Agenda item: 0625.026

The Alconbury Brook Flood Group

A little of what we have been doing during May 2025

Tanglewood Pond Project complete

Old maps show a Tanglewood Pond dating back to the 19th century. We were very pleased to have the opportunity to refurbish the pond thanks to the diocesan landowners and the Baker family and also WEIF funding. Although work began some time ago, the project is now complete. It is designed to store water from the slopes of Vinegar Hill in Alconbury Weston until the peak of any flood event has passed. Water pours in from the hill through the two pipes near the digger and out at a controlled rate through a pipe on the right bank. The field in the background has visible undulating ridge and furrow. These have been worn away by an 'informal' footpath that crosses the field. Some of the spoil from the pond has been used to reinstate the lost ridges, which also retain rainfall flows. Recently, the pond has been largely bypassed because the field drainage system hasn't worked well.

The pond and outflows may need to be tweaked during the winter. We also hope to retain additional water further up the hill with a project due to be completed later this year. This work will help to protect the Tanglewood Estate and the White Hart pub.

The excavation was not without hazards since the main aviation fuel pipeline for Stanstead Airport runs a few meters away from the pond!

Pond for Kingswood, Great Gidding.

We have completed a pond on the Kingswood site at Great Gidding. We are grateful to owner, Michael Trolove, who wanted to add a freshwater habitat to his scheme. The 11ha site, which gently slopes towards Alconbury Brook, has suffered from surface water ponding. We have installed land drains on either side of the pond to capture the surface water. During peak rainfall, the surface water is stored in the pond and delays rainwater from running into the brook.

AGM demonstrates continued enthusiasm for the work of the Flood Group

It's always a good sign when you have to put out chairs for more people…. If you were one of those who came to our AGM, it was great to see you. Many thanks for your superb support. As a result of an appeal at the meeting, a number of new volunteers have been recruited.

Alconbury Weston Gardens open for Flood Group fundraiser

We are hugely grateful to a team from Alconbury Weston organising a fundraiser for the Flood Group. The weather will be brilliant and quite a number of gardens will be open. What a pleasant way to spend an hour or two on June 8th.

In addition, Alderman's Pond will be staffed by volunteers from the Flood Group who will be on hand to explain how it works.

We look forward to seeing you on the 8th!!

Agenda item: 0625.027.

County & District Council Report – June 2025

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the electors of the Alconbury & Kimbolton Division for returning me as their County Councillor with a 600 majority.

Following the County Council Elections the Council is now Liberal Democrat controlled, the make-up of the authority is: - Liberal Democrat 31, Conservative 10, Reform 10, Labour 5, Green 3 and Independents 2 Councillors.

Following the election I will sit on the following Committees, for the ensuing year.

Highways and Transportation – Conservative Spokesman

Planning

Staffing and Appeals

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

The County Councils first round of Committee meetings have just started, following a comprehensive training programme for Councillors.

Following the Government's decision to proceed with Local Government Reorganisation, the Leaders of the Seven Authorities within Cambridgeshire have come up with 3 proposals for 2 Unitary Authorities, which will undertake all services currently provided by the County & District Councils.

Each proposal sees different groupings of Local Authorities, which are based on District council boundaries and Peterborough City.

The proposals are –

Proposal A

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire.

Proposal B

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

Proposal C

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire

Business Plans For all three proposals are currently being drawn up. The Financial Viability of each proposal must be met, in order to meet government requirements.

It is recognised that each option has different strengths and different implications for services, our local communities and businesses.

From the 16th June it is anticipated that residents, businesses and other stakeholders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be asked to express their views on the future of Local Government more broadly and not just the three options identified above.

The final decision as to which proposal if any, becomes the governments preferred option is that of the government.

Expiry of Postal Votes and Reapplication Process

Following a change in the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes can no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a maximum of three years.

Postal Voters can till register to vote by post for a particular poll, they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 16,500 Huntingdonshire Postal Votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026.

HDC's Election Team will shortly be starting the process of contacting residents whose postal vote will be expiring. Voters will be informed to keep their Postal Vote in place; they will need to make a fresh application. Affected Electors may be contacted via email, post, or text message to raise awareness of the changes and to ensure they have sufficient time to make an application if they want to before next year's elections.

Affected voters who do not make a fresh application will have their postal votes removed when they expire at the end of January 26. They can course reapply for a postal vote again at any time after this date.

If affected residents have any queries, please email Election Services Team elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

It is hoped to reopen the Sawtry Swimming Pool in Spring 26, following surveys of the pool structure in June 25, Tender preparation and procurement process during the Summer of 25 and the appointment of a Contractor to undertake the works in Autumn 25.

Weekly Food Waste Collections will commence by the 31st March 2026, this is a statutory service and must be provided by the Council. New Vehicles have been ordered to undertake the service and are expected in October 25. Two Caddies for each household are on order, these are 7ltr and 23ltr Caddies, these will be rolled out to residents from January 26.

The 7ltr Caddy is for use in the Kitchen with the 23ltr caddy being used to put out your weekly food waste for collection.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for the CCC - Alconbury & Kimbolton Division & HDC – Alconbury Ward

Agenda item 0625.034.2.

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 5th June 2025

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 24th June 2025

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/05/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025			76,745.24
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025			21,700.00
				98,445.24
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025			11,233.96
A	**Cash in Hand 31/05/2025** (per Cash Book)			**87,211.28**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/05/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/05/2025	50,031.89	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/05/2025	37,179.39	
				87,211.28
	Less unpresented payments			
				87,211.28
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**87,211.28**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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