Agenda item 0425.200

The Alconbury Brook Flood Group A little of what we have been doing during April 2025

Rare Bear Pond Extraordinaire!

Finishing the improvements and refurbishment to the bear pond at Hamerton Zoo was delayed by the Easter school holiday, when the Zoo is particularly busy. Now watched by the rare Syrian Bears (safely in a temporary enclosure) work on the pond is being completed. In addition to providing a playground for the bears, the pond happens to be at the bottom of a significant overland flow and will slow storm water from the hill above the zoo. The refurbished pond will include a device to control the amount of sediment leaving the pond. This will be encased in a large stone gabion. Bears have a reputation for trying to take everything to pieces! Our gratitude to Mike and WEIF for the funding and the Swales family who run the zoo.

New ponds are being designed near Winwick

We are delighted that two local landowners have invited us to create stores (yellow blobs) for heavy rain on their land. One South of Winwick village(orange circle) is likely to be a large off-line pond with a leaking dam at one end. The dam will be designed to allow winter base line flows through, but slow and limit larger rainfalls forcing water into the pond. Run-off from over 3km^2 passes through this site.

The second structure is downstream of the first and likely to be more complex, consisting of a number of ponds and leaking dams. Run-off from about 8km^2 (that's 10% of the catchment) passes through this site before running into Alconbury Brook (blue squiggle).

AGM date for your diary: Wednesday 21st May at 7p.m. at Alconbury Memorial Hall

Soil Science Volunteers. We are very grateful to volunteers from the Environment Agency and Alconbury villages who helped us collect hundreds of measurements and samples from one of our experiment sites. We want to know if the soil in the experimental area allows rain to enter and pass through it faster or slower.

DNA sequencing: This is our tiny device, called a flow cell, which allows us to find the structure of DNA from all the microbes in a tiny sample of soil. From that, we can identify all of the microbes. We are particularly interested in the microbes that help to stick soil particles together, since between the little clumps of soil there is space for rainwater.

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 7th April 2025

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 29th April 2025

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/03/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024			70,565.60
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025			57,387.55
				127,953.15
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025			51,207.91
A	**Cash in Hand 31/03/2025** (per Cash Book)			**76,745.24**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/03/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/03/2025	39,565.85	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/03/2025	37,179.39	
				76,745.24
	Less unpresented payments			
				76,745.24
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**76,745.24**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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