



ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Held on Monday 8th October 2018

Present: Cllr R Grantham (Chairman), Cllrs C Browne, G Hall, M Dudley-Jones, M Garbett, C Munro, M Taylorson.
Clerk: A Ross
Assistant Hall Manager
Public 0

Meeting

Commenced: 7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllr I Higham, R Norbury.

2. To receive 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. Public Participation – A period of not more than twenty minutes will be made available for the public to ask questions or submit comments.

None

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 10th September 2018.

Approval proposed by Councillor R Grantham seconded by Councillor C Browne and carried.

5. To ratify the Plans Committee minutes of 10th September 2018.

Approval proposed by Councillor M Garbett seconded by Councillor R Grantham and carried.

6. To receive a report from the Clerk.

Noted. The Parish Council has sent a number of letters to residents/businesses requesting any overgrown hedgerows/trees be cut back. Cllr Browne agreed he would ask CEC to follow up on any that have still not been done.

7. To receive an update on the Festival Hall.

Cllr Hall welcomed the new Assistant Hall Manager to the meeting and reported the new kitchen is in place.

Cllr Grantham raised the possibility of the end office being moved into what is known as the Regal Room and asked councillors to read the proposal that had been previously emailed to everyone.

Cllr Garbett asked for clarification regarding the costs and there was a discussion about the rationale for the move.

Cllr Grantham reported that herself and Cllr Hall are still meeting with the Hall Manager every Monday and believe the meetings are going well.

8. To approve accounts for payment.

All councillors were agreed this item be deferred to the Finance meeting.

9. To discuss the issues raised by the internal auditor with the proposed follow up action.

The issue raised were discussed:

All councillors were agreed that the issues raised had been addressed and that quarterly review of the cash flow forecast ensures the council are satisfied they have adequate reserves.

Approval proposed by Councillor R Grantham seconded by Councillor G Hall and carried to accept the internal auditors report.

10. To approve the signed annual return from the external auditors. No issues arising.

Approval proposed by Councillor R Grantham seconded by Councillor G Hall and carried.

11. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr Hall reported he had attended the Town & Parish Council conference on 26th September and gave a summary of the meeting:

‘There were some useful presentations by other town and parish councils: Crewe reported on its various community activities; Rainow reported on its community bus scheme (I have passed information on to Cllr Dudley-Jones); and Alsager reported on efforts to make their town a dementia-friendly community. I have contacted Rev Robin Pye to see if there are any ways in which we can build on the work that St Philips is already doing in this area, perhaps drawing in the business community. Please let me know if you are interested to be involved.

There were also presentations by the Leader of Cheshire East, Rachel Bailey and the Acting Chief Executive. These were frankly much less enlightening. Their first slide had five bullet points starting with ‘Brighter Future Together – Culture Programme’, which in spite of the rosy title, was actually about efforts using outside consultants to tackle the Council’s culture of bullying. It went on to cover Disciplinary Matters and Police Investigations. Delegates were assured that the estimated £800,000 costs for this had not come out of frontline services.

Challenged to explain how this was possible, they stated that it had come from General Reserves. This is nonsense. It is like claiming that your holiday cost you nothing because you paid for it out of your savings. In a later presentation the director of finance noted that Cheshire East spends £2m per day and has just £10m in its General reserves, ie only enough to cover 5 days Council spending.

After covering Police Investigations the final bullet point on the introductory slide read: ‘Lots to celebrate!’

Cllr Dudley-Jones reported he is having problems arranging delivery of the October Parish newsletter as he has been told the leaflet team may not be able to deliver until 22nd October. After discussion it was agreed he would tell the leaflet team that date is unacceptable and if they can’t do it earlier the Parish Council would deliver the leaflets themselves.

Cllr Grantham reported that she has been in discussion with traders in the village regarding the Christmas lights switch on. She has written to the organiser requesting some changes and discussions are ongoing.

Cllr Browne reported he has prepared a draft of the official Parish Council response to the SADP consultation and will forward it to the Clerk. He also has a draft statement regarding the David Wilson Homes leaflet that he will put on his blog.

500 plants are being delivered to the park on Tuesday 9th October ready for planting.

He gave a brief statement about the Independents campaign to bring about a change in the system of governance at CEC. He emphasized that it is not a political campaign and is about making CEC more open, transparent and democratic.

His next surgery is on Saturday 27th October in the library at 10am.

Meeting Closed: 8.15pm

ACTION SUMMARY

| Undertaken By | Detail | When For |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | |

Councillor R Grantham

CHAIRMAN