

Minutes of Meeting – Alconbury Parish Council

Status: Draft

Date Tuesday 26th June 2012
Meeting Monthly Meeting
Venue Memorial Hall, Alconbury

Present	Mrs Aylott	JA
	Mrs Adams	LA
	Mr Adams	JAd
	Mr Bush	AB
	Mrs Elphick	EE
	Mr Fayers-Hallin	VFH
	Mr Hardy	IH
	Mr Lay	JL
	Mr Pickering	RP
	Mr Watson	PW
	Mrs Williams	PWs

Mrs Sharp-Clerk

District Councillor Keith Baker
County Councillors Laine Kadic and
Sir Peter Brown

5 members of the public

Item

Action

Public Forum

Mr Eddie Baker and Mr Bob Hawkins, local residents, enquired as to whether or not a discussion would be taking place with reference to the bus service. Mrs Aylott advised that this would be discussed under item 26 (Update from County Councillors) and she would relax standing orders for this item. She did advise that discussions would need to be brief and would be led by the County Councillors. Mr Baker expressed his disappointment that local M.P Mr Jonathan Djanogly was not present at the recent public meeting about the bus service. Mrs Aylott reassured him that Mr Djanogly was very concerned over the impending loss of the bus service and was very much on the side of the villagers wishing to retain the service.

22 Apologies for Absence

No apologies noted.

23 Councillor's declaration of interest for items on the agenda

Mr Lay expressed an interest in item 32 as an allotment holder. Mrs Adams and Mr Adams also expressed an interest in item 32 as spouses of allotment holders.

24 To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 29th May 2012

Minutes proposed by Mrs Williams and seconded by Mr Lay. Minutes duly approved and signed.

25 Actions from last meeting-Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported on the following outstanding actions from the last Parish Council Meeting:

- Clerk to arrange for Community Orchard to be on the June agenda for

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discussion and to invite Bridget Halford to June meeting-This was deferred until the July meeting as there was already a very full agenda.

- Mrs Aylott to contact the Glyn Faulkner Trust to request information as to why there was a lack of advertising for the jubilee celebrations at the ASSC-Mrs Aylott confirmed that this had been done following the May AGM.
- Clerk to order add “reopening of Ford” to the June agenda-Clerk advised that this had been deferred as the agenda was already full.
- Mrs Aylott to contact the owner of a vehicle that had been parked on the Village Green-Mrs Aylott confirmed that she had written to said owner.
- Clerk to enquire about trimming of trees in “The Maltings”-Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Highways Agency who would arrange for the trees to be trimmed.
- Clerk to arrange cutting of grass at the triangle between Mill Road and Brookside-Clerk confirmed that this had been done.
- Clerk to contact GTS tree surgeons to arrange an inspection of a tree with possible bleeding canker at the ASSC-Clerk confirmed that this had been done
- Clerk to write to local horse yards to request that horses are not ridden on pavements-Clerk confirmed that this had been done.

26 Update from County Councillors

County Councillor Lain Kadic reported that at the time of the meeting there was no update to the bus service arrangements since the public meeting held the week before. She told the meeting that she was still very concerned and working very hard to try and get an interim service up until April, at which point local Parish Council’s would need to try and find funding to support some form of bus service themselves. She asked the Parish Council if they would be able to offer some funding from next year’s precept towards a bus service as there was limited, if any, funding available from County and District councils. All agreed that in principle it may be possible, however, details and terms and conditions would need to be discussed nearer the time. County Councillor Kadic told the Parish Council that a questionnaire would be going to all homes in Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Upton, Sawtry and Stilton to try and determine exactly what the needs of local people will be to help put together a service for next year. In the meantime, she was still in talks with various organisations about getting a funded interim service to last from July until April. Mrs Aylott confirmed that another public meeting would be held on **Friday 13th July at the Memorial Hall.**

County Councillor Sir Peter Brown asked if the Parish Council had received any notification from the District Council that the Neighbourhood Forum meetings, where public can raise concerns about the local community, were being stopped and replaced with a format that did not include members of the public. Clerk advised that nothing had been received and all agreed that the new proposed format was not preferable to the Neighbourhood Forums. County Councillor Brown advised that he was going to request an inquiry into the changes.

27 Urban and Civic-Mrs Aylott

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Mrs Aylott reported that she had attended the recent meeting at Urban and Civic which was held before the public exhibition. She told the Parish Council that the new name for the site had been confirmed as “Alconbury Weald” as Urban and Civic said it “encompassed the commercial and residential sides of the site”. At the meeting, there had been discussions around the number of homes to be built on the site and Urban and Civic confirmed that whilst the final number would be dependent on structures put in place by Highways Agency and Government targets, they did not expect it to exceed the original plan of around 5,000.

Mrs Aylott advised that the public consultation time on the outline planning application would be 3 months, extended from the normal 28 days, to give people a chance to view the plans and thoroughly examine them. The District Council would be doing a letter drop to houses in the surrounding villages and would also make the plans available on CD-Roms and memory sticks for ease of viewing.

Mrs Aylott reported that it was expected that an announcement would be made in July in regards to the A14 improvements. She also advised that there had been some discussions within the Department of Transport about the possible use of Alconbury Weald as a Park and Ride site, however, Urban and Civic had not been aware of this.

Finally, Mrs Aylott reported that the public exhibition, held at the Memorial Hall, had been well attended and well received. There had been a wide demographic of visitors and a stream of people during the 8 hours that exhibition had been open. Urban and Civic had reported that the overall response to the new name “Alconbury Weald” was generally positive, although some still had concerns that the name of Alconbury was still to be used. There had been, as expected, a lot of concern around the bus route and cancellation of the 46 through Alconbury Village, but Urban and Civic were keen to work with local villages to come up with a solution.

28 Neighbourhood Watch-Mr Hardy

Mr Hardy reported that there had not been a NHW committee meeting since the last Parish Council meeting. He advised that the District Council were looking to do a road survey within the village in the near future and also a speed survey using road wires. Mr Hardy expressed concern over the financial implications of trying to implement a 20mph speed limit within the village and advised that there would need to be 3 signs at every junction within the 20mph zone as well as a small speed limit sign on every lamppost within the same area. All feel that this needs to be investigated further and the Parish Council will await the results of the traffic and speed surveys.

29 Youth Group-Mrs Adams/Mr Bush

Mrs Adams reported that Youth Group club night in May had been well attended with 66 younger members and 68 older members. At the committee meeting held, all had agreed that numbers of children attending needed to be closely monitored to ensure that it is still manageable. Also, at the committee meeting, it had been confirmed that new membership cards would be made for all Youth Club members as well as new membership forms which would include a code of conduct and also would require a signature from the older group parents to confirm that they are aware that if the older children wish to leave the Youth Group, it is the parent's

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responsibility to ensure that they are safe once outside the building.

30 ASSC-Mr Watson/Mr Lay

Mr Lay advised that there was nothing to report other than the ASSC committee still did not have a Chairman at the time of the meeting.

31 Memorial Hall-Mrs Adams

Nothing to report

32 Allotments

Mrs Aylott advised that there was nothing to report other than the water tank at the allotment site was full.

33 Playgrounds

Mrs Williams reported that the ground inside the playground fence directly under the gate (Spinney Lane side) had become very muddy during the wet weather. Agreed to monitor.

34 Response to HDC Forward Planning Consultation

Mrs Aylott advised that the District Council had sent a forward planning consultation document outlining the options for numbers of homes to be built within the area until 2036. Mr Watson had prepared a response and filled in the questionnaire following email response from the Parish Councillors. The Parish Council view was to opt for the lowest proposed number of houses. Mrs Aylott thanked Mr Watson for preparing the response.

35 PC Website-Mr Lay

Mr Lay advised that the first draft of the PC website had been made available for viewing to all councillors. Those that had been able to look at the time of the meeting were very pleased with it and felt that it reflected Alconbury well. Mr Lay advised that the domain change was still to take place and Clerk agreed to action ASAP. Mr Pickering expressed concern that the mission statement was not on the website and also felt that useful links such as the Environment Agency flood warnings should be included. Mr Lay to action.

36 Footpath Diversion-Mrs Elphick

Nothing to report

37 Local Civic Leaders Tour-Mr Fayers-Hallin

Mr Fayers-Hallin reported that he had attended the local Civic Leaders tour at RAF Alconbury on behalf of the Parish Council as Mrs Aylott was unable to attend. He reported that the day had been enjoyable and informative and included a tour of the RAF Alconbury site as well as lunch and also historical information. Mrs Aylott thanked Mr Fayers Hallin for attending and also for his comprehensive report.

38 Newsletter Editor-Mrs Aylott

Mrs Aylott reported that there was, at the time of the meeting, no newsletter editor for the Parish Council. All agreed that a bi-monthly newsletter would be beneficial. Mr Fayers-Hallin kindly agreed to be editor for 6 copies. All thanked him for agreeing.

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39 Clerk's Infrastructure Report

i. Churchyard

Mrs Aylott reported that she had met with Reverend Mary Jepp at the churchyard as they had concerns about overgrown graves. She reported that the grass contractor had experienced problems when cutting some graves as the grass was very high over the top and there were plant pots and other items under the grass. Reverend Jepp agreed to get these trimmed back.

ii. Village Green

Mrs Aylott reported that although the triangle of grass between Brookside and Mill Road had been cut, it was still looking a little unkempt. Mr Adams agreed to tidy it up. Mr Hardy reported that the coloured village sign on the green near to Brookside was looking damaged and the paint was coming away from the sign. Clerk to contact NHW to enquire as to who last restored the sign.

iii. Roads and Footpaths

Mr Adams expressed concern over an overgrown hedge encroaching on the footpath at the top of Frummety Lane. Clerk to investigate.

Mr Lay expressed concern over the large amount of weeds growing between kerb stones along the gutter of Coulson Way. Clerk to contact Highways Agency to arrange weed killing.

iv. General

Concern was raised over the new street lighting within the village. It had been observed by many that works had seemingly stopped and there were still a lot of lights that were unchanged, including on Brookside. There had also been reports of numerous lights having been changed in recent weeks and not switched on leaving people in the village with no street lighting in some places. Clerk agreed to contact the County Council and also Balfour Beattie who had been contracted to carry out the work.

Mr Adams reported that the milestone on the Great North Road needed repainting, but required specialist paint. Clerk to contact the milestone organisation to enquire as to the paint required.

40 Planning

Planning Applications Received

Application received regarding change of use for land at former McDonald's restaurant from vacant land to 6 permanent traveler pitches. **The Parish Council wholly opposes this application and will be responding to HDC as such.**

Mr Keith Baker, District Councillor, expressed his concerns over the application and also reported that the District Council were not in favour of the application. It had also been reported in the local press that the proprietor of local business Admiral Windows was also against the application.

Mr Watson prepared a detailed and comprehensive response to send to the District Council outlining the Parish Council's concerns and objections. Clerk agreed to forward to HDC on behalf of the PC

Planning Applications Determined

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None

41 Correspondence

Correspondence ref Bus service 46

Clerk reported that she had received numerous communications from members of Alconbury Village expressing concern over the cancellation of the bus service through the village. Mrs Aylott reported that this had already been discussed under item 26

Email from local resident ref diverted footpath number 9

Clerk reported that an email had been received from a local resident concerning the diversion of footpath number 9. Clerk agreed to reply explaining that the Parish Council are working with the County Council and local land owner but at the present time no further diversion was planned.

Invitation to Charity Cricket Match

Mrs Aylott and the Clerk had received an invite to the charity cricket match at the ASSC on 6th July and would both be attending.

Letter of thanks from Thursday Club

Mrs Aylott had received a letter of thanks from the Thursday Club for their recent donation at the May AGM. She reported that the Thursday Club had used the donation towards a wheelchair for less able bodied members.

42 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Cheques for signature:

43 Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Mrs Sharp advised that the annual return was due to be filed. A copy of accounts had been sent to all Councillors via email and a hard copy given to Mrs Elphick. All agreed that the annual return could be approved and signed at the meeting.

After the meeting, Mr Pickering expressed concerns over a figure within the accounts that needed to be further reconciled. This was done and the annual return was filed.

Cheques for signature:

Demon Web Hosting-Direct Debit-£11.50

J Sharp-April Salary-£445.95

J Sharp-Broadband expenses-£21.75

Easiprint Printers-£35.00

SJH Gardening services-Amount £157.50

Youth Group expenses-Amount £1000 from Youth Group account

44 Date of next meeting

Monday 23rd July 2012 in the Memorial Hall

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