

ALCONBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 30th November 2010 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Mr Senior, Mrs Adams Mrs Aylott, Mr Boyce, Mr Hardy, Mr Lay, Mr Pickering and Mr Watson and Mrs Williams. District Councillor Keith Baker. Mrs Sharp - Parish Clerk. 2 Members of the Public.

Public Forum

Mr Hodgson expressed concern over the local bus service. He said that he was worried that with the cuts in public sector funding and support, he thought that the Village may be at risk of losing the bus service. Mr Senior advised him that the Alconbury bus service is not subsidised by Cambridgeshire County Council, however, the Parish Council would do everything possible to ensure that the bus service was not lost if the possibility were to arise.

Mr Hodgson also expressed concern over the number of trucks that are continuing to park next to the perimeter fence at the Truckstop instead of using the facility correctly. Clerk advised that Gemma Clark PCSO had been to the area but had not found anyone there at the time of her visit. Clerk to contact Gemma again and request that she visits whilst on night shift.

Mr Hodgson reported that he had been made aware of hoax callers going to homes and offering to fit a digital TV aerial when it was not required in line with the digital switchover in March 2011. Mr Senior advised that the Parish Council would put a small article into the next Parish Pump and Newsletter to advise people of the official way to get advice and help about the switchover.

105. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mrs Elphick and Mr Barnes.

106. Councillors' Declaration of Interest for items on the Agenda

Mr Lay expressed a personal interest in item 110 as an allotment holder. Mr Senior expressed a personal interest in item 111 as the owner of a property affected. Mr Senior and Mr Watson expressed a personal interest in item 112 as parents of children that attend the Child minder affected.

107. To sign and approve minutes of previous meeting held on 26th October 2010

Minutes of 26th October proposed by Mrs Aylott and Seconded by Mr Lay. Minutes duly approved and signed.

108. Proposed Wind Farm

Mr Senior advised that a planning application for the wind farm had now been received. He informed the meeting that there was to be a public meeting held on 13th December at Alconbury School Hall. This was to be held in order for members of Alconbury to gather information about the proposed Wind Farm and also for them to be able to air their views and concerns so that the Parish Council could gauge the opinion of the Village before sending back a response to the planning application in January.

Mr Senior outline the format of the meeting to be held and advised that the 'wind farm action group' would be given 20 minutes to speak and then this would be followed by RES,

the company proposing the wind farm, having 20 minutes also. There would then be 20 minutes for comments from the public, however, Mr Senior stressed that only residents of Alconbury would be allowed to speak and it would be limited to 2.5 minutes per person as per Standing Orders. No decision on the Parish Council,Äôs response would be made at this initial meeting, but at a further meeting to be held in the first week of January. This would give the Parish Council a chance to collate as much information and as many viewpoints as possible so that a well balanced, informed response could be sent. Standing orders would not be relaxed.

109. Parish Council Website - Mr Lay

Mr Lay advised that he had received 3 quotes for relaunching the Parish Council Website. It was agreed that a Sub Committee meeting should be held in the New Year to look at these in more detail and decide who will do the updates to the new website.

110. Allotments

Mrs Aylott advised that the borehole was still not completed. She was planning to meet with the borehole company within the week to get a firm completion date and to find out what still needed to be done. She advised that a completion date of the end of December was still hoped for. AAGA had agreed to purchase storage tanks which would be delivered to the site when available.

Mr Lay advised he was still waiting to hear from Donarbon about chippings to line the roadway. In the meantime a sign prohibiting vehicles from driving on the track to the allotments was in place and would remain so until the site was safer or the weather improved.

Mr Senior thanked Mrs Aylott, Mr Lay and Mr Boyce for their hard work on the allotments, especially the ongoing issues with the borehole.

111. Property Level Flood Protection Scheme/Emergency Plan

Mr Pickering advised that the property level surveys had now all been completed. Huntingdonshire District Council had gone out to tender for supplies and installation of the flood protection measures and were assessing the companies. Once a company had been chosen, they would be measuring up properties and installing the protective measures. There had been some issues with listed properties which were being addressed.

Mr Pickering introduced 2 guests from the Environment Agency, Liz and Shirley. Liz outlined some ideas for putting together an emergency flood plan for the village which included gathering information on people that may require assistance with their flood protection measures and having a network of people to help. Mr Senior agreed that this could be incorporated into the emergency plan, with the possibility of later in the year having a live 'practice' of the plan.

112. Parking Problems

Mr Senior advised that he had received a letter from The A-Team child minders after they had been visited by PCSO Gemma Clark due to problems with parking outside the property. The proprietors had sent a letter home to all parents to try and address the issue and were very keen to assist the Parish Council in making sure that the road does not get blocked. They also requested that in future, issues can be dealt with by direct communication with them.

113. Land outside Doctors Surgery

Clerk advised that there had been an enquiry as to the ownership of the land. A member of the public had kindly agreed to keep the area tidy, however, rubble needed to be cleared before this could be done. Clerk is awaiting a reply from the Highways Agency to establish ownership.

114. Youth Group/Scout Store

Nigel Murphy from the Scouts reported that planning consent had been granted for a store to be built next to the Memorial Hall for the Scouts. This was to be concrete with timber cladding and timber doors and would take approximately 3 years to complete. He also advised that there was still some funding to be sought and that the Scouts were looking at various grants to enable this. Mrs Adams reminded Mr Murphy that the Memorial Hall committee required sight of the final plans. Clerk to obtain these and forward them to the committee.

Mr Senior advised that the Youth Group had been allocated £4000 in the new precept to cover running costs after the announcement that Cambridgeshire County Council were no longer going to provide any funding. There was an outstanding cheque to CCC for £1227 which was for payment of Youth Workers. All agreed that the PC should pay this as there was not enough in Youth Group funds to cover the amount and the Clerk would ask for a 25% donation from Alconbury Weston towards this as it was approximated that 25% of Youth Group attendees are from Alconbury Weston.

115. Memorial Hall

Mrs Adams reported that there had been a big tidy up of the upstairs of the Memorial Hall to try and ensure peoples' safety when going into the loft space. There was nothing else to report.

116. ASSC

Mr Watson advised that Laurence Rickard was investigating costs for the upkeep of the Community Orchard in order to ask the Parish Council for a contribution towards costs.

117. Committee Reports

(a) Clerk's Infrastructure Report

Clerk reported that the trees at Mill Lane had still not been cut back and she was chasing HDC and Highways Agency to get this done. Clerk had received a phone call from a resident of Wren Close to report that the grit bin in the area was full of litter. Clerk to contact HDC about getting it emptied and refilled with grit.

(i) Churchyard

Clerk was awaiting contact from Richard Scott with regards to the spending of the precepted monies for 2010/2011.

(ii) Village Green

Nothing to Report.

(iii) General

(b) Planning Applications Received:

1001741FUL-Application for a Wind Farm at Woolley Hill-Mr Senior advised that this was to be discussed, in detail, at a public meeting on 13th December 2010 at Alconbury School.

Applications determined by Huntingdonshire District Council/Appeal:
None

(c) Bramble End - Monthly Inspection Report - Mrs. Williams

Mrs Williams reported that everything was ok at the playground. A new bin had been delivered and one of the no dogs signs needed to be repaired. Clerk to action.

118. Correspondence

Request for Donation from Victim Support - All agreed donation of £200.

Request to add Cambs Constabulary to the website - All agreed that this can be done.

119. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

Agreement of Precept for 2011/2012 - It was agreed that the precept for 2011/2012 should be reduced from £31,000 to £30,220 in line with cuts being made nationwide.

Cheques for signature:

- Demon - Web Hosting September 10 (paid by D/D) - £11.50
- Jo Sharp - Clerk Salary for November - £439.25
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- CCC - Youth Worker invoice - £1222.78
- J Sharp - Broadband and expenses back payment November - £161.50
- Donation to Alconbury School agreed at last meeting - £500
- Donation to British Legion agreed at last meeting - £100
- Donation to Magpas agreed at last meeting - £250
- Donation to Citizens Advice agreed at last meeting - £250

120. Date of next meeting

Public meeting on 13th December 2010 at 7.00pm at Alconbury CE School. Parish Council meeting on 25th January 2010 at 7.30pm in Memorial Hall.