



Alconbury Parish Council

www.alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Alison Brown

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Minutes of the Alconbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Alconbury on Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7:30 pm

Present: Councillors: T Gilbert (Chair), S. Brawn, M. Gunney, B. Johnson, T. MacLennan and Mrs Brown (Clerk).

Members of the public: 5 HDC/CCC: Cllr Ian Gardener TABFG representative: 1

Public Question Time

Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LGA 1972 s 100
None.

0923.068 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

0923.069 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Brawn - agenda item 0923.077.1
Cllr MacLennan – agenda item 0723.077.1 and 0723.077.5.

0923.070 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS
One applicant attended the meeting and expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.
RESOLVED: To co-opt Sara-Jane Isaacs onto Alconbury Parish Council. Sara-Jane Isaacs signed a Parish Councillor Declaration and joined the Parish Council for the remainder of the meeting.

0923.071 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP (TABFG)

1. Mr Charles Dalleywater gave his report which is appended to these minutes.
2. Councillors were shown the design and location plan of the proposed HydroPlanters which TABFG plan to install in the Memorial Hall car park at no cost to the Parish Council or the Hall. The HydroPlanters will be above ground units which will be maintained by the playschool and scouts. Should this change, then TABFG are able to fund a gardener for 2 years to maintain the planters. TABFG envisage that the planters will be installed with the minimum of disruption to the hall over one weekend (Friday – Monday). It was noted that the Memorial Hall committee were happy with the HydroPlanters design and location plan.
RESOLVED: To accept the design and location plan for the HydroPlanters which will be installed in the Memorial Hall car park by TABFG at no cost to the Parish Council or Memorial Hall.
3. A grant application of £750.00 to assist with the cost of an archaeological investigation required before work can begin on a flood mitigation/wildlife pond at Alconbury Weston was discussed. Mr Dalleywater explained that an additional £6380 was now needed for the pond project, which had not been budgeted for, and that a small contribution was being sought from different groups affected by potential flooding to cover this cost.

It was noted that a meeting is to take place with Cllr Gardener, Mr Dalleywater and Cambridgeshire County Council Officers to try and reduce the requirements of the archaeological investigation thus reducing the cost. The meeting also noted that not all residents agree with the work of TABFG and not all residential properties are in a flooding zone.

RESOLVED: With a vote of 4 in favour and 2 abstentions, that a grant award of £500 is only given when TABFG has confirmed that the funds are still required after their meeting with Cambridgeshire County Council has taken place confirming the archaeological investigation requirements.

0923.072 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
Cllr Gardener read out his report which is appended to these minutes.

- 0923.073 **BRAMPTON CROSS DEVELOPMENT**
 Brampton Cross developers will be attending a public meeting on 20th October 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Alconbury to give a presentation on the proposed development and to answer questions. The meeting is open to everyone and all parties which may be affected by the development have been invited to attend. The developers will be asked to pay for the hire of the Memorial Hall - £27.00
- 0923.074 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**
 Cllr MacLennan gave an update on the plan. There are still a number of surveys which have not yet been recorded on the spreadsheet. When this has been done, the results will be analysed. It was agreed to divide all the written survey comments between councillors to see if there are any common themes which can also be referred to when considering future parish projects.
- 0923.075 **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**
RESOLVED: The minutes of the Alconbury Parish Council meeting held on 29th August 2023 were agreed with a minor amendment to agenda item 0823.054 as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
- 0923.076 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
1. Resolved comments to be submitted on applications:
 - 23/80349/COND - Discharge of condition 10 (Key Phase 2 Framework) for 201158OUT Alconbury Airfield, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley PE28 4WX
RESOLVED: No material observations.
 2. Received update on previous planning applications:
 - 22/02178/S73 (16/01476/S73) - Georgian House, Great North Road, Alconbury – Approved.
 - 23/01378/HHFUL - Erection of a single storey rear extension at 5 The Maltings, Alconbury – Refused.
 - 23/01379/LBC - Erection of a single storey rear extension at 5 The Maltings Alconbury – Refused.
 - 23/01108/FUL - Construction of a single storey extension to an existing double garage to form a new four bedroom dwelling / bungalow at Land Adjacent 9 Rusts Lane, Alconbury – In progress.
- 0923.077 **COUNCILLORS UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**
 Verbal reports received from the Parish Councillors on their portfolio responsibilities and matters arising from previous meeting and resolve any action;
1. Memorial Hall
 Cllr MacLennan reported that funding bids had been submitted for an outside storage unit. Solar panels and heat pumps are being considered to save money as the hall's fixed energy price contract ends next year and it is envisaged that these costs will increase. Everyone was also reminded that the hall user date is taking place on Saturday 30th September 2023.
 2. Tree Warden
 The Clerk will contact GTS Trees to find out when the remainder of the trees on the village green will be surveyed.
 3. Alconbury Recreation Field Charity & Alconbury Sports and Social Club
 Cllr Gunney reported that the recent Funday was a success and that the dog show had been cancelled and put back to 8th October 2023 due to slight flooding at the club.
- Prior to the meeting, a letter from the Chair of the Alconbury Recreation Field Charity (ARFC) was circulated to councillors stating the reasons why the Parish Council should continue their annual donation of £2000 towards maintenance of the sports field.
- The ARFC Chair stated in his letter that the current direct annual costs to maintain the recreation field (Groundsman wages, contractor costs, materials etc.) amounted to £10,700 excl. VAT. When other associated costs such as water rates, public liability insurance, vehicle insurance, equipment storage, trade waste and administration costs are added in, this rises to an estimated total of around £14,700 per annum excl. of VAT. Although volunteers do help with some aspects of maintenance, an employed groundsman is required especially at the end of season to ensure that the field will be operational at the start of the following season. Although the charity's income comes through the rental charges for the pitches, the function room, and

other fundraising events, it would not be possible to maintain the field and ensure that the facilities remain available for the many local groups, clubs, and families without the Parish Council donation. It was noted that ARFC rents the recreation field from Alconbury Parish Council.

REOSLVED: To continue the Parish Council annual donation of £2000 to Alconbury Recreation Field Charity for the maintenance of the sports field.

4. Bramble End Play Area
Cllr Gunney reported that there is an ongoing weed problem in the play area and that the gym equipment is getting scratched. The Clerk is still obtaining quotations for the play equipment repairs highlighted in the recent inspection report. Cllr Gilbert stated that she had recently attended funding applications training and that funding is available from many groups which can be applied for when the play area equipment is renewed.
5. Woolley Hill Wind Farm
No update.
6. Planning Working Group
No update.
7. Alconbury Weald – Joint Parishes Meetings
Cllr Gunney reported that he had attended a meeting on site at Alconbury Weald. However, it was poorly attended therefore Urban & Civic will revisit the attendee list and will look to re-energise future meetings. Over 650 properties are now occupied in Alconbury Weald.

0923.078

VILLAGE CRIME

The Clerk provided the following crime figures taken from www.Police.uk crime map:

- July 2023 – 7 reports of crime within the village.

0923.079

INFRASTRUCTURE

Received updates and resolved actions.

1. Churchyard
No update.
2. Village Green
The Clerk reported that the village green is already registered to the Parish Council as a Village Green but not with Land Registry.
RESOLVED: That Alconbury Parish Council will register the Village Green with Land Registry.
3. Roads and Footpaths
 - a. It was agreed to see the results of the residents Neighbourhood survey to determine whether to progress implementing a 20mph speed limit in village.
4. General
 1. LHI bid strategy.
 - a. Brookside parking issues and HGV access – No update.
 - b. Weight limit on B1043 – Cllr Gardener is progressing this matter.
 2. CCC LHI application bid January 2023 – the signage for Rusts Lane will be erected in this financial year. Cllr Gilbert stated that she has completed the CCC expression for a LHI bid in 2024/25.
 3. Purchase of Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The Clerk is obtaining quotations.
 4. Cllr Johnson reported that one of the village pump posts had been knocked over by a Milk and More float and that the driver had driven off. A witness saw the incident take place. Cllr Johnson has contacted Milk and More to report the incident and ask them to pay for a new post. Milk and More are asking for CCTV footage or pictures of the incident occurring. The Clerk will respond to the company and obtain a quotation from Stephen Moorbey for a new post as he replaced all the posts last year.

The Clerk stated that the bulb on the village pump had been replaced. Cllr Johnson agreed to confirm that this is the case.

0923.080

DEFIBRILLATOR REPORTS

No report this month. Cllr Johnson asked the Parish Council to consider purchasing another defibrillator for the Sharps Lane end of the village. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

0923.081

FINANCE

1. RESOLVED: Payments of outstanding September debts:

Antony Abbs	Grass cutting 6 th instalment (SO)	£2076.00
Terry's Electrical Services Ltd	Repair light on village pump	£101.40
Alconbury Hall	Meeting room hire 20/10/2023	£27.00
Alconbury Hall	Meeting room hire 31/10/2023	£12.00
A Brown – Clerk	Clerk's salary September 2023	£779.96
HMRC	Clerk's Tax & NI September 2023	£214.20
NEST	Clerk's Pension September 2023	£29.65
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges 04/06/2023 – 03/09/2023 (DD)	£18.00
CARESCO	Grant S137 LGA 1972	£250.00

2. Monies received

HDC precept 2 nd instalment	£19,500.00
Unity Trust Bank interest	£240.87

RESOLVED: The Chair confirmed the receipts and bank reconciliation as correct.

0923.082

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None.

0923.083

MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

None.

0923.084

NEXT MEETING – 31st October 2023, Memorial Hall, School Lane, Alconbury at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.