Alconbury Parish Council
Annual Report 2025–2026 (Chair's Summary)

I'm happy to report that during the period 2025/2026 the Parish Council (PC) has remained relatively stable. During this period one (1) councillor resigned: Cllr Brown. We thank her for her contribution to the Parish Council. We also welcomed one (1) new Parish Councillor: Cllr Joyce. This maintains our total membership at eleven (11).

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

2025–2026 year has been one of significant progress and sustained community focus for Alconbury Parish Council. Through close partnership working, careful financial stewardship, and active engagement with residents and stakeholders, the Council has delivered a wide range of initiatives to support the village and respond to both immediate needs and longer-term challenges.

A major area of focus has been the Council's response to large-scale development proposals affecting the parish, particularly the Brampton Cross development and the wider North Huntingdon Growth Cluster. The Council established and expanded a dedicated working party, working collaboratively with neighbouring parishes to ensure a strong collective voice. This included engagement with developers, local authorities, infrastructure bodies and elected representatives. The Council also took a proactive stance by preparing formal responses, organising public communications, and allocating funding to support professional advice where required. This work has ensured that community concerns—particularly around traffic, infrastructure, and environmental impact—are clearly represented. A big thanks to Cllr L Pinn for being the driving force behind the significant work here.

Alongside this, the Neighbourhood Plan has progressed significantly. Following a Regulation 14 consultation in summer 2025, the Council commissioned specialist support to finalise the plan and successfully submitted it for Regulation 16 consultation in spring 2026. This represents a major milestone, with a referendum anticipated later in 2026. The process has involved extensive community engagement and will provide an important framework to guide future development in line with residents' priorities.

Improving road safety and infrastructure has also been a key priority. The Council has actively pursued Local Highways Improvement (LHI) funding, including a successful bid for a raised crossing on Great North Road. In addition, a village-wide 20mph scheme has been developed and submitted, with a commitment to consider self-funding if necessary. Speed management has been further supported through the installation and enhancement of Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS), as well as innovative initiatives such as speed awareness bin stickers. Thanks to the combined efforts of Cllrs Johnson, Button, Isaacs and Trotman.

Significant attention has been given to the maintenance and enhancement of community assets. The Memorial Hall has undergone major improvements, including completion of its extension and new facilities, enhancing its role as a community hub.

At Bramble End Play Area, essential maintenance has been carried out and plans are underway to replace and upgrade equipment, supported by funding bids and community fundraising. Thanks to Cllr Gunney for his continued oversight of this play area.

The Village Green continues to be an important focus, with its registration formally completed during the year. The Council has addressed issues including HGV damage, drainage repairs, and

ongoing challenges with illegal parking, taking steps through communication, policy development, and engagement with enforcement authorities. Tree management has also been prioritised, including necessary tree works and the adoption of a Tree Replacement Planting Policy to enhance environmental sustainability.

The Council has maintained a strong commitment to supporting local groups and services through grant funding. Contributions have been made to organisations such as the Memorial Hall, Recreational Field Charity, Preschool, Tea and Tots, and emergency services including MAGPAS. These investments reflect the Council's recognition of the vital role these groups play in community wellbeing.

Environmental and resilience initiatives have also been prominent. The Alconbury Brook Flood Group continues to make excellent progress, with the development of new ponds and wider flood mitigation measures supported by external funding. The Council has worked with partners to begin developing a broader community emergency plan, building on existing flood preparedness arrangements.

Community engagement has remained central to the Council's work. A new Parish Council Facebook page has been launched to improve communication, and events such as the village fete and children's fair have been supported to strengthen community spirit. Regular liaison with Neighbourhood Watch has contributed to a reduction in reported crime, alongside initiatives such as Speedwatch.

Finally, the Council has maintained sound governance and financial management throughout the year. Budgets have been carefully controlled, audits completed successfully without issue, and the precept has been held steady. Policies and procedures have been kept up to date, ensuring transparency and accountability.

In summary, 2025–2026 has been a productive year, with the Council making strong progress across planning, infrastructure, community support, and environmental stewardship. These achievements provide a solid foundation for the year ahead, as we continue to work in the best interests of Alconbury and its residents, including reinvigorating a focus on exploring an HGV covenant for the B1043.

Councillor Tracy Gilbert
Chair, Alconbury Parish Council
26th May 2026

Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer 2026

The Parish Council started the financial year with a reserve of £76,745.00 and the precept £43,400.00 was received, an increase of £4285.00 from the previous year. The annual spend during 2025/26 was £48,403.00 which has enabled the Parish Council to carry forward £80,847.00 into the new financial year on 1st April 2026. Alconbury Parish Council continues to remains financially stable for the year ahead.

The Parish Council continues to fund the shortfall of the costs for the grass cutting which is delegated from, and still largely funded by, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).

All the Parish Council's obligations have been fulfilled and £6050.00 in grants have been given to:

- Alconbury Community Pre School: £1000 towards running costs
- Alconbury Teas & Tots: £500 towards running costs
- Royal British Legion: £50 for a Remembrance wreath
- East Anglian Air Ambulance: £500 to support their on-scene, lifesaving advanced medical care.
- Alconbury Memorial Hall: £2000 towards the running of the hall
- Alconbury Recreational Field Charity: £2000 towards the upkeep of the field

Alison Brown
Responsible Financial Officer
26th May 2026

Parish Council - Annual County & District Council Report - May 2026

Following the County Council Elections Last May the Council is now Liberal Democrat controlled, the makeup of the authority currently is: - Liberal Democrat 32, Conservative 10, Reform 8, Labour 5, Green 3 and Independents 2 Councillors with one vacancy following the conviction of a Reform Councillor

I sat on the following Committees and I will continue to do so.

- Highways and Transportation – Conservative Spokesman
- Planning
- Staffing and Appeals
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

The Lib Dem Administration decided again to put up your County Council proportion of the council Tax by the maximum amount 4.99%, which includes a 2% Social care increase. The cost therefore for a Band D property this year is £ 1785.42.

Following the Government's decision to proceed with Local Government Reorganisation, four proposals were put to Government

2 of which were for 2 Unitary authorities which 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.

And a further 2 for 3 Unitary authorities which are -

Proposal D

Unitary 1 – Greater Peterborough – Peterborough City & North Hunts including Kimbolton

Unitary 2 – Mid Cambs – Fenland, East Cambs and South Hunts including St Neots and Gt Staughton.

Unitary 3 – Cambridge – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Proposal E

Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire

Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 3 – Cambridge City & South Cambs

I have supported Option E as it is the only option where Huntingdonshire has control of the services across the area.

The Government consultation period on the 4 options has now closed. The Government will announce its proposal for LGR in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough towards the end of July 2026. With the necessary legislation being put before Parliament to approve in Autumn 26

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

The Government also notes that it has a very ambitious timetable for LGR in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Shadow elections for the New Unitary authorities will take place in May 2027 with the new Local Government structure coming into effect on 01 April 2028.

The existing Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority could be become an established Mayoral Strategic Authority under LGR.

The Mayoral powers would cover –

Transport & Local infrastructure, Skills and Employment support, Housing & Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, Environment & Net Zero, Health & Wellbeing and Public Service Reform and Public Safety.

The Bill will empower Mayoral Strategic Authorities to take on Police & Crime Commissioner Functions and Fire & Rescue Authority Functions.

From May 2027 the next Mayoral elections will be by Supplementary Vote, this system was in place up to the 2021 Elections. Under this system voters are allowed to select a second preference candidate. If no candidate gains a majority of First Preference Votes, then the two candidates with the highest number of first preference votes enter a runoff, (with all other candidates are eliminated) in which their second preference votes are added to their totals to determine the winner.

The Liberal Democrat Administration on the County Council yesterday voted to increase Councillors Allowances by 11% from 15th July 25.

Regarding the Proposed East Park Energy Development this is now with the Planning Inspectorate, who will put their recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will make the final decision on the scheme. I have put forward my objections to the scheme, i.e. increased traffic on the local roads, associated rat running. Loss of the rural landscape and associated environmental damage. Potential damage to the Roman Town etc

I am delighted that the parish has been successful in its LHI Bid this year for a raised crossing on the Great North Road and for its 20mph zone application. I will work with the PC as the plans are finalised. I will continue to support the Parish in any future LHI Bids going forward.

Vegetation has been cut back around the speed hump sign on the Great North Road, it's about to be cut back around the Alconbury sign as you drive into the Village from Weston.

The hedge on the footpath behind Coulson Way will be cut back after the bird nesting season.

I am delighted to see that the outfall on The Green has been repaired by the County Council at no cost to the PC as originally indicated.

I have chased the Highways Department regarding the large number of potholes across my division, consequently the Area Highways Maintenance Manager and I are now visiting all 25 Villages in my Division. When we visit, potholes are marked for repair and immediately put on the system for repair. Those that require a 5-day repair are being actioned accordingly. Patching works is also being ordered at the same time. So hopefully you will all see an improvement to our roads. To date during six visits with the Area Maintenance Manager, we have marked up more than 1200 potholes for repair across my division.

Please report the following road defects on the County Council website via the Report It tool, Potholes, Blocked Gullies, Vegetation obscuring signs, flooding, trees, overgrown hedges etc

District Council

This year's District Council elections resulted in the following outcome –

Liberal Democrats 20, Conservatives 15, Reform 10, Independents 4, Green 2, Labour 1

Therefore, no party has overall control. Following last Thursday's Full Council, the Council is now run by the Lib Dem's, Independents and Greens.

In the Alconbury Ward the result was as follows

Conservative 641

Reform 380

Green 184

Lib Dem 130

Labour 55

Conservative majority of 261 on a 48.1% turnout

My thanks go to the electorate of the Alconbury Ward for their continued support.

Over the last year I have sat on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Performance and Growth and for a short period on the Licencing committee. Following the Full council meeting I will sit on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Performance & Growth as well as Licencing and the Appeals Sub Committees.

This year saw the introduction of the Food Waste Bins from 30 March.

The introduction of the Paperless Billing Service for your Council Tax Bills, which means you can log onto the HDC Portal and view your Council Tax online instead of receiving a paper bill in the post.

The Garden Waste Subscription service runs from 01 April 26 to 31 March 27, the cost for which is £57.50 for the first bin and £30 for an additional bin up to 3 bins.

Residents can receive subsidised Home Composters at a cost of £10 plus delivery charges. The size of the composter is 220 litres each household can have a maximum of 2

The District Council continues with its Local Plan Update, the final draft should be out for consultation later this year, some sites have been added or the housing allocation reduced. HDC should have informed the Parish of any amendments. The new Unitary Council when it takes over in April 28 will have to prepare its own Local Plan so things could change.

Sir John Major received the Freedom of the District on the 25th March 26 for his services to Huntingdonshire.

I will continue to work with the Alconbury Flood Group to obtain funding for projects etc. I am currently the HDC representative on the Upper Ouse Drainage Board, and the Alconbury & Ellington Working group, following the merger of the 3 IDB's in the Upper Ouse Catchment

I continue to work with the Parish councils on the A14 Safety Advisory Group.

Cllr Ian Gardener

CCC - Alconbury & Kimbolton Division & HDC – Alconbury ward