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 31st October 2023 at 7:30 pm

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

Members of the public: 5 HDC/CCC: Cllr Ian Gardener TABFG representative: Mr Charles Dalleywater

Public Question Time
Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LGA 1972 s 100

1. Resident 1 asked what was happening with the hedge and footpath at the back of Coulsons Way (footpath no: 2) as it was badly overgrown and untidy. The resident was informed that Cambridgeshire County Council had finally appointed a Public Rights of Way Officer, Dan Wiggs and that the Parish Council would ask him to write to residents to remind them that it was their responsibility to keep the hedge trimmed back and footpath no: 2 clear at the rear of their properties.

2. Resident 2 asked the meeting who was responsible for maintaining the banks of the brook as there were a couple of weak points on the bank between the Heritage bridge and ford on the side of Brookside which recently allowed water through and caused flooding in this area. The resident offered to carry out the necessary work if the materials were provided. Mr Dalleywater, TABFG representative stated that the owner was responsible for maintaining the bank, however as this was the Parish Council, the Environment Agency would undertake the work on its behalf as it is a local authority. Cllr Gilbert stated that the Parish Council would inform the Environment Agency of this issue.

3. Resident 3 stated that on the opposite side of Brookside, water is draining from the river and flooding the road due to the banks of the river. Mr Dalleywater responded and said that the flood group had wanted to address this issue and had submitted a Community Infrastructure Levy application to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), however they were told that this was a Highways drainage issue which they have to address and maintain. Cllr Gilbert stated that she has a meeting with CCC Highways Officer Josh Rutterford, and will raise this issue with him.

4. Dave Fares addressed the meeting and stated that whilst on TABFG, he was tasked with liaising with CCC to install and get the pumps under the flyover on Rusts Lane working and thanked Cllr Gardener for his input on this matter.

5. Resident 4 asked for an update on the proposed weight limit on the B1043 as recent minutes have been stating no update. Cllr Gilbert stated that she and Cllr Gardener are still working on this as such a scheme takes a long time to implement as CCC has stated that a series of measures over a period of 12 months have to be done before an application for a weight limit can be submitted. As the B1043 runs between the A1M and A1307, there must be signage on both roads before you get to the B1043 to alert drivers of the weight limit and consequently the additional signage increases the scheme implementation charges. If the total cost of the scheme is under £25,000, the Parish Council can apply for funding through an LHI bid, if the cost is over this, the Parish Council has to find £1,000 for every £1,000 over £25,000. It has been muted that the cost of a weight limit scheme could cost £75,000 which would mean that funding from other sources would need to be found. The cost has to be finalised so that it is known how much money is required therefore Cllr Gilbert and Cllr Gardener are meeting with Highways Officer Josh Rutterford on 10th November 2023 to do this.

6. Resident 4 also stated that the B1043 has been resurfaced and the painted hatches have been made bigger which has resulted in container lorries moving over to avoid them and driving over and hitting 5 drain covers causing noise pollution which is keep them awake at night. The resident has written and complained to Cllr Gardener with this issue. Cllr Gardener stated he had written to CCC and was waiting on a response.

7. Resident 4 asked when improvements to the brook underneath the A1M/B1043 would be taking place. Mr Dalleywater stated that there was an outline design which he believed was at design stage 'gateway 4', however he was not sure why it was taking so long.

8. Resident 4 stated that Cllr Gardener had been emailed regarding the mess which Gigaclear had made of the bank which they had dug up near their property and left mud all over the road. Cllr Gardener stated that he had spoken to a CCC Highways Officer and was told that they would send someone out to look and tell Gigaclear of make the area safe. CCC will clear the mud off the road.

9. Resident 4 asked who was responsible for the area underneath the A1M/B1043 flyover which is used as a communal parking area, as it is currently a mud bath. Cllr Gardener stated that this area belongs to National Highways and that CCC only owns the road. Due to the fires which have over time occurred under the flyover, National Highways are considering fencing off the area.

1023.085 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.

1023.086 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Brawn - agenda item 1023.093.1
Cllr MacLennan – agenda item 1023.093.1 and 1023.093.5.

1023.087 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS
One applicant attended the meeting and expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.
RESOLVED: To co-opt Sarah Button onto Alconbury Parish Council. Sarah Button signed a Parish Councillor Declaration and joined the Parish Council for the remainder of the meeting.

1023.088 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP (TABFG)
1. Mr Charles Dalleywater gave his report which is appended to these minutes.

2. Mr Dalleywater updated the meeting on the grant application which has been submitted to the Parish Council at last meeting for funding towards an archaeological survey required prior to flood mitigation pond works at Alconbury Weston - agenda item 0923.071.3. He stated that TABFG were not able to remove the architects fee and that the grant of £500 was still required. Funding is being sought from other groups for the total cost of the archaeological survey.
RESOLVED: To award TABFG a grant of £500 towards an archaeological survey required prior to flood mitigation pond works at Alconbury Weston.

1023.089 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
Cllr Gardener read out his report which is appended to these minutes.

Cllr Johnson thanked Cllr Gardener for getting the bridge repaired.

Cllr Gardener was informed that the lights on the corner of Mill Road have been constantly on for the last 6 months. Cllr Gardener will report this to CCC.

1023.090 BRAMPTON CROSS DEVELOPMENT
A public meeting was held on Friday 20th October 2023 at The Memorial Hall with the site promoters and their consultant team. Despite a flood warning in place at the time throughout The Alconburys, the meeting was well attended by about 40 interested parties. Several concerns were raised about the proposed commercial development including:

- Increased risk of flooding – Alconbury and Ellington Brooks
- Impact on local infrastructure – extra vehicular movements on major and minor routes
- Environmental concerns (noise) – increased traffic on the already busy A1

Next steps:

- The developers will submit an Environmental Impact Assessment to HDC before year end. This will be shared with the Parish Council
- A second public meeting will be schedule in early 2024 as more information becomes available.

1023.091 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Alconbury Parish Council meeting held on 26th September 2023 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

1023.092 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Resolved comments to be submitted on applications:
   - 23/01226/FUL Retrospective application for erection of a new building at Research Centre Woolley Road Alconbury
     RESOLVED: No material observations.
   - 23/01907/HHFUL Single storey rear extension at5 The Maltings Alconbury Huntingdon PE28 4DZ
     RESOLVED: No material observations.
   - 23/01908/LBC Single storey rear extension at 5 The Maltings Alconbury Huntingdon PE28 4DZ
     RESOLVED: No material observations.

2. Received update on previous planning applications:
   - 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.
   - 23/80349/COND - Discharge of condition 10 (Key Phase 2 Framework) for 201158OUT Alconbury Airfield, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley PE28 4WX – In progress.

1023.093 COUNCILLORS UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Verbal reports received from the Parish Councillors on their portfolio responsibilities and matters arising from previous meeting and resolved actions:

1. Memorial Hall
   Cllr MacLennan reported that the hall had recently averted flooding and that they had applied to CCC for funding to renovate the halls energy systems. The security blind was taking longer to fix as the roller bar was damaged.

2. Tree Warden
   Cllr MacLennan reported that he had inspected the orchard and that there were no issues. The tree works identified in the tree survey are ongoing.

3. Alconbury Recreation Field Charity & Alconbury Sports and Social Club
   Cllr Gunney reported that the Sports & Social Club was in credit and that the charity is keeping its head above water. A new Parish Council representative for the Sports & Social Club is required and Cllr Johnson offered to take on the role. It was agreed that the Clerk will find out if the Sports & Social Club Constitution requires a Parish Council representative.

4. Bramble End Play Area
   Creative Play and Hags have been instructed to repair their pieces of play equipment identified in the play equipment inspection report as 'medium risk'. It was reported that the barrel does not appear to be working – Cllr MacLennan stated that he would double check it. Weeds are an issue at the play area again. Cllr MacLennan asked if Antony Abbs could weed at the memorial hall as part of next year's contract.
   RESOLVED: That Antony Abbs will be asked to deal with the weeds in the play area and asked if he can deal with the weeds at the Memorial Hall as part of next year's contract.

5. Woolley Hill Wind Farm
   The next charity committee meeting is mid-November.

6. Planning Working Group
   Cllr Johnson to attend Huntingdonshire District Council Parish Council Development Management Training.

7. Alconbury Weald
   The planned meeting on 30th September has been rescheduled for 14th December 2023. The Clerk will raise drainage issues which are possibly causing flooding in the village at the meeting.

1023.094 VILLAGE CRIME

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

- August 2023 – 8 reports of crime within the village.

1023.095 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was noted that a number of surveys were not on the spreadsheet and it was agreed to get them on by 10th November with all councillors helping. Comments also need collating and it was agreed that each councillor will be given a topic to look at the comments and see what themes there are:

- Environment – Cllr Johnson
- Flooding – Cllr MacLennan
- Business – Cllr Brawn
- Vehicles – Cllr Button
- Buses – Cllr Isaacs
- Natural environment – Cllr Gilbert
- Community – Cllr Gunney

An extra meeting will take place to discuss the plan.

1023.096 INFRASTRUCTURE

Received updates and resolved actions:

1. Churchyard
   It was reported that the church had new bells installed.

2. Village Green
   The Clerk stated that she was waiting for a quotation from Roythornes Solicitors to prepare and submit a First Registration application to Land Register to register the Village Green on behalf of the Parish Council.

3. Roads and Footpaths
   a. Update on implementing a 20mph speed limit in village – applications for the next round of 20 mph LHI bids opens in January 2024. Cllr Gilbert asked for volunteers to put together an application.

4. General
   1. LHI bid strategy
      a. Brookside parking issues and HGV access – no update.

      b. Weight limit on B1043 – Further to the information given in the earlier public forum, Cllr Gilbert and Cllr Gardener will be meeting with CCC Highways Officer Josh Rutterford to find out the requirements for submitting an LHI bid for a weight limit on the B1043. It was noted that only the police can enforce a speed limit and give out a fine.

   2. Update on CCC LHI application bid January 2023 – Plans for the pedestrian signage have been approved by the Parish Council. It is envisaged that the works will be completed in this financial year.

   3. Update on purchase of Speed Indicator Device (SID) – An LHI bid to purchase a SID will be submitted if an LHI bid is not submitted for a weight limit on the B1043.

1023.097 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Gardener reported several incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village and had attended a meeting with the family affected. It was noted that children were causing some of the issues and it was suggested that Alconbury Primary School could be asked to carry out a 'good neighbours' behaviour' assembly for all its pupils. It was noted that those affected by the anti-social behaviour should report all incidents to the police.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council will approach Alconbury Primary School and ask them to carry a good neighbours' behaviour' assembly for all its pupils.

1023.098 DEFIBRILLATOR REPORTS

1. No reports received.

2. Cllr Johnson asked if the Parish Council would consider the purchase of an additional defibrillator for the east end of the village near Sharps Lane. Funding towards a defibrillator is available from London Hearts. Cllr Johnson is currently looking for a suitable location with a power supply.

1023.099 COMMEMORATION OF THE KINGS CORONATION

The Clerk provided 3 quotations for benches to commemorate King Charles III Coronation.
RESOLVED: That a bench made from recycled plastic will be purchased from TDP – cost £347.72 + VAT and a hard ground anchor kit £27.80 + VAT. The bench will replace the bench which was removed from near Salon 17.

1023.100 FINANCE

1. **RESOLVED:** Payments of outstanding October debts:

SR Howell	6 months Payroll service up to 30/09/2023	£72.00
Stephens Property Maintenance	Replace broken village pump post	£85.00
Alconbury Hall	Meeting room hire 20/10/2023 (additional 30 minutes)	£4.50
Alconbury Hall	Crockery hire for meeting on 20/10/2023	£37.00
Alconbury Hall	Meeting room hire 28/11/2023	£12.00
Alconbury Recreation Field Charity	2nd instalment of grant donation S137 LGA 1972 for field maintenance	£1000.00
A Brown – Clerk	Clerk's salary October 2023	£784.21
HMRC	Clerk's Tax & NI October 2023	£214.20
NEST	Clerk's Pension October 2023	£29.65

2. Monies received

Conilco Communication – reimbursement of hall/crockery hire for Brampton Cross public meeting 20/10/2023	£68.50

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

3. To amend and resolve amendments to current financial year budget – deferred to next meeting.

1023.101 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A letter from Alconbury pre-school had been received asking if the Parish Council could help them with their running costs. The Clerk has asked them to complete a grant application form. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Several emails of complaints regarding the noise of the MAGPAS air ambulance next to their property had been received by the Parish Council. It was noted that the MAGPAS air ambulance is not based in the parish. Cllr Gardener stated that he had met with residents and was organising a meeting with the MAGAPS Chief Executive to discuss the issue.

1023.102 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Cllr Johnson stated that he had attended a flood warden meeting and that the flood plan had been revised and asked if the Parish Council could help with the printing costs of the revised plan which will be issued to households. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The Clerk will ask Huntingdonshire District Council to provide a precept spreadsheet to be able to calculate the precept and keep it at the same level for householders as this year.

Cllr Gilbert gave her apologies for the November meeting.

1023.103 DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

19th December 2023 due to the Christmas holidays.

1023.104 NEXT MEETING – 28th November 2023, Memorial Hall, School Lane, Alconbury at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:34 pm.