

Alconbury Parish Council Annual Report 2021/2022:

July 2021 saw the Parish Council return to face-to-face meetings for the first time since March 2020. During this period, I am proud of the way we have managed to continue to discuss and progress village matters.

As reported in previous annual reports Alconbury Parish Council and Alconbury Weston Parish Council progressed with their discussions regarding 'grouping' of the parish councils to form a common council. A vote was held in November 2021 and the results published and duly considered. Despite a vote in favour of the 'grouping' from the residents of Alconbury the results from Alconbury Weston were not so favourable. We, collectively, decided not to pursue the 'grouping'. We maintain contact with Alconbury Weston Parish Council and share information regularly.

"The Alconbury's Flood Group" (TAFG) has continued to liaise with the Environment Agency and the other agencies and is developing a strategy based on 4 main components: upstream – slowing the flow of water into the villages during high rainfall; downstream – speeding the flow out of the villages; Weald overflow – addressing the outflows which caused flooding in School Lane; and work on improving the flow of water between Alconbury Weston and Alconbury. Proposals have been submitted to the Environment Agency for the evaluation of proposals for a number of large and leaky dams up stream, together with various Natural Flood management initiatives. Plans are also well down the track on proposals for removing obstacles to water flow downstream and for clearing out ditches in Alconbury, including alongside School Lane.

We continued discussions with the Highways Agency to improve the environment for the residents of Lordsway and the surrounding area. Unfortunately, a weight restriction along the B1043 is not currently feasible. However, the agency has agreed to the planting of trees between the affected properties and the B1043. There are also ongoing discussions regarding the installation of a sound barrier along the B1043, similar to that along the A1/M.

Unfortunately, during this financial year, we have seen an increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the village. This has centred primarily around the Bramble End play area. Although the majority of costs have been covered by our village insurance, we have had to send some of our funds on repairs. The playground is to be used by the youngsters in our community and is maintained by the Parish Council.

In celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council have planted a Quercus robur (English oak) on the village green. All credit goes to Councillor Maclennan for digging and preparing the soil for the sapling. We were joined by Jonathan Djanogly for the planting on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in late March.

A second defibrillator will be installed in the village very shortly (the first is located at the Sports and Social Club). The Parish Council received funding from Woolley Hill Wind Farm for its installation. It will be maintained by our local first responder with the costs being supported by the community through the Parish Council.

We sadly said goodbye to our Parish Clerk, Charlotte Copley. Charlotte was with us for 4 years, and we thank her for bringing us into the 21st century and her patience with us as a Parish Council. We wish her well in her next career move. Alison Brown joined us in February 2022. She comes to us with 10 years' experience as a clerk. Welcome to Alconbury Parish Council!

Finally, I'd like to end by thanking all of the councillors and our Parish Clerk for their continued support and hard work through the year. I'm particularly proud that we have continued to deliver on all of our promises that we made in last year's Annual report and much more on top. I know that we will continue through the next year to make improvements and represent the best interests of our village.

We currently have several vacancies.

If you're interested in village matters and would like to be involved in any of our upcoming activities please contact either the parish clerk or myself.

Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer

The Parish Council started the financial year with £54,250.07 in the reserves and with an annual spend of £40,882.47 we were able to carry forward £58,897.76 at 31st March 2022. Parish Councils should keep between 1 and 2 times their annual precept in reserves. Alconbury Parish Council are within that bracket and remains financially stable going forwards.

By applying pressure on the District Council and County Council to carry out maintenance that they were responsible for, the Parish Council has tried to keep the Precept as low as possible however rising costs beyond the control of the Parish Council, the Precept was raised to £32,000.

The Parish Council has continued to be successful in taking over the Village grass cutting of the areas usually cut by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). The contractor will carry out cuts to the areas between April and October. The Parish Council has been able to claim the costs back from HDC and CCC so far with the Parish Council making up the shortfall. A new fixed price contract with the existing contractor has been agreed for the next five years.

Vandalism to play equipment has meant several insurance claims were made however this allowed the equipment to be replaced.

We have fulfilled all of our obligations and have been able to make donations to Alconbury Sports and Social Club and the Alconbury Recreation Field Charity. A small donation was made to the Royal British Legion for a Remembrance Day poppy wreath and to The Alconbury Brook Flood Group towards their leaflet printing costs.

Alconbury Parish Council

Update report to Alconbury Parish Council

8th May 2022

From Claire Flowers- District Commissioner

There have been a number of changes for our local girlguiding this year. Many girls particularly the older ones haven't returned following the various lockdowns when we could only meet on line. Key local volunteers Jacqui Fairbrass, Julie Cook, Karen Brine, Karen Hunt and Joanne Hart have stood down from their roles. These individuals have given a lot of their time and effort to girl guiding in Alconbury and are very much missed.

We now run the following units all meeting in term time

Rainbows Wed 5-6pm Little Stukeley
8 Rainbows
1 leader and parent helpers
Waiting list of 11 (7 old enough to start)

Brownies (2nd) Wed 6-7.30pm Alconbury Church
24 Brownies
3 leaders
2 young leaders
Waiting list of 26 (9 old enough to start)

Guides Wed 7-8.15pm Alconbury Church
4 Guides
2 leaders – shared with brownies
No waiting list

Rangers
Not active
2 Young leaders supporting Brownies

We are grateful to Alconbury Church for allowing us to rent their space as unfortunately we have lost our slot at the village hall.

We have 1st Alconbury Brownies unit closed due to a lack of leaders.

Some of the activities we have completed this year

- Camp for all units summer 2021
- Girlguiding cinema trip
- Supported remembrance service at Alconbury church
- Litter picks in Alconbury
- Alconbury village fete tea and cake stall
- Trip to inflata bounce with scouts

- Trip to Leicester Space centre with sleepover

We will be celebrating the platinum jubilee with Girlguiding at an afternoon event held at Yaxley.

We provide regular updates to the parish pump.

We have tried to support activities that develop team work this is something that through covid and staying at home our girls have missed out on.

Our girls come from Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Alconbury Weald, The Stukeleys, Buckworth,

We are keen to support the girls at our unit and would like to grow but cannot do this without more volunteers. There is a data base for girls to register interest. www.girlguiding.org and click register your daughter- go to the same place to register as a volunteer.

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