Agenda item: 0524.008.1.

Alconbury Brook Flood Group *Some of what's happened during May 2024*

Alconbury Weston Storage and Wildlife Pond:

- Work on the pond itself is complete.
- Final landscaping and some spoil removal will be done in July.
- Inlet and outlet culverts and a small dam in the adjacent ditch are still under construction.
- Ultimately flow out of the pond will be possible to control remotely using our telemetry system.
- An interpretation board and safety equipment will be added during the summer.
- We are very grateful to Evo-Air, an Alconbury based commercial drone company for producing a wonderful record of the construction.(the video will be shown at the AGM on May).
- We are also very grateful to Anglian Water, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Baker Family for making the project possible.

Flood Alleviation Scheme. We have received an update from the EA team working on option feasibility. (*Our additions in italics.)*

JBA (*the modelling company evaluating costs and benefits*) are continuing to progress the options modelling and will be providing outputs from other options in the coming months.*(they have worked through and reported on one option, evaluation of future options should now be quicker)*.

- Thus far, outputs from the Flood Defence (*walls or demoutables*) (both villages) option have been provided:
- From an initial assessment, the estimated cost of flood defences outweighs the benefits associated with the option and is therefore unlikely to be viable.
- Further to this, flood defence heights in Alconbury Weston will likely need to be in the order of 2-3 metres in height, which makes the option impractical.
- Defences in Alconbury would not need to be as high (1-2 metres) and the option has a better cost benefit ratio, though the cost still outweighs the benefit.

Soil Science Our first DNA results for a field at Cowpasture Farm are in.
The purpose of this work is to find out if groups of soil microbes assist soil rain infiltration and carbon storage.
The analysis is ongoing but fascinating since it reveals past and present plant DNA.
It looks like an ancient type of wheat was grown on the field and possibly grape vines.

Soil Mentor ap. 5 farms are using the ap which enables recording and analysis of soil health data.
The farms are currently adding the fields they want to monitor to the ap. (many thanks to them).

Farm Walk No 1
Out first farm walk (funded by Natural England) is scheduled for June 12th. The soil experiments and hands on opportunities to do soil measurements will be included plus a visit to a restored pond (thanks to the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants).
All recipients of this bulletin are welcome and the invitation is attached. Places are limited so please respond quickly.
There will be 2 other walks later in the summer. Thanks for this too to T H Branson.

Telemetry 14 soil moisture sensors are prepared of which 8 are deployed either on Cowpasture Farm or Alconbury Allotments. They are already generating data about soil rain capacity.

Downstream Group The group has a draft report following a walk from the Holiday Inn Brampton to Garkies Sluice (where Alconbury Brook joins the Ouse) Various issues arose from this review. The group will be meeting at the racecourse later in June.

Flood Group AGM 2024. Please attend our AGM at 7.00p.m. on May 31st at the Memorial Hall. We will provide and update on our work over the last year. There will be a chance to ask questions and make suggestions. Look forward to seeing you there!!

Contact us to volunteer at info@alconburybrookfloodgroup.uk

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

Agenda item 0524.009

Cllr Gardener report Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 28th May 2024

Good evening

Following last week's Full Council meetings at the County Council and District Councils. I can confirm that I will be sitting on the following committees for the ensuing year –

County Council

Highways & Transportation, Environment & Green Investment, Communities and Social Mobility and Planning Committees. I am also a member of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

District Council

Overview & Security (Performance & Growth), Licensing & Protection Committee/Licensing Committee and I have also been appointed by the Cabinet to the London Luton Airport Working Group.

At the County Council meeting Cllr Prentice moved from the Independents to the Labour Group, having moved from the Conservatives to the Independents.

At the District Council the Independent Group has split into two groups being the HDC Independent Group led by Cllr Tom Sanderson and the Cambs Independent Group led by Cllr Stephen Ferguson

Both Councils are still in no overall control and are led by the Liberal Democrats in coalition with the Labour, Independent Groups and Green only at HDC

The FA will be bringing a paper to the Fire Authority in June on its proposals to close three Fire Stations including Kimbolton. This may not now come to the June meeting of the Fire Authority as it will be too close to the General election. I will keep the Parish updated and if required will ask for a public meeting. At the meeting of the Fire authority in June we will also be voting on the recommendation of the Fire Authorities Appointments committee, regarding the appointment of a New Chief Fire Officer for the Authority following the retirement of Chris Strickland our current Chief Fire Officer.

I would like to reminder all residents that when you go to the polls in July 4th for the General Election you will need to bring with you photo ID such as a Passport, Driving Licence, Bus Pass funded by UK Government to enable you to vote. This will be the same for the upcoming County Council Elections in May 25.

The Green Waste Subscription Service has now come into effect. The cost is £57.50 per annum for the first bin the second bin will cost £30 per annum. As at the End of May approximately 48% have signed up for the Green Bin Subscription Charge (Tax)

If residents have a query regarding Green Bins, they should call 01480 388584 or email wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

The County Council will be repairing the footpath outside Maritime and putting in bollards to prevent parking by HGV's after receiving monies from National Highways.

HDC has allocated £350,000 to support the growth of Rural Businesses with a Grant from the Combined Authority (Mayor) following an award from the Government's Department For Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

HDC will fund 50% of the capital value of projects costing up to £150,000. The minimum award will be £5,000 based on a project value of £10,000. The maximum will be £75,000 based on a project value of £150,000. For more information regarding the grant program, eligibility criteria and the application process please visit the Rural England Prosperity Fund page or contact the Rural Grants Team at HDC at ruralgrants@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

The District Council have launched a new Grant Scheme, where local organisations can now apply for grants of up to £2500 for initiatives that support their communities and the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy. The grants will provide funding of £500 to £2500 to enable groups to put on events or activities that support the Huntingdonshire Futures vision, such as improving physical and mental health, protecting, and supporting our environment and celebrating our sense of history and place.

To apply or discuss your idea go onto the HDC Website and click on Grants

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 17th May 2024

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 28th May 2024

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/04/2024			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024			70,565.60
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2024 - 30/04/2024			19,558.00
				90,123.60
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2024 - 30/04/2024			4,164.91
A	**Cash in Hand 30/04/2024** (per Cash Book)			**85,958.69**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	30/04/2024	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	30/04/2024	53,890.30	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	30/04/2024	36,200.15	
				90,090.45
	Less unpresented payments			4,131.76
				85,958.69
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**85,958.69**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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