Agenda item 0124.114.1.

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Bulletin January 28th 2024

Hydrogardens

- Hydrogarden units fully installed at Memorial Hall and filled with hydrosoil
- Most work done. However, 50% of spoil removal, addition of topsoil and sleepers to planters still to complete and general tidying up.
- Fantastic work by SilverFern Agri and volunteers.
- Thanks to Anglian Water, will add extra flood protection and a great feature to the Memorial Hall.
- Design for Sports and Social Club signed off, hydrogarden units ordered for installation end of February
- GreenBlue are designing roadside hydrogardens for the bottom of Vinegar Hill
- Target for all three project end of March

Alconbury Weston and other Ponds

- Alconbury Weston Pond site has been cleared by archaeologists for excavation to go ahead.
- When their report is signed off by District Council, pond excavation work may begin
- Target for this project, end of March
- Thanks to Anglian Water and Cambridgeshire County Council for supporting the next steps.
- We await the result of our DEFRA bid for funding for 9 more ponds in the catchment

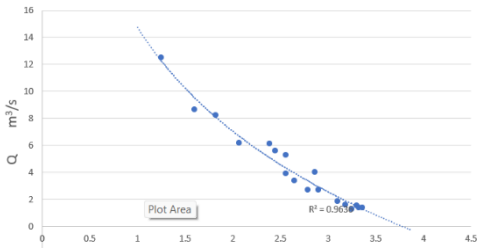
A Partnership Agreement with Natural England is finalised. It will help to fund work with farms on soil health and deeper roots that will contribute to flood prevention

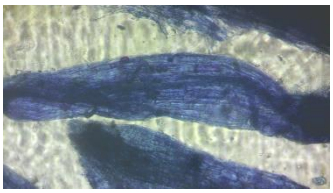
The **Brook Bank that had subsided** on the Alconbury Village Green near Brookside has been partly filled by us (with EA permit exemption). It will be surfaced to the normal height with top-soil and appropriately re-seeded.

The removal of **silt from upstream of the Heritage Bridge** in Alconbury will occur during week commencing on Feb 20th weather and brook permitting.

All of the **sediment traps** are working including a replacement for the one which disappeared at the beginning of the month. We now have quite a number of soil samples. If you fancy a walk near Gidding or Winwick, let us know and we will give you some sample bags.

A number of **additional sensors and a new LORAWAN gateway** have been ordered and will be installed shortly. These were funded by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and Anglian Water. Daily use of the data has allowed us to determine the relationship between depth and flow. The peak flow during the flood in early January was about 16m3/s, almost exactly one Olympic swimming pool flows past every minute.





We have perfected a technique using AI to count useful soil fungi. These encourage the right sort of root growth.

The heavy rain at the beginning of January saw no indoor flooding in the Alconbury's or Hamerton but it was exceptionally close. 1cm in the case of the lowest home.

EA Flood Alleviation scheme: No further news.

Contact us to volunteer at info@alconburybrookfloodgroup.uk

Donate if you can to www.justgiving.com/thealconburybrookfloodgroup

Agenda item 0124.145

Councillor Gardener report Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – January 2024

Happy New Year

HDC have produced their first Town & Parish Council Newsletter

Regarding the development at Alconbury Hill I have been informed today by HDC enforcement, that a planning application was submitted under 23/02390/FUL in December but is awaiting validation.

With the Police & Crime Commissioner Elections this year and almost certainly a General Election. The District Council's Elections Team need to increase their pool of polling station staff and staff for the counting of ballot papers. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Regarding the Green Bin Tax (Subscription Charge) this will come into effect from the 01 April 24 / The cost will be £57.50 per annum. If you sign up by 31st January then the cost will be £50.00 per annum and if you pay by Direct Debit, this price will be held for 3 years. The cost for a second Green Bin will be £30.00.

Residents will still be able to take their Garden Waste to the Alconbury Household Waste Collection Centre and dispose of free of charge.

Civil Parking Enforcement - HDC is working with Cambridgeshire County Council to implement a legislative change in relation to on street parking enforcement. This change will come into effect early in 2025 and will give HDC the ability to enforce several on street parking offences.

Community Litter Picks, HDC are proud to recognise and support the large number of parishes, community groups, schools and businesses that carry out litter picks in their local area. To support this HDC will loan parishes, community groups etc with the equipment you need i.e. grabbers and bags and will pick up the litter free of charge.

The Joint Administration on the District Council is proposing a £5 per annum increase on its proportion of your Council Tax.

The Combined authority (Mayor) is proposing a £24.00 per annum increase on its proportion of the Council Tax, i.e. raising it from £12 to £36 per annum

The Crime and Police Commissioner is proposing a £12.96 per annum raise in its proportion of the Council Tax. Therefore, a Band D property would go up from £272.52 to £285.48

The County Council is proposing a 4.99% increase in Council tax for 24/25 with a total of 2% of this dedicated to Adult Social Care Services. The CC has launched a budget consultation survey on this, to comment go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2024-5

Get involved in Buy Nothing New Month – Its, that time of year when many of us are making New Year Resolutions. So, this January why not try Buy Nothing New Month. The campaign is run by Keep Britain Tidy, the campaign challenges us to prevent and reduce waste, by making use of the things we already have.

Our new Local Highways Officer is Karen Southwell and our new Public Rights of Way Officer is Dan Wiggs who has met with the Chair and the myself to discuss and look at PROW issues.

The County Council is reviewing its policy not to remove weeds from our streets, due to the large number of complaints from councillors and residents. This will be reviewed at the Highways & Transportation committee meeting on 23rd January 24

The County Council have reopened applications for 20mph zones. Parishes need to apply by 5pm on Friday 15th March.

Free Outdoor Learning experiences for disadvantaged young people at Grafham Water Centre after the County Council secured £42,375 of funding. The fully funded residential and day visits are being made available to groups of under-represented young people throughout January, February & March 24. The money has come from the UK Youth Charity. The places are going to groups such as young people living in poverty, young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) young carers and looked after young people. The Young people must be between 11 & 18 or up to 25 for those with SEND.

The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton, the other two being Manea & Sutton. The proposal is to redistribute our Operational resources from three of our low-risk areas (i.e. fewer calls) By doing this the FA can have two additional wholetime fire engines available in the daytime and at weekends. St Neots and Ely have 2 fire engines at these stations.

Should this proposal go ahead the second fire engines will be crewed by on-call firefighter. When the second fire engine is available at the station, the new wholetime fire engines could be roaming pumps that can travel outside the of the town (St Neots in our case) to provide more strategic cover in the rural areas and carry out vital community safety work when not responding to incidents. The Fire authority has had difficulty in attracting sufficient on call staff to provide operational cover particularly during the day. The FA say they can only get cover for 2 days per week.

The FA will be looking at the feasibility of this proposal in the New Year, to see if the proposals will deliver the improvements to the service the FA thinks it will. The FA will be consulting with residents in the areas most affected, listening to concerns and explaining the proposal in more detail with local data.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 9th January 2024

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 30th January 2024

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/12/2023			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023			68,389.00
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2023 - 31/12/2023			47,380.14
				115,769.14
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2023 - 31/12/2023			34,369.90
A	**Cash in Hand 31/12/2023** (per Cash Book)			**81,399.24**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/12/2023	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/12/2023	35,953.65	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/12/2023	45,445.59	
				81,399.24
	Less unpresented payments			
				81,399.24
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**81,399.24**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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