



ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 8th December 2014

Present: : Cllr MH Williamson (Chairman), Cllrs MJ Connor, F Keegan, S Joseph and N Schofield

In attendance: 5 members of the public
1 member of the press
Clerk: A Ross

Meeting

Commenced: 7.47pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs JD Bergin, DG Herald, MD Lloyd and MW Maczkowiak

2. Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary interest (DPI).

None

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2014.

Approval proposed by Councillor S Joseph, seconded by Councillor F Keegan and carried.

4. To discuss the Christmas lights switch on event.

Cllr Williamson thanked everyone involved in the event and thought it was a great success. Cllr Connor has also sent thanks to Diane Smith and her team and Cllr Schofield wanted to thank all the performers on stage as he thought they were fantastic. Cllr Joseph is waiting to hear back from Manchester Children's Hospital about the money raised and will report back when she hears from them. Cllr Williamson would like a wash up meeting to discuss any improvements that could be made including the Christmas lights.

5. Discuss feedback from Parish Pledge.

Cllr Williamson reported that the leaflet was sent out to everyone on the electoral register and the responses are filtering through. Currently there is a 60/40 split in favour of the Parish Council's plans. The number of responses isn't great and there was a discussion about how more people could be encouraged to make their views known. There were suggestions about putting the leaflet and a summary of the legal advice on the notice board. The Parish Council would like to encourage more people to visit the PC website.

6. To discuss the removal of the Christmas lights from the trees on London Road to allow trimming.

Cheshire East needs to trim some of the trees on London Road during which time the lights need to come out, it was agreed that this could be done when the lights are switched off. Our contractor LITE have quoted £600 per tree to remove and re-install the lights. The Clerk was asked to contact LITE and Lynne Nixon to agree on the number of trees to be done and that it should be done sometime in March.

There was a discussion about the costs of the lights so far and how they should be maintained/replaced in future. LITE have another 3 years left on their maintenance contract and then they recommend the lights be replaced but it would make sense to keep them as long as possible and possibly arrange for another contractor to maintain them. Cllr Williamson would like to arrange a meeting with traders and businesses in

the village to discuss raising funds for the lights and how they could be improved; it was stressed that the Parish Council need to budget appropriately in future to cover these costs.

7. To discuss buying a more modern Parish Council notice board.

Cllr Connor thinks the current notice board is a mess and would like 2 new notice boards, one outside the library and one outside the new medical centre. There was a discussion about the best locations and it was agreed the Parish Council would look into options and discuss it again at the January meeting.

8. Update from the ‘Projects sub-committee’.

Cllr Williamson reported on a meeting the sub-committee had with the lawyers.

Phone Masts – The agreement with Vodafone to leave the site by 15th January has been signed. Arqiva are more problematic, they have not yet acquired a new site and have still not agreed a date of when they will leave.

Doctors lease – The final report from the District Valuer has still not been received, this needs to be appended to the lease and is causing the signing to be delayed. The lawyers intend to get it signed before Christmas.

Building Contract – This has been sent to Jones and their lawyers are reviewing it. It won’t be signed until the lease is signed. There are issues with warranties which are still being worked on.

Festival Hall – This will close in January for approximately 4 months. It was agreed that the side extension will be built and the Hall Manager would like to see the internal refurbishment done at the same time. The Parish Council will need to submit a planning application for the side entrance and some of the other changes, such as new windows and doors. The builders will be asked to get architects to draw up the plans so pre-application discussions with CEC can take place as soon as possible.

Allotments – The school has one issue outstanding on the lease for Wilmslow Road which needs to be tied up, then hopefully the Parish Council can get on to Lydiat Lane and start doing some preparatory works for the new allotment plots. The Parish Council will then liaise with CEC about getting planning permission to have some huts on the site. There was a discussion about the aspirations for the new site which included a community orchard and involvement from incredible edible and local schools. The Parish Council believe it could be made into a great site.

Cllr Williamson would like to see this matter brought to a close and proposed that, subject to getting an agreement from the school to get onto Lydiat Lane, a resolution is brought to the January meeting to formally close the Heyes Lane Allotment site. He proposed that the Parish Council lawyer writes a letter to the remaining tenants re-stating the actions to date and requiring them to be off site by January 31st, and if they are not, the Parish Council will go to court and get an injunction to move them. All councillors were agreed.

Cllr Joseph asked about the letter received from a solicitor representing the Allotment Society, Cllr Williamson replied that the National Allotment Society have instructed the lawyers.

9. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr Schofield offered to liaise with the Hall Manager to accommodate displaced hirers affected by the hall closure. The issue of the Parish Council meetings was discussed and the Clerk was asked to enquire about using the Methodist Church. Cllr Williamson will arrange a meeting with Emersons to finalise arrangement regarding the closure of the hall.

Cllr Joseph reported that the PCSO has been on sick leave but is back now. She was unhappy that no one had informed the Parish Council of her absence. Cllr Williamson will write to the inspector asking that in future they are kept informed and given contact details of who is covering.

Cllr Connor reported that CEC are currently clearing away waste containing asbestos that was illegally dumped in the cemetery. When the ground has been cleared an architect will design the space for the Memorial Garden.

Cllr Keegan reported that CEC has agreed to re-consult on the residents parking scheme for Clifton Street. Residents and businesses will be consulted; a mixed scheme would be welcome.

Cllr Williamson reported that it is not possible to insure a Quad Bike for the lengthsman and there needed to further discussions in Part 2 of the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 8.45pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
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Clerk	Liaise with Highways and LITE re tree trimming	As soon as practical
Clerk	Enquire at Methodist Church about PC meetings	As soon as practical
Cllr Williamson	Write to inspector re PCSO	As soon as practical
		As soon as practical

Councillor MH Williamson
CHAIRMAN