

0322.455

Cllr Ian Gardener report - Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – March 2022

The Demand Responsive Bus Service for West Huntingdonshire, known as Ting has done over 10,000 journeys since it commenced. It is a service for all residents. The cost of the service is £2 per trip and £4 return, it is free for all Bus Pass Holders. A Youth fare has been introduced for those under 19 the fare is £1.

Users of the service can pay by the app or by cash or card on the bus when you board. The bus is wheelchair friendly and the main points of interest for the service are St Neots Market Square, Huntingdon Bus station, Huntingdon & St Neots Train stations, Grafham Water, Hamerton Zoo, Hinchingbrooke Hospital and Cambourne Morrisons.

The County Council is looking to implement 20mph zones across Cambridgeshire. Monies for these schemes should become available towards the end of the year. Once the County council asks for potential scheme's I will inform the council.

The gates at the Ford between High Street and Brookside are due to be opened shortly, if they have not already been opened. The County Council have said they are willing for the Alconbury Flood Group to have the key for the gate, they would then be responsible for closing and opening the gates. Cambs CC will need a named holder of the key for emergency events to contact.

The County Council has planted trees next to Lordsway Park, which I understand have helped to reduce noise. The County Council is also drawing up plans for a barrier on the bridge to reduce noise and stop objects being thrown over. As we get more detail's I will let you all know.

Cllr Johnson and myself attended a meeting with the Manager of Crown Gardens, Tammy Smith on 22nd March. The centre is currently full, the average stay is 6 months. No problems have been brought to the Managers attention. They are working with Semble to organise nature and bird walks for residents and villagers if they want to attend. Details are on their community links page. They are looking to organise the following events for residents – Garden maintenance, coffee mornings, sensory kitchens, mud kitchens. Looking to plant plants that attract Butterflies and birds.

The centre is looking for volunteers for Gardening and will be erecting a shed and outdoor seating. The next meeting is arranged for 31 May 22.

Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the Easter holidays for the children of families receiving income related free school meals in Cambridgeshire. Details are on the website <https://orlo.uk/JhGOx>

HDC have made an offer to the County Council to manage in the same way as we did for the Clinically Extremely vulnerable group during the pandemic (the only District Council to do so in Cambs) almost all the aspects of the process relating to Homes for Ukraine scheme. So far 25 Huntingdonshire Households have offered to accommodate Ukrainian refugees and HDC will support those households as well as undertaking mandatory DBS checks and home inspections. HDC will also be processing the monthly 'Thank You' payments and providing refugees with an initial sum of money to help with essentials.

The Councils will be going into purdah from Monday due to the elections.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Brook Flood Group report for March 2022

Volunteers have removed 3 trees from the brook near Polecat Lane. They have also cleared vegetation from the back of 2 gardens on the High Street Alconbury.

We have with the landowner's permission started to remove other dead trees near Polecat Lane. We have consulted the EA about this work and plan to plant hedging to replace the gaps left by the trees in the autumn.

We have 4 permit exemptions for clearing silt adjacent to culverts and grips in Alconbury Weston and Alconbury. This work will take place over the next few months. On the basis of legal advice through the County Council we have made arrangements for expert ecological advice prior to any work to ensure nesting birds and spawning fish are not disturbed.

Our yellow boat is licenced to go anywhere on the Ouse and its tributaries. We are looking forward to launching it soon.

We have met with Jacobs who have completed the first phase of their work. We discussed the long list of 31 schemes which has been reduced to about 10. All members of the committee were consulted including Parish Councillor members. There was a fair degree of convergence in our views and those of the EA and Jacobs. Our favoured schemes remain in the running. We also discussed weighted criteria for additional shortlisting which includes cost, flood mitigation effectiveness, social impact and wellbeing, environmental cost/benefit.

We have continued to work with landowners on NFM schemes. Our current plans will cost approx. £75,000. The Flood Group Charity trustees are looking at charitable funding for this work.

We have agreed to support the EA in a Defra pilot scheme called Landscape Recovery. This involves the re-wilding of water courses, for example the construction of new ponds, re-connecting flood plains and leaky dams. The first meeting of this project with the EA, flood group members and 20 landowners from the catchment takes place on 28th March. The Flood Group have agreed to support and administer this project. Information from Defra remains a bit sketchy, so we are still a bit cautious about wholehearted support and have our own questions.

We met with the Clerk of the Course at Brampton Racecourse. Like us they suffered considerable damage because of the 2020 flood. We discussed areas of common interest including slowing the flow of flood water upstream of the villages.

The Flood Group AGM open to the public will take place on May 10th at 19.00.

0322.468

Alconbury Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation

Total of balances in bank accounts at
31.03.22

Instant Access	34905.59
Unity T1 Current Account	23991.36
Lloyds	0.81
Total	58897.76

Less unrepresented cheques:
Payee

Ref	Amount
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SR Howell and Co - payroll

BACS	
Total	0.00

Net bank balance at 31.03.22

£ **58897.76**

Cash book

Opening balance

54250.07

Add: Receipts

45530.16

Less: Payments

40882.47

Balance as per cash book at 31.03.22

£ 58897.76

Signed *A Brown*

Responsible Financial
Officer