

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Alderley Edge Parish held at 6.30pm on Monday 13th May 2013 in the Festival Hall.

Present

Chairman: Cllr MH Williamson
16 Alderley Edge residents (signing in list with the Clerk)
2 members of the press

Parish Council

Cllrs: MW Maczkowiak, DG Herald, M J Connor, F Keegan, S Joseph, MD Lloyd and JD Bergin.
Clerk: A. Ross

1. Apologies for Absence.

Received from Cllr N Schofield.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of 14th May 2012

Mr Tomlinson pointed out that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting can only be ratified by the Parish at the meeting the following year. He proposed that they were ratified with the following amendments:

The heading of Alderley Edge Parish Council should be deleted.

The names of councillors as present should be deleted and added to the list of residents present.

After discussion during which the Chairman expressed doubts about the proposed changes a vote was taken and there was a show of hands in favour of the motion.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report.

Councillor MH Williamson delivered his Annual Report (copy attached).

4. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council Finance Committee.

Councillor JD Bergin delivered his report on the financial activities of the council during the year ended 31st March (copy attached).

5. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council Plans Committee.

Councillor Keegan delivered his report on the Plans Committee's work during the past year (copy attached).

6. The Alderley Edge Institute Trust Report.

Councillor Keegan provided a brief summary of the Trust's work over the past year.

He explained that the investments administered by the Trust remained in a healthy state owing to the skill of the Investment Managers. The Trust is now 9 years old and the current balance is in excess of £900,000 He is very proud of the causes the trust has managed to give funding to, including: The David Lewis Centre, Nether Alderley Primary School, Over Alderley Reading Room and Junior Football.

Applications are made through the Clerk to the trust, Ashley Dawson.

7. Reports from Cheshire East Council Councillor.

Councillor F Keegan provided a brief summary. Last year he reported that Cheshire East must look at avenues for income generation other than government grants and Council Tax. As a result of this they are creating a new commercial venture which will be set up as a limited company and will be responsible for transferring the assets of Cheshire East into hard cash.

He reported that Cheshire East is doing a housing needs assessment in conjunction with a local housing consultation. They have identified that 27,000 new houses are needed throughout the area, of which 20,000 have still to be found. SHLAA's (strategic housing land availability assessment) make up 50,000 which exceeds demand but this prevents developers speculating on green belt sites as anything outside the SHLAA would not be favourably considered in the planning process. Beech Road is being treated as an additional site by Cheshire East so they can prove it has been considered. Objections should be made before 30th May. Contact the Clerk for more details.

The Cheshire East budget continues to be challenging and is split as follows:
60% children and adults
25% refuse collection/highways/leisure/etc
15% administration and shared services

However the pressure of spending cuts has been absorbed by Cheshire East fairly well so far.

8. Contributions from other persons present.

None.

9. Public Participation.

Mr Sanderson asked what the Chairman meant by 'choppy waters' referred to in his report regarding the Medical Centre. Cllr Williamson reported on the difficulties the Parish Council are having in negotiating with the PCT. The negotiations between the Parish Council, Doctors and PCT are ongoing and are difficult and protracted. The initial agreement of the PCT contributing £500,000 and a rental figure is still being negotiated.

Mr Sanderson stated that he did not find the Finance Report entirely satisfactory as there was not enough detail. Cllr Bergin responded by providing more detail on the figures.

Mr Tomlinson asked a question about the Parish Council borrowing money to fund the building of the Medical Centre. Cllr Williamson responded that the money will be borrowed from the government via Cheshire East and hopefully there will be a 20 year lease with the Doctors, with the rental income paying off the loan.

There was a discussion about the refurbishment of the Festival Hall and it was asked when a medium term business plan would be produced. Cllr Connor responded that hopefully things will get moving in the next twelve months and the project had been delayed because of the Medical Centre issues.

It was asked if the telephone masts will be staying on the site and Cllr Williamson confirmed that they would be.

Mrs Tomlinson wanted to know why the precept stayed at the increased level of £120,000 when she understood that it was a one-off increase to pay for a new side entrance to the Hall. Cllr Bergin responded that the cash balance is healthy and when the expenditure has been made the precept may be reduced in future. However, there is still significant expenditure planned for this year. Mrs Tomlinson requested that when the precept is reviewed, the reasons are made to the public about the level being set.

There was a discussion about the housing needs assessment and the impact of Astra Zeneca on this.

Mr Smith asked about the council becoming a 'Quality Parish Council'. It was confirmed that the Clerk is looking into the CiLCA training which is one of the criteria.

Cllr Herald reported on the 'Friends of the Cemetery Group' and that Ms Georgina Speak will be running it.

The Annual Parish Meeting concluded at 7.52pm

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING