Tilting Windmills cycle event manning the refreshment stops
- Supporting tombola stall at TOC on the Weston Green
- Running the tea & cakes stall at the village fete (taken on from WI)
- Remembrance service annually (our Rangers created centenary anniversary crosses for Weston last year)
- Rangers created 'gifts of kindness' for elderly residents recently planted pots
- Regular number of older girls who do DofE and International Guiding trips. We also encourage volunteering from older girls as Young leaders in the younger units.

Biggest challenges:

Leader recruitment. As in the case of all voluntary groups!

We have an excellent and very high quality team and make a great effort to support new leaders and create supportive sub teams. Many of our leaders have been with us for over 5 years, and indication of loyalty and motivation and we do not have a significant retention problem. Many of our leaders join when

their daughters are in guiding, but stay on after they leave. Nevertheless, our leaders are volunteers and we constantly need parent support and a recruitment effort to continually increase the team and share the preparation, administration, planning and attending weekly meetings.

Our primary promotion route is via the Parish Pump (we make a big effort for every article, so our community presence is constant) and attend community events where volunteer support is available. We also get PR support in the Weald newsletter on an occasional basis.

Funding:

Little district income as our census is very high (£40pa per guiding member - girls and leaders) so don't add extra levy for district account.

As a district, we support individual units who have their own independent budgets with a share from donations / support to international girls

Therefore, all district funding is from our fund raising (eg fete, windmills tilting donation)

Spend (for District):

- **Current:** Leader training, support for joint events, support for trips, resources for units over and above their own regular resource spend (eg recent investment for new programme materials from District for all units £180 outlay).
- **Desirable:** Camp resources (additional tents, QM stores we currently borrow from the Scout Group); PR flags, banners, gazeebo

Jacqui Fairbrass

District Commissioner

Alconbury District

17 May 19

Report from the Alconbury Allotment and Gardeners Association

The Allotments consist of 47 individual plots ranging in size on an area of land leased by the Parish Council from a local farmer Mr S Ayres. A committee of 8 volunteers manage the site on behalf of the membership, chaired by Mr Jerry Adams and since September 2018 Mr Nigel Murphy. Plot holders rent their plots from 1 November each year; the committee pay a rent of £1000 (increased to £1200 from January 2019) per year to the Parish Council who in turn pays Mr Ayres via a formal lease agreement. An AGM was held in September at which the current committee was elected and annual accounts presented. AAGA currently have a healthy bank balance and plan some expenditure this FY on improvements to the allotment facilities. A members barbeque was held in July at which more than 40 members enjoyed lunch and a raffle in fine weather. The lease agreement was recently renewed by the PC and Mr Ayres extending the availability of the allotment site to 2035, for which members are very grateful. At the 2017 AGM a biannual inspection regime was instigated to ensure that plot holders maintain their plots to a reasonable standard in line with their tenancy agreements. 3 inspections have since taken place, with only a handful of plots needing "encouragement" to meet the minimum standard expected. At the time of writing, 100% of the allotments are rented out to tenants, any future applicants will be added to a waiting list.

Report from the Alconbury Youth Club

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 decreasing 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. 2 sessions are held each club night, for aged 9-11 and for 11+. From September 2017 to July 2018, 716 members attended, averaging 64 per club night. Since September 2018, 673 members have attended, averaging 77 per club night. A tuck shop is operated making a small profit that is allocated to funding a Christmas event, in Dec 2018 this was a magician Matthew Garret who entertained the entire membership for 2 hours. A popular stall was present at the Village Affair giving a flavour of the craft activities held at the club. The club charges £1 entry per person which helps fund the activities and hall hire, the committee also raise funds from grants when required. 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 main issue concerning the viability of the Youth Club is the increasing age of the volunteers and a lack of new volunteers able and willing to take on the commitment. This places a question mark over the future viability of the club.

Nigel Murphy

Chairman AYC Committee

Report from the Village Show Committee

The 2018 show was later in September last year, being due to the hot weather we experienced, but this years show will be going ahead on the 7th September. A small profit is made from the show with the funds being distributed to local committees. Everyone welcome and we are looking forward to a positive busy day at this years event.

Neighbourhood Watch Report

Chairman's Report: The fete was very successful and the weather good.

We tried very hard this year to recruit new members having distributed a publication to every household in Alconbury. We managed to recruit 3 new members so we informed the householders of roads not covered by NHW that their insurance could be affected if they had told their insurance company, they were part of a scheme.

This year we purchased more daffodil bulbs to replenish the verges of the Great North Road. Carols Around the Tree was again well attended but due to rain it was held in the church and was very successful. We would like to thank the Friends of the Church for the sausage rolls and mince pies. 28 litres of mulled wine were consumed helping to lubricate everyone's throats for the carol singing.

This year the Christmas Tree was particularly good and managed to survive the rain and high winds. The money donated £200 went to the Friends of the Church who are replacing one of the church gates. Special thanks must go to Andy Foster who has been our electrician for years but unfortunately this will be his last year as he will no longer be licensed. We will be looking for an electrician who will be willing to do this for us.

We carried out many Speedwatch sessions and applied to Woolley Windfarm for £3700 but were only offered £2000 and as we were unable to raise the remainder, we turned down the offer. Police Commissioner Jason Ablewhite offered a kit to share with Alconbury Weston who have set up a group. We are looking for volunteers to help with Speedwatch sessions.

Crime figures for 2018: Anti-Social Behaviour 9, Burglary 4, Vehicle Crime 4, Violent or Sexual Offences 6, Other Theft 2, Criminal Damage 4, Public Order 2. Over a year it is not many, and we hope to keep it that way. Calling 101 is still not brilliant but keep holding on as reporting crime is necessary and there is also the online reporting line now and you can request a call back on the Cambs website.

Carline and I have attended meetings at Police HQ but there is nothing different to report although more officers have been recruited in 2018 and 50 more will be recruited in 2019. As well as collaborating with Herts and Beds there is now collaboration with Kent Constabulary within the Procurement Department.

As you will see from the Treasurer's report to follow, we have over £1,000 in our account so we need to start thinking about ways to spend it in the village. The only outgoings are for the Christmas Tree which is around £200 a year to purchase and £25 towards the flowers to go into the planters around the village pump and outside the Memorial Hall.