

0122.412 Alconbury Weston Parish Council Meeting – January 2022

Apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting as I have a Development Management Committee meeting at HDC which was rearranged due to covid restrictions.

The County Council has announced that the New Chief Executive for the Authority will be Stephen Moir, he will take over the position in February 2022. As the current Chief Executive retires at the end of December 2021 an Interim appointment has been made to fill the void until the New Chief Executive starts in February 2022. the interim Chief Executive is Amanda Askham

The Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Derek Giles who represents St Neots Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford Division has had to retire as Chairman due to ill health. We all wish him well in his recovery. The Deputy chairman is currently undertaking his duties. A new chairman was supposed to have been elected in December, but this meeting was cancelled and the election of Chairman is not on the January meeting's Agenda.

The Demand Responsive Bus Service for West Huntingdonshire, known as Ting has commenced. It is a service for all residents. The cost of the service is £2 per trip and £4 return as is free for all Bus Pass Holders. Stagecoach are looking to rearrange the Roadshow event, which was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid.

The Council Tax Consultation for the coming year showed that 37% of residents did not support any increase. 25% of residents supported a 2% increase in either Council Tax or Adult Social care but not both, ie a 2 % increase and 21% supported a 2% Council Tax increase and a 1% Social Care increase ie a 3% increase and 4% did not support any option.

However, the Liberal Democrat led Administration have announced they will be going for the maximum increase of 4.99% on Council Tax at the County Council Budget meeting on February 8th. This increase will provide an additional £16.48 million in revenue to the County Council of which the Lib Dem Administration propose to put over 50% into reserves. Simply to tax residents more than is required just to put money in reserves shows that this administration does not care about helping residents at this time, when they are already struggling with much higher fuel bills.

The County Council has decided to provide everyone on Universal Credit some 39,000 recipients with an additional £20 to help them manage rising costs of living this winter. It will not cover the additional Council Tax increase.

This year's Huntingdonshire LHI meetings will be on 28th February and 2nd March between 8am and 5pm.

The County Council is preparing a Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire and I am grateful to the Alconbury Flood Group for commenting on this strategy.

The District Council has been shortlisted for one of Keep Britain Tidy's Annual Network Awards for its efforts in making environment improvements for local residents.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the waste service for maintaining the Bust Bin collection service over the recent surge in Covid, when many local authorities were stopping bin collections.

The acoustic fence to the B1043 is due to be installed 31st January 2022.

Works to establish the grips on Polecat Lane have been instructed.

The District Councils Budget meeting is on the 23rd February.

Finally ,I would like to thank Charlotte for her help and guidance during her time as Clerk for Alconbury Weston and to say how much I have enjoyed working with her. As well as wishing her all the best in her new job.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston.

0122.416 Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report 20th January 2022



Since mid- December, (our brilliant) flood group volunteers have

- Done additional clearance in the brook near the Heritage Bridge in Alconbury
- Cleared 250m of undergrowth and brambles from banks near the ford in Alconbury Weston
- Removed 2 more trees which had fallen across the brook near Polecat Lane
- With the KP from the EA planted 750 trees at Grange Farm, Hammerton next to a new EA off-line storage pond. (41 volunteers!)
- Culverts on school lane have been rodded by volunteers and are running better. The CC who owns the ditch have been informed that one of the culverts may have collapsed.

The EA completed most but not all of the bank maintenance in November. Those sections missed were discussed during a very helpful site visit with the EA Assets Manager. During the week starting 17/1 EA teams have undertaken a significant amount of additional bank clearance and will continue over the next 2 weeks providing the weather holds.

We have arranged to do some clearance ourselves which complements that done by the EA teams including the banks of riverside properties in the High Streets of both Alconbury and Alconbury Weston. This is scheduled for the second week in February. To facilitate this the flood group have ordered a boat.

We now have third party insurance, and our volunteers are insured against personal accident.

Another farmer has agreed to have an off-line storage pond, together with some leaky dams on an Alconbury Brook tributary watercourse. The idb have give outline agreement to the work which is on a watercourse under their jurisdiction. We hope that funding and consents will become available so that work can be done in May/June.

Further upstream two flood group members had a preliminary meeting with another farmer who has given us permission to look around his farm for suitable places for some small holding structures on 26/1. We will be discussing funding with LENS.

We have had an update from the EA with detailed plans for an NFM system on the East side of Vinegar Hill. The is a slight delay while this is modelled but the project could be installed in late spring/summer 2022.

The EA modelling contract with Jacobs has finally been signed off and work has begun. At some point the consultant will visit the Alconbury's to understand the lie of the land, and the opportunities which exist given the strong commitment from the communities involved.

Flood Group Newsletter 2, part funded by Alconbury Parish Council will be distributed between 17/1 and 26/1

An improved flood CCTV system will be operational soon. There remain some unanswered questions about fields of vision and distribution of passwords, but these should be resolved shortly.

It has been very dry, only 29mm of rain in the first three weeks of January, however we are certain that water in the brook is running away faster because of the better maintenance. Soil moisture varies but has been as low as 80% (our monitoring) in the last 2 weeks providing a small buffer for heavy rain. Long may it continue!! We now have portable flow monitoring equipment. On 18/1, the flow was about 0.1cubic meter/sec at the A ford and 0.095 cubic meters per second AW ford (in December 2020 the flow at Alconbury flyover was 94 cubic meters / second). The EA have invited the Flood Group to suggest two sites for permanent flow monitoring equipment.

0122.424.1

Alconbury Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation

Total of balances in bank accounts at
31.01.22

Instant Access	34886.67
Unity T1 Current Account	26874.29
Lloyds	0.81
Total	61761.77

Less unrepresented cheques:

Payee	Ref	Amount
C Copley - Wages and expenses	BACS	353.52
HMRC PAYE - Clerk	BACS	5.00
Mr & Mrs Ayres Allotment rent	CHEQUE	1200.00
Human Capital Department Ltd	BACS	138.00
	Total	1696.52

Net bank balance at 31.01.22 £ **60065.25**

Cash book

Opening balance	54250.07
Add: Receipts	43811.24
Less: Payments	37996.06

Balance as per cash book at 31.01.22 £ **60065.25**

Signed.....

Responsible Financial
Officer