



ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2015

Present: Cllr G Hall (Chairman), Cllrs C Browne, M Dudley-Jones, M Garbett, R Grantham, I Higham
And C Munro
Clerk: A Ross
Hall Manager
4 members of the public
1 member of the press

Meeting

Commenced: 7:37pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr R Norbury and M Taylorson.

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 12th October 2015.

Approval proposed by Councillor C Browne, seconded by Councillor I Higham and carried.

4. Update from the Festival Hall/Medical Centre sub-committee.

Cllr Hall read a summary report (attached). He also confirmed that the December meeting would be back in the hall. Cllr Browne asked about a formal opening on Thursday at 4pm when the hall is officially handed over. It was agreed that something should be done and the previous Parish Council would be invited.

5. Update on Youth Parish Council.

Cllr Grantham had nothing further to report.

6. Update on Parking.

Cllr Dudley Jones read a summary report as follows:

Alderley Edge village has grown over the past 20 years with a sizeable influx of business, leisure and residential activity. This continues to affect the infrastructure which has not kept pace with this development. We are a vibrant day/night economy and growth in this sector will place further strain on our resources; the imminent opening of Picollino and Yu Restaurants will increase the pressure on parking as an example. Similarly, new business developments such as Horseshoe Farm have only been granted 50% of their requested Parking allocation by CE planning perhaps adding another 30-50 business cars. Our Parking Survey in July 2015 identified some 184 cars parked in the Village during the week day. This increased by a further 53 'school' related parkers (teaching and other staff) during term time (review October 2015) making a 'snapshot' total of 237.

As a Parish Council we have made parking a priority since the elections in May 2015. To ensure that solutions are effective and sensible we quickly identified the need for close working relationships with Cheshire East Council and together with them we have identified 3 sites that could provide a sizeable contribution for the complex needs of our Village.

South Street Car Park – There will be a regime change removing all day parking for £2.90. We are asking for additional amendments to a Cheshire East Council wide change to parking times seeking a 3 hour maximum with no return within 2 hours. This will be a huge improvement for retail shoppers and those meeting friends in restaurants and bars. Some 30 spaces will become available.

He also confirmed that a fuller statement would be made in the next newsletter scheduled for December and the next public meeting scheduled for early next year. He acknowledged the need to continue a dialogue with CEC and that progress is slow. He believes it will likely take 5 years to solve the problems.

Cllr Munro asked about annual parking permits for South St car park and Cllr Dudley-Jones confirmed that there would continue to be 4 places of this nature available.

7. Update on Parks, Open Spaces and Allotments.

Cllr Browne reported that re-surfacing work on a section of Eaton Drive will take place between Friday 13th and 16th November. He also reported that a new memorial garden has been created in Alderley Edge cemetery and will be formally opened on Friday 13th November and that his next ward councillor surgery will be on Friday 27th November at Aldeli at 10am.

Cllr Munro reported that there is a Tesco community grant of up to £12000 available which could be used in the park. She has been trying to liaise with CEC about an upgrade to the bowling green and will follow this up. Table tennis tables are another option and she asked for costings as the deadline is 30th November. It was also reported that the new secretary of AETAG suggested entering Alderley Edge into the Britain in Bloom competition and would like to raise sponsorship and give a presentation to the Parish Council at some point.

8. Update on Police Liaison and PCSO's funding arrangements.

Cllr Munro reported that she had attended the meeting regarding PCSO's throughout Cheshire. There are 141 wards in East Cheshire and each of the wards will have at least 1 PCSO. Cheshire East employ 220 PCSO's and throughout East Cheshire there are 8 police units. Of the 220 PCSO's only 47 are council funded. As far as she could tell from the conversations that took place there is no difference in the level of service received whether you funded the PCSO or not and all other councils seemed happy with the service and felt the PCSO's were very pro-active within the community. Cllr Garbett confirmed that he had raised this matter in a previous meeting and asked about the implications of the council withdrawing its funding. There was a suggestion that if councils did this then there would be a shortfall in the budget leading to a reduction in PCSO's overall.

It was confirmed that the current PCSO is still on sick leave and Cllr Browne stated that he is disappointed with the level of service Alderley Edge is receiving. Cllr Garbett added that there was cover in place but it was not dedicated and there needs to be a review about what happens with long term sickness.

Cllr Munro confirmed that even though the PCSO's are qualified and will be attending the Christmas event, they are not allowed to help with the traffic management, therefore the council will have to pay a traffic management company to do it.

9. Update on Communications.

Cllr Browne reported that he and Cllr Grantham had had a meeting with an editor to discuss the newsletter, they are hoping it will be ready before Christmas. The original budget figure may need to be revised for the next financial year and he suggested this is discussed over the coming months. It was confirmed the newsletter will contain a date for a public meeting in the new year.

10. Update on Village Signs.

Cllr Munro reported that she has met with some graphic designers to look at design ideas for the signs. She will get costings and put a proposal to the Parish Council for consideration.

11. Update on Christmas lights switch on.

Cllr Munro confirmed AETAG have requested that the Parish Council pay for the road closure at a cost of £439.50. The Clerk confirmed that money had been put in the budget to cover this and all were agreed the Parish Council would pay. The event is on 19th November with the market starting at 5pm and the event starting at 6pm.

12. Discuss paying a contribution towards the Music Festival's additional costs (payments to be made against receipts evidencing the expenditure).

Cllr Hall proposed the Parish Council pay the costs associated with booking alternative venues, subject to receiving the receipts evidencing that expenditure, which would amount to a sum of £904.

All were in agreement.

13. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr Munro gave an update on the neighbourhood plan. She has a meeting planned with the neighbourhood planning manager for Cheshire East. Cllr Hall requested that the neighbourhood plan is added to future agendas as one of the agenda items.

Meeting Closed: 8.17pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For

Councillor G Hall
CHAIRMAN