

# ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**Present:** Cllr MD Lloyd (Chairman), Cllrs JD Bergin, F Keegan, DG Herald, S Joseph, MJ Connor, MW Maczkowiak

**In attendance:** 2 representatives from the press  
7 members of the public, Hall Manager

**Meeting**

**Commenced:** 8:04pm

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs N Schofield and MH Williamson

**2. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

None.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012. With the following alteration: Pg 2, item 7. Insert - Cllr Herald reminded councillors that agreement for the Parish Council to pay for the work on the embankment has been agreed previously and that the ownership of the land is still unknown.**

Not ratified with the amendment.

**4. Matters Arising.**

Cllr DH Herald had requested that the following sentence was included in the June minutes: 'Cllr Herald reminded councillors that agreement for the Parish Council to pay for the work on the embankment has been agreed previously and that the ownership of the land is still unknown'. It was agreed that the minutes did not need to be changed and when the invoice was received it would be put on the Finance Agenda for retrospective approval.

**5. Discuss changing the way the minutes are approved.**

Cllr DH Herald had requested an amendment to the June minutes and suggested that the way they are approved should be changed to allow other councillors to comment on the draft document before the Chairman approved it. Cllr F Keegan explained that any issues with the minutes can be addressed at the following meeting and there was no reason to change the procedure already in place.

**6. Sustaining trade in the village – possible discount card scheme.**

Cllr MJ Connor reported on an initiative to help traders in the village. Kim Minchin has set up a business breakfast event in Gusto every two months to enable traders the opportunity to get together and discuss ideas to improve trade in the village. They are trying to re-group to become more active and the Parish Council would like to back the initiative.

**7. Support for local Start-up Businesses**

As Cllr N Schofield was not present there was nothing reported for this agenda item.

**8. To receive an update from Cllr Keegan on transfer of allotments from Cheshire East.**

Cllr Keegan attended the meeting with Cheshire East where the allotments were formally transferred back to the Parish Council. Both parties are going through the legal process to finalise the leases, it was confirmed that Cllr F Keegan and MH Williamson are instructing the Parish Council Solicitors. The Parish Council will then have the right to petition the DCLG to transfer the Heyes Lane site at a later date, it is expected that matters will not progress before September. Cllrs F Keegan and MH Williamson have asked Cheshire East for the tenancies as the Parish Council will take over the running of the allotments but Cheshire East will still be responsible for maintenance of the footpaths. Cllr MW Maczkowiak asked when there will be a consultation with the allotment holders and Cllr F Keegan explained that the plan was to speak to the three sites independently. Cllr Maczkowiak would like a consultation to include the whole village and after discussion Cllr MJ Connor suggested that the Parish Council should see the leases first and take one step at a time. She reiterated that nothing has been voted on by the Parish Council.

**9. Alderley Edge Village Park – ‘dogs on leads’ signs.**

Cllr F Keegan reported that there is a problem with dog fouling on the tennis courts and play area in the park. He suggested that since there is a bylaw stating that all dogs should be kept on leads, ‘dogs on leads’ signs should be reinstated and enforced in the park. Cllr DH Herald was opposed to the idea stating that children and youths make more of a mess and that there is also a bylaw banning cycling in the park, so it would be unreasonable to enforce one and not the other. Cllrs MD Lloyd and JD Bergin would like current bylaws, whatever they are enforced. Cllr F Keegan suggested asking Cheshire East to replace the signs and enforce the bylaw properly.

**10. Cllr Keegan to outline proposed Cheshire East action to raise car parking charges in village at the Precinct.**

Cllr Keegan reported that the new owners of the precinct car park, Aberdeen City Council Pension Fund, want to increase charges from 40p to 60p per hour. He is worried that Cheshire East will see this as a revenue opportunity and increase their charges. The Parish Council views the charges as a tax on local businesses and will oppose the increase. Cheshire East will have a management contract with the owners who advise them of the rate they want and Cheshire East enforce it. Cllr F Keegan believes it is a possibility that when the leases run out in a few years time there will be an expansion of the site that will result in a loss of car parking.

**11. Purchase of Speed Gun .**

Six volunteers responded to a request from the PCSO to set up a Community Speed Watch Scheme. As a result Cllr MW Maczkowiak was asked to raise the idea of purchasing a non-endorsable speed gun. The gun records the speed and registration of the car and the offender is then sent a letter. The cost of a gun is thought to be approximately £200. The Parish Council agreed this was a good idea and asked Cllr MW Maczkowiak to raise it at the Finance Meeting.

**12. Reports from Councillors.**

Cllr MJ Connor reported on the problem of blocked drains and potholes in Alderley Edge and also asked when there will be chevron parking at the side of London Road. She has invited Michael Jones, leader of Cheshire East Council to attend the Parish Council meeting in September.

Cllr MW Maczkowiak reported that although Cheshire East have tidied the Cenotaph there is still further work needed. She is waiting on Arthur Pritchard to respond to her emails. She is still pushing Cheshire East to take action on the Cemetery.

Cllr F Keegan gave a report on dropped kerbs. Due to the increased use of mobility scooters there is a need for more dropped kerbs and Highways have agreed to drop two along London Road, the cost of which will come from the Highways budget. He asked for people to be aware of where they may be needed in the future.

Cllr F Keegan reported on the Civic Service. It was well represented from neighbouring Town and Parish Councils with the exception of Prestbury and £360 was raised for the Civic Service fund. The Clerk is to receive training on the order of the line-up for future events. Cllr F Keegan suggested reinstating the Chairman’s Evening as the event is used to thank all those involved in voluntary work in the community.

**Meeting Closed: 9.01pm**

**ACTION SUMMARY**

| <b>Undertaken By</b> | <b>Detail</b> | <b>When For</b> |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                      |               |                 |
|                      |               |                 |

**Councillor MD Lloyd**  
**CHAIRMAN**