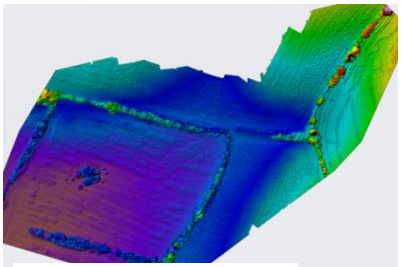
0624.028.1. Alconbury Brook Flood Group *Some of what's happened during June 2024*

Downstream funding: We are delighted to report that the EA is providing £10,000 worth of funding for clearance of the brook from the area around the Holiday Inn and Racecourse. This part of the brook has been neglected for a while with a build up of trees and debris in the brook. The work will be done by the Internal Drainage Board in the late autumn.

Downstream Group: The Flood Group has got together with other partners affected by flooding further downstream including Huntingdon Racecourse and The Holiday Inn Hotel, both of which have been badly affected by flooding. We are pleased with the news of the £10,000 input. The group has now met formally to look at a number of issues beyond the A141 flyover, as far as Garkies Sluice, where the brook runs into the River Ouse. Hopefully there will be more news as we make progress.

Our first Farm Walk. Over 20 people, including farmers and those with an interest in projects going on at Cowpasture Farm, attended our first event. It started with a talk about our experiments at the farm and how they might help farmers improve yields and reduce flooding. We looked in particular at how soil condition can enhance or reduce plant growth and yields and affect water holding capacity. After that the group tried some of the citizen science methods the group has used to measure how compact the soil is and it's impact on root growth. Finally, we walked to a flood group pond restoration. On the way Stacy Branson pointed out ways ~~in~~ in which biodiversity on the farm is being enhanced. We learnt a lot about running a farm walk, but generally felt quite pleased with our first attempt. The next one will be later in the summer. You will get an invitation. Our thanks to Anglian Water, Natural England and Unium Bioscience for funding and support and especially Cowpasture Farm.



Evo-Air

New Alconbury Weston Project. We are working with the EA and County Council on a project on the east side of Vinegar Hill. Fairly steep hills provide rapid run-off when the soil is saturated.

The most straightforward parts of the project ~~is~~ are the restoration of the Tanglewood Pond to its original size and the sensitive restoration of the ancient ridge and furrow in the surrounding field, which could act as a sequence of swales to hold up flood water for possibly 24-36 hours.

We are pleased to say that the project has attracted funding from 2 possible sources. Work on more detailed concepts and design ~~are~~ is underway.

School Lane microplastics monitoring. The school Lane ditch has an interesting journey from Alconbury Weald, under the motorway, through agricultural land and then along beside a residential street. Will the special nets find a lot of microplastics? Where will it have come from?

Sediment Project. We are very grateful to Dr Simon Pulley from Rothamsted Research who has written his report about the origins of sediment in the brook having been assisted by our citizen scientists. He says that in many places in the country most sediment comes from riverbanks rather than run-off from farmland. In this catchment, however, farmland is a more ~~important~~ likely source of sediment in some of the brook's tributaries. Loss of sediment material is a loss of topsoil for farmers and also causes a brook flow problem. We will now be looking at some parts of the brook to see if we can understand more about the sediment issues.

Flood Group AGM: We were delighted that nearly 70 people turned up (more than last year and on a Friday night!). It was a very positive event. If you were able to come it was great to see you and we hope to see you again at the next AGM.

Contact us to volunteer at info@alconburybrookfloodgroup.uk

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

Agenda item: 0624.029

Cllr Gardener report - Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – June 2024

Following last month'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. I have also one of the HDC representatives on the Alconbury & Ellington Drainage Board and HDC's representative on the Governing Body of Kimbolton School.

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 Fire Authority did not bring a paper to the June meeting of the FA, on its proposals to close three Fire Stations including Kimbolton. Owing to the date of 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 the FA unanimously voted for the Fire Authorities Appointments committees' recommendation to appointment Matthew Warren as the New Chief Fire Officer for the Authority following the retirement of Chris Strickland our current Chief Fire Officer at the end of the month.

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 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.

The District Council is committed to improving housing in the district, and one way of doing this is by building more Affordable Housing. In the past year 2034/24, 703 Affordable Homes have been built which is 54% higher than last year's figure of 456 homes. As through initiatives such as the Home Link Scheme the District Council has successfully helped 965 households into suitable accommodation of the past year, this was thanks to the number of new homes being completed.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Parish Council

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

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 25th June 2024

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 03/06/2024			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024			70,565.60
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2024 - 03/06/2024			20,897.81
				91,463.41
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2024 - 03/06/2024			14,895.82
A	**Cash in Hand 03/06/2024** (per Cash Book)			**76,567.59**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	03/06/2024	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	03/06/2024	40,367.44	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	03/06/2024	36,200.15	
				76,567.59
	Less unpresented payments			
				76,567.59
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**76,567.59**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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