Agenda item: 0326.168.

Alconbury Brook Flood Group (FG) **March 2026 Update**

Flood Alleviation Scheme : A large amount of modelling and benefit economics has been done and may be ready to slot into the new **strategic outline case** forms when they become available in July. However the format of the new forms is not known yet. The data with the forms must be peer-reviewed before submission. There is a new scoring system (return on investment). In addition there is a relatively straightforward **submission screening** form also needs to be submitted to DEFRA which will give some indication of where on the national funding priority list the Alconbury Scheme might be. At a local level (that is within the Great Ouse catchment) Alconbury is high priority. Even if the scheme is accepted there is likely to be a considerable delay because no funding decisions have been made for a year while the new national policy has been developed. It is likely that projects already further along will get any available funding first. There is also the matter of **local partnership funding** which will need to be found. I estimate a minimum of £700,000 but the more that is available the better the submission screening outcome will be. However, the options being modelled and costed would give high levels of protection to the villages.

Fallen Tree Removal: Canoe Club 3 trees, IDB 3 trees, Flood Group 2 trees. On site meeting and agreement with new EA assets manager to enable access if necessary.

2026/7 projects: Various meetings with landowners held,11 projects currently possible

Planning approval given for Browns Pond by North Northamptonshire DC. Planning approval **applications** submitted for New Brickpit pond and Waterloo Pond (enabled by letter from County Archaeologists removing any objection). Ordinary Watercourse Consent for Brickpit Pond given.

Trees and seed delivered for restoration of Michael Trolove Pond areas. Awaiting quote for soil preparation work. Volunteers needed for planting when cultivation done.

£388 of funding agreed from environmental charity but will go straight to landowners.

Good progress with **video for farmers**. Storyboard being reviewed

Response made on behalf of FG about **Tanglewood (Alconbury Weston) proposal**. Local Flood Authority response to same proposal suggests developer contact FG.

Promising results from **phosphite experiments**. Statistically significant results showing increased root surface area and length. Also very positive work on microbiome at species level around oak trees which is similar to work being done at the moment at University of East Anglia.

Boat license renewed, reed spraying will commence shortly.

Presentations given to WWF and Cambridgeshire Nature Partnership

School Lane microplastics samples sent to lab for analysis

Interview with Professor Richard Byrne for case study regarding the constraints on community contributions to flood resilience.

Whole day practical soil science and water quality event 14/5. 17 volunteers so far. More needed.

Agenda item: 0326.169.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Monthly Report March 26

I attend the meeting that Alconbury PC organised, regarding Brampton Cross/Huntingdon North Growth Cluster on the 16th March along with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mayor Paul Bristow, our MP Ben Obese-Jecty and Clara Kerr HDC Planning.

The Huntingdon North Growth Cluster is proposed in HDC's Local Plan update which is supported by the current Lib Dem, Labour, Independent and Green administration. The leader of the Green Party on HDC confirmed that the Local Plan should not be delayed until after LGR, at the last Full Council meeting of HDC before the election.

The main areas of concern were the increase in volumes of traffic and associated highway capacity, particularly on the A1, A14 and A141, flooding and site infrastructure for new residents.

I will continue to put residents' concerns to the Mayor, our MP, HDC Planners and the Leader of the Administration and HDC Officers.

There will be an opportunity to look at the plans in more detail once the Final Draft Local Plan is out for consultation following the Consultation on the Draft Local Plan which ended last year.

The Mayor, MP and HDC are open to listen to residents' concerns etc. The current Draft Local Plan could well be amended following the outcome of Local government reorganisation as each new unitary will have to produce its own Local Plan and the Mayor will be responsible for strategic Planning under the Governments local government reorganisation plans.

The Clerk asked if I would write to CCC Highways, HDC Planning and National Highways and ask what investigation work CCC Highways, National Highways along with HDC done in relation to the Huntingdon North Growth Cluster/Brampton Cross, along with how traffic issues will be mitigated on the existing road network i.e. the A1, A14 & A141 etc. I have received 2 replies so far, one from CCC Highways the other from HDC Planning.

Flooding

Cambridgeshire CC have launched a Community Watercourse Maintenance Grant of up to £10,000 which I have let Charles Dalleywater know.

I have been informed by Hilary Tandy at CCC that the County Council accept responsibility for the repair of the Culvert wall on the Green and that Cambridgeshire Highways are arranging for the work to be undertaken.

Local Government Reorganisation

The government's statutory consultation on LGR in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has now concluded.

As your Local County & District Councillor I supported Option E

As Option E will create a Unitary Huntingdonshire along with two other Unitaries as set out: -

Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire

Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 3 - Cambridge City & South Cambs

Option E allows Huntingdonshire to forge its own future rather than becoming part of Peterborough.

Government will announce its proposal for LGR in Cambridgeshire/ Peterborough in July 2026., following the consultation. With the necessary legislation being put before Parliament to approve in Autumn 26 recess

With Elections to the new Shadow Unitary Authorities taking place in May 27. The new Unitary Authorities will take over running all services on 1 April 28.

Highways

Regarding the large number of potholes on our roads, particularly in my diversion. I have a meeting with Neal Stevens on Thursday 2nd April to discuss the situation and show him the situation on the ground. I am informed by the Head of Maintenance that he will be able to organise the repair work

All Highways defects should be reported on the County Councils Highways Report It tool so that all faults are logged and processed according to severity.

Highways defects include potholes, blocked gullies, flooding, trees, overgrown hedges, obscured signs etc

20mph scheme applications have now closed.

The CC is going to commence an EV Cable Channel Trial in April for those houses that don't have a driveway. The cable channel enables an EV Charging cable to be laid across the pavement without the issue of creating a trip hazard. It is a Highways offence to lay a cable on top of the public footpath under section 178 of the Highways Act.

Initially there will be 50 Trials across the County, 10 in each district starting in April a further 40 per district will commence in the Autumn/Winter 26

The resident will be liable for the cost of the cable channel which will be £1000 to £1500 per channel plus a licence fee of £190 which would be renewable very two years.

The applications for the trial will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Planning Enforcement

Vinegar Hill

The response I have had from the CC Planning department is that the investigation into the site is part of a wider EA investigation which is ongoing. The completion date for this work is not known, but subject to other lines of enquiry coming to light, we are hopefully that this will be submitted to the Legal Team in the Summer/Autumn.

Regarding the waste clearance, notice was served on the landowner in December 24 to clear the site, this unfortunately was not complied with. A further notice was served on March 25 requiring restacking/separating the waste bales to mitigate the fire risk which was complied with in August 25. The risk of fire at the site has been minimised.

The Council investigated further reports including one from our MP regarding further waste being transported onto the site and that the site was still an active illegal waste site. Following inspection these reports were not substantiated and were attributed to the movement and restacking of bales giving the impression that the site has grown. The CC are aware that the bales are starting to disintegrate and have informed the EA accordingly.

If you witness any further activity on the site please report to the enforcement team at the County Council.

Heating Oil

Support for Cambridgeshire Low Income Households dependent on oil for heating and hot water.

Cambridgeshire has received from government £708,000 to top up its Crisis and Resilience Fund (CCF). This money will be targeted to help low-income households.

To receive support applicants must meet all of the following criteria –

1. Live in Cambridgeshire
2. Be reliant on heating oil to heat their home or water.
3. Have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application.
4. Be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means tested benefits – Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Income based Employment and Support Allowance.

Eligible households can apply for up to £400 of financial support

To access support, residents can apply direct to CCF via a link on the County Council's website, which went live yesterday 30 March. Or, through a Referral Organisation that has assessed your needs and can verify that you need immediate assistance.

All applicants will need to provide proof of address, income and the need to top up with Heating Oil

District Council

This year's District Council Elections along with the Parish Council elections will take place on May 7th 2026. I am delighted to say that I have been reselected as the Conservative Candidate for the Alconbury ward.

HDC's Council Tax Paperless Billing Service has arrived.

The new paperless billing service means that you can log onto the HDC portal and view your Council Tax Bill online instead of receiving a paper bill in the post.

The portal is secure easy to use and will help reduce paper usage and cost.

For more information on the service and to register go to: -

https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-paperless-billing/

If you do not sign up for paperless billing you will continue to receive your Council Tax Bill through the post as normal.

The new Weekly Food Waste Collection service commenced this week 30th March 2026. You can use bin liners in your caddies providing they are biodegradable. HDC will not be providing liners for these bins.

The Garden Waste Subscription Service is open for renewals from 01 April 26 to 31 March 27,

The cost per year is £57.50 for one green bin and £30.00 per additional bin up to three additional bins. If you subscribed by Direct Debit last year you won't need to do anything as your subscription will renew automatically. If you paid by card, you would need to renew your subscription for 26-27. If you have not subscribed to the Garden waste service before you are able to sign up for the service from 1 April 26 to 31 March 27.

The Parish Council can still request up to 10 Community Bins for local residents to deposit their garden waste, which would be collected as part of the normal route scheduling for fortnightly garden waste bin collections.

Residents can receive Subsidised Home Composters at a cost of £10 plus deliver charges. Residents can apply for a maximum of 2 Composters. If residents are interested, they should visit the GetComposting website, enter your postcode and select Blackwell 220 Litre Black Compost Converter and the discount will automatically be applied

The District Council can provide free compost to Parish Councils. HDC will arrange for a skip of compost to be delivered to a designated location within the parish, where it will be emptied. The loose compost will then be available for residents to collect in quantities they wish.

If you want this service, please email wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Community Litter Picks – If you want to organise a Community Litter Pick to help keep our District Litter Free. The District Council will loan you the equipment necessary i.e. grabbers and bags and pick up the litter that has been collected free of charge.

Cllr Ian Gardener – CCC Alconbury & Kimbolton Division & HDC Alconbury ward including Alconbury.

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 13th March 2026

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 31st March 2026

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025			76,745.24
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026			52,310.44
				129,055.68
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026			45,675.83
A	**Cash in Hand 28/02/2026** (per Cash Book)			**83,379.85**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	28/02/2026	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	28/02/2026	45,563.64	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	28/02/2026	37,816.21	
				83,379.85
	Less unpresented payments			
				83,379.85
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**83,379.85**
	A = B Checks out OK			

Created by Scribe