Alconbury Parish Council

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Alconbury Parish Council Annual Report 2023/2024:

I'm happy to report that during the period 2023/2024 the Parish Council (PC) has remained relatively stable. During this period, we welcomed 4 new Parish Councillors: Cllr Button, Cllr Issacs, Cllr L Pinn, and Cllr C Pinn. This brings our total membership to nine (9).

Bob Johnson and I were duly elected as Vice Chair and Chair.

This year has seen the PC discuss several key community issues, some of which remain ongoing at the time of going to print:

Our Neighbourhood:
Firstly, huge thanks to those who took the time to complete our survey which will form the basis of our **Neighbourhood Plan**. We have collated your responses and will be progressing with the development of our plan this quarter.

There were some common themes throughout all the comments received.

We were pleased that so many of you recognised the friendly and family-oriented village we have. There were lots of positive comments about the village and a strong feeling that we need to maintain the 'village feel' with no further development.

There were, however, several improvements we could make around the village:

- Speeding is a particular concern everywhere in the village. We will try and address this by installing speed indicator devices and have made an application to make the village a 20mph zone. We will keep you updated re. progress.

- Parking particularly near the shop, along Manor Lane, in the roads close to the school at drop off times and on double yellow lines.

- HGV access to the village and the continued impact of HGV movements along the B1043. We will be conducting some traffic surveys along B1043 in 2024 with a view to installing a weight limit on this route. We will keep you updated re. progress.

- Increase awareness of the bus service we do have in and around the village: https://dews-coaches.com/userfiles/AW1WEF24.07.2023.pdf (Alconbury to Huntingdon) and https://www.thebusway.info/routes-times.shtml (Alconbury to Cambridge/Peterborough)

Finally, some potential longer-term plans:

- Increase in leisure activities – fitness (tennis courts), children's play areas and installation of a cycle path to connect to the recently installed path to Brampton and beyond.
- Café facilities.

Traffic items:

- Warning Pedestrians Crossing signs have been installed along Rusts Lane where the footpath no 9 crosses between Beech End and Willow End.

- Funding applications have been submitted for 20mph zones around the village: north of the Great North Road and around the 'Birds' estate. For the avoidance of doubt The Great North Road is excluded, and two speed indicators; locations to be determined.
- Traffic monitoring along the B1043 between the Maritime Depot and the A1 has been initiated. The first monitoring even took place in February with some very interesting results. There will be further measurements through 2024 to strengthen our case for traffic reduction along this route.
- A further application has been submitted for funding for 2 speed indicator devices in an attempt to raise awareness of speeding throughout the village.

Infrastructure:

- We have reinstalled the bench which was removed from Spinney Lane.
- The Alconbury Flood Wardens were active in February's floods and learned more lessons about when and how to deploy (and remove) the Flood and Road Closed signage with the intent of keeping residents safe. Fortunately, there have been no properties flooded since Dec 2020 but the Warden Group remains ready to act if the need arises. If you are interested in what comprises a Flood Warden's role you can see this in The Community Flood Plan published on the Alconbury Parish Council website.
- The Alconbury's Flood Group remained very active throughout this period with many initiatives ongoing.

Brampton Cross development:

In the latter part of 2023, we became aware of the intent for development of the land (circa 2000 acres) to the south of the village to be developed into a business park. A public meeting was held in October 2023 during a flood event. Many parishioners and other interested parties turned out on this rather damp Friday evening. Since this meeting we have received no further update.

Finally, I'd like to end by thanking all of the councillors and our Parish Clerk for their continued support and hard work through the year. I'm particularly proud that we have continued to deliver on all of our promises that we made in last year's Annual report and much more on top. I know that we will continue through the next year to make improvements and represent the best interests of our village.

We currently have two vacancies.

If you're interested in village matters and would like to be involved in any of our upcoming activities, please contact either the parish clerk or myself.

Cllr Tracy Gilbert
Chair, Alconbury Parish Council
May 2024

Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer 2024

The Parish Council started the financial year with a reserve of £68,389 and the precept received was at the same level as the previous year £39,000. The annual spend during 2023/24 was £45,450 which has enabled the Parish Council to carry forward £70,565 into the new financial year on 1st April 2024. Alconbury Parish Council continues to remains financially stable for the year ahead.

The District Council and County Council continued to carry out maintenance for areas that they were responsible, along with the Parish Council contractor continuing with the village grass cutting that is delegated from, and still largely funded by, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). As in previous years, the shortfall in the costs is funded by the Parish Council.

All the Parish Council's obligations have been fulfilled and grants have been given to:

- Magpas Air Ambulance: £500 – Medication
- Royal British Legion: £50 – Remembrance wreath
- CARESCO - £250: For help with charity running costs
- The Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity: £500 - Pond mitigation
- The Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity: £500 – Reed spraying course