

Agenda item 0223.178 Report from District/County Councillor

Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – February 2023

I am pleased to announce that the Acoustic Fence along the B1043 adjacent to Lordsway Park, has been completed along with resurfacing work either side of the joints on the viaduct. I have been informed by residents that noise levels have been reduced, it should also mitigate items being thrown over the viaduct from vehicles

The fence adjacent to the A1 has been repaired, thus preventing unauthorised access onto the A1

National Highways are in the process of repairing the Traffic Lights at the Brampton Hut Roundabout, which may lead to delays and make crossing on foot or on a cycle more difficult.

The Bus Stop opposite the former Police house on the Great North Road is to be replaced as the existing post is rusted through.

I attended a meeting with the Manager of Crown Gardens along with the Chairman & Vice Chairman of the PC on 15th February

I am continuing to work with the Parish councils and other neighbouring County Councillors on the possible closure of the Great Gidding Primary School. To try and keep the school open, particularly as HDC are preparing a new Local Plan which may result in more homes within the catchment area.

The Cambridgeshire Mayor has decided to add a Mayoral precept to your Council tax Bill, which I understand is £12.00 per annum for a Band D property. This money is to be ringfenced to maintain the existing Bus Services.

The Fire Authority has agreed to a £5 increase on its Council Tax levy for a Band D property

The Lib Dem/Labour/Independent Administration on the County Council have agreed at the Budget meeting earlier this month to increase General Council Tax by 2.99% and Social Care by 2%

The administration also voted through a 25% cut to the winter gritting network across Cambridgeshire. The routes to be cut are still to be advised, but the Chair of Highways said priority would be given to Active Travel Routes, we therefore will have to wait and see how this will affect our rural roads.

The administration also agreed to stopping all weedkilling on footpaths and roads, unless it poses a safety hazard, cutting 125K from the budget

The Administration also cut £325K from the Family Safeguarding budget and £150K from the Community Mental Health Support Budget by not filling vacant posts.

Applications for a 20mph schemes has opened today and will close on 28 April. The application must have the support of the Parish Council and the County Councillor. Once an application has been submitted, it will be processed and prioritised until all schemes have been delivered.

A 20mph limit will be prioritised against the following criteria-

Evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph zone

Vulnerable Road users

Visible Homes, shops and businesses

A school or a school route

A cycling Route

An area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking.

The Lib Dem/ Independent/Labour & Green Administration at HDC voted through a £5 annual increase to Council Tax for a Band D property.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that HDC is looking at introducing a £60 charge for collecting Green Bins. Which is something the previous administration had voted against.

This is somewhat ironic, given we approved a new climate strategy last week. A significant proportion of people will hand back their green bin, which will lead to less recycling and therefore putting more waste into landfill and people will also be driving cars to Recycling centres to dispose of Green waste. It will also lead to greater fly tipping in the district.

The Huntingdonshire Local Plan Review and Update is to replace the existing Hunts local Plan to 2036. An analysis of the current Local Plan against the requirements of the 2021 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other recent national legislation has been undertaken. The outcome determined that the current Local Plan did not fully align with up-to-date national policy and therefore ran the risk of challenge.

A replacement Local Plan would hopefully assist in the delivery of Council's objectives within its Corporate Plan –

Tackling Climate Change and caring for the Environment

Enhancing Employment Opportunities and supporting businesses

Improving the Housing situation

Strengthening Communities

The first New Local Plan documents will start heading your way in March /April, including the Call for Sites Document

Photographic Voter ID – The Elections Act passed through Parliament in early 2022 and introduced a new requirement for Photographic Voter Identification at Parliamentary Elections, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Mayoral elections and County & District Elections from 4 May 23

Info – <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/voter-id/>

At the March HDC Council meeting, which will be a Special meeting to discuss Councillors Allowances, the Independent Panel are recommending an increase of 19% and in some cases higher. The previous Conservative administrations have rejected increases since the Financial crisis and only in the last five years have our allowances been linked to the same increase as our staff get.

Contact Email on Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury Weston

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Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report February 2023

Overall picture is that progress is rather slow with FG waiting for news and progress in a number of areas.

FAS

- EA modeller visiting March 17th to look at parts of the brook which may not have expected hydrological behaviour.
- A little extra data about previous flood events including 2016 AW passed to EA
- Suggestions for complimentary options passed to EA by FG. The intention is to add cheaper additional work which add benefit at relatively less extra cost. Additional suggestions included benching on tightest downstream meanders and work on downstream agricultural bridges.
- FG has also asked that work it is doing (at no cost to the FAS project) is included in benefit calculations.

Pond Projects

- Archaeologists have agreed new plan for Buckworth Scrape. CCC planners are preparing a benefit statement- still awaited. A new application will then be required but planning officer has promised a quick turnaround.
- Planning permission still awaited for large AW pond. Reference number has been allocated and hopefully it will appear on the HDC website soon. We will be encouraging FG supporters to write. Reference 22/02468/FUL
- New pond project in Great Gidding surveyed last week. Preliminary chat with landowner.

Video and Flood Mobile

- CCC video about TABFG is apparently looking good and will be on You Tube and the CCC website soon.
- The Flood Mobile will be back this time to AW in April. CCC, FG and AW PC all involved including road closure publicity etc. Very positive feedback from visit in 2021. More info nearer the date.

Gabions

- Further progress. Money has been allocated and survey team have visited the area so that design work can start. PCs, FG, residents will all be consulted when plans are available.

Sensor Project

- Sensors and nodes working well.
- Meeting with c-Things to agree next steps with follow-up meeting with CCC to confirm the funding necessary for a prototype test and equipment needed. Agreement with a landowner in AW to kindly host a gateway on their barn which receives data from the sensors and connects to the internet.
- Installation in next couple of weeks. Equipment can then be used to gather all sorts of flood related data.

Herbal Ley Project

- Outline agreement with landowner passed to Anglian Water (as funders) for comment.
- Experimental outline being developed.
- Considerable interest from a wide range of potential collaborators

Blue Green Urban

- Provisional offer by a corporate funder of £50,000 worth of Blue Green Urban products.
- These are modular water surface water retention systems which can be retrofitted into existing drainage They cleanse storm water and provide amenity value. They often include planting of grasses, wild flowers or trees. The modules are filled with special soil.

National Flood Forum- supporting flood groups

- CCC have paid for us to have use of their services and useful support until September '23

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO)
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: 7th February 2023

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Parish Council Chair)
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Date: 28th February 2023

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/01/2023		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022		58,897.76
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2022 - 31/01/2023		46,073.85
			104,971.61
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2022 - 31/01/2023		31,499.22
A	Cash in Hand 31/01/2023 (per Cash Book)		73,472.39
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	31/01/2023	0.00
	Lloyds Bank	31/01/2023	0.81
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/01/2023	35,101.94
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/01/2023	38,369.64
			73,472.39
	Less unrepresented payments		
			73,472.39
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
B	Adjusted Bank Balance		73,472.39
	A = B Checks out OK		