Alconbury Parish Council

www.alconburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Clerk: Alison Brown
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Minutes of the Alconbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Alconbury on Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7:30 pm

Present: Councillors: T. Gilbert (Chair), S. Brawn, K. Brown, S. Button, S. Isaacs, R. Johnson, T. McLennan, C. Pinn, L. Pinn, T. Trotman, and Mrs Brown (Clerk).

Members of the public: 16 HDC/CCC: Cllr Ian Gardener TABFG representative: Mr Charles Dalleywater

Public Question Time
Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LGA 1972 s 100

1. A resident was thanked for trimming the overgrown hedge on Polecat Lane.
2. The resident of Duck's Nest Cottage asked if any councillors had accepted his invitation given at the last meeting to come and look at the tree issues which he was having. A councillor stated that they had been to look and did not seem to think that there were any issues. The Parish Council was also asked to clarify its comments submitted against their planning application 25/00552/HHFUL as they felt that they were incorrect. It was noted that it is Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) planners which decide whether an application is permitted and that the Parish Council only submit observations. The Parish Council stated that it would send further comments with more clarity.
3. A resident asked when would the white lining in the village be carried out. Cllr Gardener stated that a list had been sent to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and that he would chase them up.
4. The meeting was asked why road closure signs were required for the morning and afternoon for the road closures outside Alconbury Primary school when there were already signs up stating the road closure times. Cllr Gilbert stated that she would try and find out.

0625.023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gunney.

0625.024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr McLennan – agenda item 0625.031.1.
Cllr C. Pinn – agenda item 0625.031.1.
Cllr Isaacs - agenda item 0625.031.3.
Cllr Johnson – agenda item 0625.031.3.
Cllr T Trotman – 0625.031.5.

0625.025 BRAMPTON CROSS DEVELOPMENT
A discussion regarding how the proposed Brampton Cross development would affect all the surrounding villages took place. Many traffic and flooding issues were highlighted. It was stated that the Parish Council should discuss the development with the local MP as a matter of urgency. It was suggested that a working party is formed to address all the concerns raised and liaise with the developer to inform them of what mitigation measures should be put in place before the outline planning application is submitted.
RESOLVED: To form a Brampton Cross development working party, led by Cllr L. Pinn. Cllr L. Pinn to draft a letter to be sent to Endurance Estates from the Parish Council addressing the effects that such a development may have on the parish. Cllr Gilbert to arrange a meeting with the local MP to discuss the proposed Brampton Cross development and inform him of the Parish Council's concerns.

0625.026 THE ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD GROUP
Mr Charles Dalleywater gave his report which is appended to these minutes.

0625.027 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
Cllr Gardener read out his report which is appended to these minutes.

Cllr Gardener also reported the following:

- Fencing on A1/(M) – That he was still chasing the local MP to have the fence repaired.
- Footpath no: 2 (Rear of Coulson Way) – CCC will be cutting back the hedge as soon as the bird nesting season has finished in September.
- Under A1/(M) flyover – The plans for the area are still with Alan Trill, National Highways. Cllr Gardener was informed that children had been using the area as a skate park and leaving litter. Police have been out to look and will return to speak to them about it. Charles Dalleywater stated that 'Private property' signs are being put on the pillars as you go towards Lords Way.
- B1043 weight limit report sent by Highways Office Josh Rutherford – Cllr Gilbert has replied to the report.
- Will be meeting with Dan Wiggs, Public Rights of Way Officer – Huntingdonshire, every 6 – 8 weeks. If the Parish Council wants to meet with him, Cllr Gardener can tie this in with his scheduled meeting.

Cllr Gardener was asked if he could:

- Ask CCC to carry out kerb weed spraying in the village.
- Chase up CCC to cut back the vegetation overgrowing the speed sign on The Great North Road when driving from Alconbury Weston into the village.
- Ask CCC when the footpaths in the village are due to be cut, in particular Cades Hill.

0625.028 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Regulation 14 consultation has started and will end on 15th August 2025. Only a few comments have so far been received. It was noted that the previous local MP was in favour of the Neighbourhood plan. Cllr Gilbert stated that she had contacted Cambridgeshire ACRE, asking them for support to collate the Regulation 14 resposnses and was waiting for them to come back to her.

HDC may decide by the end of the year what sites they would consider allocating in the 'call for sites' and that the Parish Council could then assess their preferred site option.

The CCC Ecology Officer has informed the Parish Council that there are 2 protected road verges in the parish. The Clerk was asked to find out where they were and how other verges may be protected.

0625.029 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Alconbury Parish Council meeting held on 27th May 2025 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

0625.030 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. Resolved submitted comments where appropriate on applications – none.

2. Received update on previous planning applications:

- 23/01226/FUL Retrospective application for erection of a new building at Research Centre Woolley Road, Alconbury – In progress.
- 23/01547/FUL: Erection of Generators, Fuel Tank and Utility Building (Retrospective) at Research Centre, Woolley Road, Alconbury Huntingdon PE28 4HS – In progress.
- CCC/24/121/VAR: Full permission for part of a new secondary school and associated works at (Alconbury Weald Education Campus), Ermine Street, Alconbury Weald, Cambridgeshire PE28 4WX – Approved.
- 25/00605/FUL: Erection of single storey rear extension at The Memorial Hall, School Lane, Alconbury – Approved.
- 25/00763/TREE: Tree Preservation Order works at Spinney House at Spinney House, Rusts Lane, Alconbury, Huntingdon PE28 4DN – Approved.
- 25/00552/HHFUL: Erection of two storey side extension at Ducks Nest, Polecat Lane, Alconbury, Huntingdon PE28 4EX – In progress.

0625.031 COUNCILLORS UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Received verbal reports from the Parish Councillors on their portfolio responsibilities and matters arising from previous meeting and resolved actions:

1. Memorial Hall
   The water heater in the kitchen is being replaced. The carpet tiles for the upstairs room have arrived and are ready to be laid. The planning application for the hall extension has been approved.

2. Tree Warden
Cllr Brawn reported that Dan Maynard had been to assess the horse chestnut tree near 6 Brookside and that it had broken branches which needed removing.
RESOLVED: Cllr Brawn will ask Dan Maynard to provide a quotation to carry out the required tree works on the horse chestnut tree.

Cllr Brawn also reported that a resident had concerns regarding a hornbeam tree on the corner of Old Glebe which was overshadowing their back door and had asked if it could be cut back.
RESOLVED: Cllr Brawn will inform the resident that the tree does not belong to the Parish Council and that they will need to report it online to HDC or CCC.

3. Alconbury Sports and Social Club
Cllr Issacs reported that she had attended the Sports and Social Club Committee AGM.

4. Bramble End Play Area
The Clerk stated that Cllr Gunney had submitted his risk assessment report to her and that the play area needed weed spraying again and the hedges trimming back.
RESOLVED: The Clerk will ask Antony Abbs to weed spray and cut back the hedges.

5. Woolley Hill Wind Farm
Cllr MacLennan will inform the charity that Cllr Trotman is now the Parish Council representative.

6. Planning Working Group
No update.

7. Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr L Pinn reported that she had attended the recent 'Coffee with a cop' and reported that the police were thinking of going into villages on a quarterly basis where there were no active Neighbourhood Schemes.

8. Allotments
Charles Dalleywater (Allotments Association Secretary) informed the meeting that the Allotments Association funds were healthy and that only one plot had not been let.

0625.032 VILLAGE CRIME
The Clerk provided the following crime figures taken from www.Police.uk crime map:
April 2025 – 3 reports of crime within the village.

0625.033 INFRASTRUCTURE
Received updates and resolved actions
1. Churchyard
No update.

2. Village Green
a. Damaged village green by Temples Transport HGV
The repairs have still not been carried out.
RESOLVED: The Clerk will find another contractor to carry out the repairs.

b. Illegal parking on village green
This matter is still ongoing.
RESOLVED: To highlight the illegal parking on the village green at the village fete.

c. It was noted that the broken drain on the village green had still not been repaired.

d. It was reported that overgrown vegetation on land belonging to the Parish Council and a resident, when coming from Mill Road, were restricting the view of anyone coming towards them over the heritage bridge.
RESOLVED: Cllr Brawn will ask Dan Maynard if he is able to cut back the vegetation.
Cllr Gilbert will ask the resident who also owns land in this area to trim back any vegetation.

3. Roads and Footpaths
a. Overgrown footpath no: 2 (rear of Coulson's Way)

CCC will be cutting back the hedges as soon as the bird nesting season has finished in September.

b. CCC is conducting a Public Rights of Way Hierarchy engagement. They have devised The Public Rights of Way (PROW) Hierarchy which is a system of ranking PROW's so that they can consider prioritising maintenance activities on the most important routes. Cllr Trotman has looked at the report and reprioritised the footpaths in the village as being a higher priority than CCC had deemed. He will submit his feedback to CCC

4. General
   1. LHI bid strategy
      a. Weight limit on B1043
      Cllr Gilbert has responded to Josh Rutherford's B1043 weight limit report.

      b. Speed Indicator Devices LHI bid
      No update on the delivery date of the devices. Cllr Johnson stated that although the devices will not be relocated more than once per month, there may be an occasion where there is a short-term change in the traffic e.g. a diversion or road works on a short notice period, and the Parish Council may want to move them within a month and asked whether this would this would affect the insurance policy. The Clerk stated that she would find out.
      RESOLVED: The Clerk will contact the insurance provider and ask whether moving the devices more than once a month would affect the policy.

      c. Update on Cambridgeshire County Council presentation in support of the LHI bid application for a raised bed crossing on The Great North Road
      Cllr Gilbert stated that she and Cllr Brown will be attending the presentation on 4th July 2025 to support the Parish Council application for a raised bed crossing on The Great North Road.

0625.034 FINANCE

1. **RESOLVED:** Payments of outstanding June 2025 debts:

Four Seasons (Antony Abbs)	Parish grass cutting 3rd instalment	£2076.00
SR Howell & CO	Payroll service 2024/25	£90.00
Alconbury Pre-School	Grant S137 LGA 1972 – towards running costs of pre-school	£1000.00
Parrot Print Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan leaflet printing	£202.00
A Brown – Clerk	Clerk's salary June 2025	£862.22
HMRC	Clerk's Tax & NI June 2025	£295.85
NEST	Clerk's Pension June 2025	£35.28
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges May 2025	£6.00

2. Monies received

HMRC VAT refund 2024-2025	£2873.82
Unity Trust Bank interest	£217.47

RESOLVED: The Chair confirmed the receipts and bank reconciliation as correct.

0625.035 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE WREATH
RESOLVED: To donate £50.00 for the purchase of a Remembrance Day poppy wreath for the parish.

0625.036 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
Huntingdon Detecting requesting permission to carry out metal detecting on any suitable Parish Council land
The request was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council did not own any land that would be suitable for such purposes.
RESOLVED: To refuse permission to carry out metal detecting on any Parish Council owned land.

0625.037 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION
Agenda item: Village gate entrances/Please drive carefully signs as a future LHI bid.

0625.038 NEXT MEETING Tuesday 29th July 2025, Memorial Hall, School Lane, Alconbury at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:16pm.