



## ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Present:** Cllr MH Williamson (Chairman), Cllrs JD Bergin, MJ Connor, N Schofield, F Keegan  
MW Maczkowiak, S Joseph and DG Herald.

**In attendance:** 2 representatives from the press  
Approx. 30 members of the public  
Hall Manager, PCSO  
Clerk: A Ross

**Meeting**

**Commenced:** 7:55pm

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr MD Lloyd

**2. To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.**

None.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013.**

Approval was proposed by Councillor F Keegan, seconded by Councillor MJ Connor and carried.

**4. Matters Arising.**

None

**5. Update from Hall Management working party.**

Cllr Connor reported that the Festival Hall takings up to 05/03/13 were £53,270.06 and it is hoped this will be increased to £56,745.06 up to the end of March. Based on that figure the takings would be up on the same time last year by 29.5%. There has also been £23,000 raised for charitable causes through events held at the hall.

Although these figures are encouraging, it was noted that there will be a difficult period ahead due to the medical centre development and this will have an adverse affect on bookings. Cllr Connor reported that as the hall was transferred in disrepair there a number of structural problems that need to be fixed including damp, roof repair and the boiler. She requested that the council have a meeting soon to discuss the cost of the repairs and the new entrance. Cllr Keegan replied that the Parish Council was given a dowry because the fabric of the hall was poor.

Cllr Williamson thanked the Hall Manager for doing a good job.

**6. Motion on Future Use of Allotments.**

Cllr Williamson read out the motion.

‘That Alderley Edge Parish Council, having legally assumed Allotment Leases from Cheshire East, resolves:

- To operate Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane as Allotment sites
- That priority for Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane could be restricted to Council Taxpayers of Alderley Edge Parish Precept

- That Tenancies could be restricted to one per registered address
- That the Parish Council seeks approval from DCLG to convert Heyes Lane Allotment site into a suitably treated car park for the benefit of the Medical Centre, the Festival Hall and the parking situation generally’.

Approval was proposed by Councillor DG Herald and seconded by Councillor JD Bergin.

Cllr Keegan proposed an amendment to the motion and this was seconded by Cllr Bergin.

The amendment was as follows; the first sentence will now read:

‘The Alderley Edge Parish Council, when the legal process for the allotment transfer is complete, resolves:’

The Parish Council voted in favour of this amendment.

The motion was then opened for debate. Cllrs Joseph and Herald argued that the motion ‘that tenancies be restricted to one per registered address’ be changed to ‘that tenancies be restricted to one per registered person’

After discussion a vote was taken and that amendment was defeated by 4 votes to 2.

A vote was taken on ‘Motion on Future Use of Allotments’ as amended.

**That Alderley Edge Parish Council, when the legal process for the allotment transfer is complete, resolves:**

- **To operate Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane as Allotment sites**
- **That priority for Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane could be restricted to Council Taxpayers of Alderley Edge Parish Precept**
- **That Tenancies could be restricted to one per registered address**
- **That the Parish Council seeks approval from DCLG to convert Heyes Lane Allotment site into a suitably treated car park for the benefit of the Medical Centre, the Festival Hall and the parking situation generally.**

The motion was carried, 5 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

## **7. Motion on Mitigating Actions.**

Cllr Williamson read out the motion.

‘That Alderley Edge Parish Council recognises that the return of Allotments to Management by the Parish Council for the benefit of all Council Taxpayers may cause frustrations to existing tenants, who could now be treated differently, and resolves:

- To enter into discussions with Alderley Edge School for Girls, who own the site at Lydiat Lane, with a view to establishing a new Allotment site at Lydiat Lane, if there is ANY unsatisfied demand from either existing tenants or waiting list applicants
- To honour the current season Tenancies until the end of September 2013, subject to payment of pro-rata fees to the Parish Council
- To give publicity to the Parish Council position which is that, if a new Allotment site at Lydiat Lane could be established, then existing Tenants at Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane could remain exactly as they are at the present time.’

Approval was proposed by Councillor JD Bergin and seconded by Councillor N Schofield.

Cllr Keegan proposed an amendment to the motion and this was seconded by Cllr Bergin.

The first amendment was as follows; the word ‘statutory’ be inserted and the sentence will now read:

‘To enter into discussions with Alderley Edge School for Girls, who own the site at Lydiat Lane, with a view to establishing a new statutory Allotment site at Lydiat Lane, if there is ANY unsatisfied demand from either existing tenants or waiting list applicants’

The second amendment was as follows; the word ‘Tenants’ be replaced by ‘Tenancies’ and the sentence will now read:

‘To give publicity to the Parish Council position which is that, if a new Allotment site at Lydiat Lane could be established, then existing Tenancies at Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane could remain exactly as they are at the present time’

The Parish Council voted in favour of these amendments.

The motion was then opened for debate. Cllr Maczkowiak asked for clarification on the use of the word ‘statutory’. It was explained that this generally means an allotment site is given greater protection by the allotment act instead of just by planning law.

A vote was taken on ‘Motion on Mitigating Actions’ as amended.

**That Alderley Edge Parish Council recognises that the return of Allotments to Management by the Parish Council for the benefit of all Council Taxpayers may cause frustrations to existing tenants, who could now be treated differently, and resolves:**

- **To enter into discussions with Alderley Edge School for Girls, who own the site at Lydiat Lane, with a view to establishing a new statutory Allotment site at Lydiat Lane, if there is ANY unsatisfied demand from either existing tenants or waiting list applicants**
- **To honour the current season Tenancies until the end of September 2013, subject to payment of pro-rata fees to the Parish Council**
- **To give publicity to the Parish Council position which is that, if a new Allotment site at Lydiat Lane could be established, then existing Tenancies at Beech Close and Chorley Hall Lane could remain exactly as they are at the present time.**

The motion was carried, 7 votes in favour.

#### **8. Motion on Outcome of Letters to existing Tenants and those on the Waiting List.**

Cllr Williamson read out the motion.

‘That the Parish Council, having asked Tenants and Waiting List to declare a wish to continue as Either a Tenant or a Waiting List Applicant, resolves:

- Establish new lists of Tenants and Waiting List
- Confirm the cut-off date for responses from Tenants/Waiting List as 18 March 2013.
- Establish a list of those who have responded by the advertised cut-off time.
- Establish lists of those who respond after the deadline with a view to inviting such late respondents to a Suitability Interview at a future date.

Approval was proposed by Councillor JD Bergin and seconded by Councillor MJ Connor.

Cllr Keegan proposed an amendment to the motion and this was seconded by Cllr Bergin.

The amendment was as follows; the sentence will now read:

‘Confirm the final date for responses to AEPC from Tenants/Waiting List to be noon 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.’  
‘Establish a list of those who have responded by the final date of noon 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.’

The Parish Council voted in favour of this amendment.

The motion was then opened for debate. Cllr Joseph proposed an amendment. That the sentence now read: ‘Establish lists of those who respond after the deadline with a view to inviting such late respondents to join the waiting list.’

The Parish Council voted in favour of this amendment.

A vote was taken on ‘Motion on Outcome of Letters to existing Tenants and those on the Waiting List’ as amended.

**That the Parish Council, having asked Tenants and Waiting List to declare a wish to continue as Either a Tenant or a Waiting List Applicant, resolves:**

- **Establish new lists of Tenants and Waiting List**
- **Confirm the final date for responses to AEPC from Tenants/Waiting List as noon 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.**

- Establish a list of those who have responded by the final date of noon 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- Establish lists of those who respond after the deadline with a view to inviting such late respondents to join the waiting list.

The motion was carried, 7 votes in favour.

## 9. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr Herald reported on the tree felling in the park carried out by Network Rail. A new fence is now in place and Network Rail has agreed to return and mend damage to the area.

Cllr Joseph reported on improvements to the cemetery. They are still waiting on some painting and general maintenance to be done. Cllr Connor is still looking into ideas for the Lodge.

Cllr Maczkowiak reported on a meeting she had with the police regarding parking. As a result the police organised a campaign against illegal parking on Friday and Saturday evening. She wanted to thank all involved for recognising there was a problem and dealing with it. Cllr Williamson asked her to write to Sgt Miller and thank him. During discussions with restaurants and taxi drivers it was acknowledged that there is a need for more parking and a taxi rank in the village. The PCSO would like there to be some consultation between interested parties to progress the issue of a taxi rank.

Cllr Bergin reported that the traffic lights outside Alderley Edge School for Girls are out of action and there is real danger of an accident occurring. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department asking for them to be fixed as soon as possible. He also reported on visibility problems being caused by a double-decker bus parked at Highams. Cllr Connor agreed to speak to the owner.

Cllr Keegan had a meeting with Peter Hartwell about parking issues in the village and highlighted all the lines, road markings, signs, etc that need done. Peter Hartwell will liaise with Paul Burns about the issues raised and report back to the Parish Council with a list of proposals.

Cllr Connor asked about Woodbrook Road, Cllr Keegan has asked an enforcement officer to look into it over a possible breach of planning law. Cllr Williamson will also ask the Edge Association to look into it.

Cllr Maczkowiak asked how Cheshire East prioritises spending on roads and why Prestbury village has been resurfaced when there are more urgent repairs required elsewhere. Nobody could answer this.

Cllr Keegan raised the issue of fighting for the income raised from Penalty Charge Notices. He is still looking into it.

**Meeting Closed:** 8.58pm

## ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
Clerk	Contact highways re traffic lights outside AESG	As soon as possible
Cllr Connor	Speak to owner of double-decker bus and ask for it to be moved	As soon as possible
Cllr Williamson	Ask Edge Association to look into Woodbrook Rd	As soon as possible

**Councillor MH Williamson**  
**CHAIRMAN**