Agenda item: 0726.051.

The Alconbury Brook Flood Group

***Some of what we have done during July 2026***

## Four Dams constructed or repaired during July

We have had to strengthen a number of dams in the last few weeks ready for winter 2026/7. The previous dams were damaged by flood water last winter.

All of the dams retain flood water. The Palfrey dam (top right|) diverts water into a holding pond.

The ponds are also designed to improve water quality. The gabions filled with stone help to filter sediment. The ponds also control summertime flows. They release small amounts of water during the summer so that collectively numerous upstream dams will maintain small summer flows in the main brook improve the ecology, water chemistry and even fish stocks

## Tour of Winwick Longbrook

A small group visited several of the ponds and other structures that the flood group have constructed along Winwick Longbrook.

We were very grateful to Flex-able ltd. for the loan of a mini-bus for the afternoon and to Rishard for driving us around

## Many thanks to Andy and Spencer, tree fellers!

Our tree felling volunteers have been removing straight willow trees from the bed of the brook at Nook Farm. The willow is being put to good use to construct living dams upstream. Thanks also to Andrew Lenson and Agriserve

**News awaited of EA Flood Alleviation Scheme**

The modelling and evaluation of a possible scheme is complete. We anticipate some concrete details will be shared during August. The EA are very keen not to raise expectations given that the next stage is determining if funding will be allocated to the scheme. More news next month.

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## Parish Council – County & District Council Report – July 2026

Local Government Reorganisation the government has decided to delay its decision until October 26. Although it's thought the New Minister Angela Rayner may make a decision before the September recess on 14th September. This delay also brings into question the deliverability of the government's self-imposed timetable for LGR, of April 28.

In the absence of a decision from government there will be no changes to existing Council services these will continue to be commissioned as they are now.

Cambridgeshire County Council are again this year undertaking a Quality-of-Life Survey in Cambridgeshire. The survey will enable residents to share your views on life in Cambridgeshire as well as the issues that matter most to you and your community.

Residents will be asked about a range of topics, including life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and people's perceptions of the council and its services.

The results will inform council discussions and priorities for the years ahead.

The survey is open to residents until the 5th August. Please go to the County Council website and click on Council and Democracy, where you will find the survey to take part.

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

Graeme Kane joined Cambridgeshire County Council at the beginning of the month as the Executive Director for Place and Sustainability which includes Highways.

The County Council has extended and varied its current contract for Highways Maintenance to allow the New Authorities under LGR to undertake the scoping and procurement of a new contract. The current contract has been extended to 2030 with improved deal for CCC taxpayers.

The new arrangements will –

Improve the quality of service

Provided better value for the Council and Council taxpayers.

Introduce incentives for high performance and financial deductions for late or poor performance.

Deliver these benefits sooner rather than waiting to 2027, when the current contract expires.

Ensure delivery of services and statutory duties through LGR

Avoids the immediate cost of running a new procurement

Allows future procurement to be shaped by the new unitary authorities.

**Bus Services**

The Mayor is proposing to amended or withdraw some bus services

The services proposed to be withdrawn are the 400 & 401. It is proposed to withdraw the 400 service to Spaldwick, Easton & Stow Longa due to lack of use.

While the 401 service serves Barham, Woolley, Buckworth, Alconbury Weston, Gt Gidding, Winwick and Old Weston. The 401 service is proposed to be withdrawn in its entirety due to lack of use.

A fixed Time Demand responsive Transport journey will be introduced to meet demand from Woolley, Barham, Buckworth, Upton, Hamerton, Lt & Gt Gidding, Winwick, Old Weston, Leighton Bromswold, Spaldwick, Easton & Stow Longa.

The alternative service for these villages is the Tiger Bus which is an on-demand service.

The current 28 service between Bedford & Kimbolton is proposed to be extended to Huntingdon, via Gt Staughton, Perry, Grafham, Ellington, Brampton Hinchingbrooke Hospital & Huntingdon. The service would be a 2 hourly service.

The consultation on these proposals lasts until the 28th July go to https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/

Blood Pressure Monitor Loan scheme – Blood pressure monitors are now available to borrow from libraries across Cambridgeshire.

Around 1 in 12 Adults in Cambridgeshire are estimated to have High Blood pressure without experiencing any obvious signs of symptoms. High Blood pressure increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and can often be lowered through simple lifestyle changes. This scheme helps residents to check and understand their blood pressure, while empowering them to make informed choices about their health

The blood pressure monitors are available to loan from all 33 libraries and three mobile libraries.

Any library member aged 18 or over can borrow a monitor for three weeks or five weeks from a mobile library. Its free you don't need to be referred by a GP. To borrow a monitor simply visit the library with your library card and speak to a member of staff. If you don't have a library card you can join at the library or online.

The Summer Reading Challenge has returned to Cambridgeshire Libraries this summer Sign up opens on Saturday 4th July, its free and open to pre-school and primary school aged children of all reading abilities.

The theme for 2026 is Read to the Beat- an adventure in stories, music and sound. Children are invited to read six books over the holidays, collecting rewards along the way – they will also receive a certificate and medal when they complete the challenge.

The Draft New Local Plan will be going before Huntingdonshire District Council on the 9th September. The plan is to guide development in the district until 2046

At the Full Council meeting on 15th July a motion was put by the Conservative Group lead by Cllr David Keane, which requested that the cumulative impacts of the plan were explored in relation to Highways, Education, Health, Flooding, Transport etc. This motion received cross party support as a result a report should be coming to Full Council.

The Draft Local Plan is in its pre-submission stage, with further public consultation scheduled September and will run for 6 weeks to complete by the end of October 26.

The submission date the authority is working to is December 2026 for the plan to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

I am attending a meeting with our MP Ben Obese-Jecty and National Highways regarding the A14 & A1

I am informed by National Highways that work to repair the fencing along the A1 between Brampton Hut and the B1043 will recommence in September. The posts that are loss are to be strengthened with concrete spurs. The contractors have been given permission within reason to find and fix works that become apparent whilst on site.

The LHI Panel meeting for Complex schemes is on the 5th August.

I have arranged a meeting with Michelle Sacks HDC and Charles Dalleywater Alconbury Flood Group and myself on 11th August to discuss funding for projects.

Over 35 tonnes of Coffee Pods have been recycled at the nine County Recycling Centres, including Alconbury

Podback recycles coffee pods across the UK, to reduce waste and saving on new materials. Coffee Pods are shredded and cleaned of coffee. The Shredded pods can be made into new products while the coffee grounds are used to create renewable energy and soil improver.

Local residents are therefore encouraged to continue to bring their pods to their Local recycling centre in our case Alconbury.

Cllr Ian Gardener

CCC - Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

HDC – Alconbury Ward

# Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk/RFO) Date: 9th July 2026

*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 28th July 2026

*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Bank Reconciliation at 30/06/2026** | | | |
| | Cash in Hand 01/04/2026 | | | 80,847.28 |
| | **ADD** | | | |
| | Receipts 01/04/2026 - 30/06/2026 | | | 26,115.61 |
| | | | | 106,962.89 |
| | **SUBTRACT** | | | |
| | Payments 01/04/2026 - 30/06/2026 | | | 17,363.31 |
| **A** | **Cash in Hand 30/06/2026** (per Cash Book) | | | **89,599.58** |
| | Cash in hand per Bank Statements | | | |
| | Petty Cash | 30/06/2026 | 0.00 | |
| | Unity Trust Bank Current T1 | 30/06/2026 | 51,403.53 | |
| | Unity Trust Bank Instant Access | 30/06/2026 | 38,196.05 | |
| | | | | **89,599.58** |
| | Less unpresented payments | | | |
| | | | | 89,599.58 |
| | Plus unpresented receipts | | | |
| **B** | **Adjusted Bank Balance** | | | **89,599.58** |
| | **A = B Checks out OK** | | | |

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