

# ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 11th April 2011

**Present:** Cllr M H Williamson (Chairman), Cllrs N Schofield, A Jones, D G Herald

**In attendance:** 2 representatives from the press (alderleyedge.com and The Wilmslow Express)  
3 members of the public (including PCSO and Mrs S Joseph (parish councillor from 9/5))  
(During the meeting other members of the public arrived for the Plans Committee meeting)

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs Y Wrinch, P P Tomlinson, F Keegan, M W Maczkowiak, M D Lloyd and C Andrew (Cheshire East).

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2011

Approval was proposed by Councillor D G Herald, seconded by Councillor A Jones and carried.

### 3. Matters Arising

None.

### 4. Traffic Matters

#### a) Street Parking Review

Councillor M H Williamson reported that a meeting had been held with members of public from certain streets in the village on 4/4 to identify their concerns regarding parking. It had been an interesting meeting and very worthwhile. There were several matters discussed which can be moved forward.

Andy Miller is the new sergeant in charge of Jim Newns (our PCSO) and both, along with Inspector Welsted are to meet Councillor M H Williamson on 18/4 to discuss enforcement, street markings and signage. The sergeant had attended the public meeting and was therefore already aware of the residents' concerns.

Additionally, Councillor M H Williamson is to speak to Paul Burns regarding the parking review, as in its current form it is not going to be of use to the village. The scope needs to be widened and a full public consultation is required (similar to Wilmslow a few years ago). The chairman would also like Mr Burns to meet with the Parish Council to discuss parking matters sometime after 18/4. A further meeting with Andy Buckley is also planned to discuss further the "post by-pass" traffic measures for the village.

Councillor F Keegan had asked that a statement regarding parking be circulated at the meeting – copy retained with the minutes. Councillor M H Williamson read out the majority of the content and advised the press that he would obtain confirmation from Councillor F Keegan as to whether it was for formal release to them.

There was an inference that parking should be considered when licensed premises apply for their licences, but Councillor D G Herald suggested that it was difficult to say "No" to applicants without evidence and that would only manifest itself once the premises were open. There was a further plea that the public report instances of parking problems so that a log could be maintained.

Councillor M H Williamson continued by indicating that local businesses were to be contacted to discuss their parking needs. Councillor N Schofield added that details such as spaces needed, number of visitors, staff requirements, etc should be sought.

Councillor D G Herald indicated that residents of Lydiat Lane had spoken to an "officer" (presumed to be from Cheshire East) who had suggested that some form of residents' scheme could be possible for that road. However, the councillors still felt that all the residents needed to be involved and a public consultation was required.

At the public meeting, attendees had been asked to advise their concerns to the clerk.

b) Swiss Hill

Councillor M H Williamson explained that a resident of Swiss Hill had forwarded a Safety Case and Recommendations Paper regarding the problems encountered in the that road. It had been circulated electronically to the councillors before the meeting.

There was a discussion as to whether Swiss Hill is an unadopted road or private road.

There needs to access for emergency services, so the Parish Council was not certain what could be done to alleviate the problems being experienced and outlined in the paper. Councillor M H Williamson was to include the topic in the forthcoming discussions with the Highways Department and advise the submitter (Ian DGLISH) of the outcome.

Councillor N Schofield mentioned signage approaching the village – a topic previously raised. He is discussing this further with Cllr W Fitzgerald at Cheshire East and he hopes Andy Buckley will become involved to resolve the matter.

## 5. Non-Traffic Matters

a) Festival Hall

At the last meeting it had been agreed that Councillor P P Tomlinson would be asked for an update. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend this meeting, but sent a written report to the chairman.

Councillor M H Williamson paraphrased the details as follows:

- the Quantity Surveyor/Preferred Builders process is now dead/lapsed
- the process needs closing out
- the doctors only have funding equal to the current rent to spend which is less than was originally available
- the need for BREEAM excellence is questionable
- PFI scheme is unlikely to move forward
- awaiting the Cheshire East elections outcome in May following which prudential borrowing may be possible.

Councillor M H Williamson stated that in effect the re-development was “in limbo”. He regrets that the PCT constantly undermined the Parish Council as they never seemed to support the project. The Government’s reform of the Health Service is also not fully known, so the way forward at present is somewhat uncertain.

Regarding the masts; the telephone companies continue to upgrade the equipment in situ. At some future point the masts and base equipment may need to be moved either elsewhere on the site or off-site if the telephone companies can find suitable locations. However, the current site gives good signals and the companies are likely to want to stay if at all possible.

## 6. Policing

Jim Newns (PCSO) reported that currently incidences of anti social behaviour were low, but the improving weather and lighter nights might now cause this to change. Parking continues to be a problem, school drop-offs, etc. He is trying to educate the offenders.

There was an aggravated burglary on Macclesfield Road, which was quite serious. Fortunately, these incidences are rare in the village, but nonetheless disconcerting for the victims.

The PCSO has been undertaking general foot patrols and is starting to get information from people now that he is getting to know them.

The local vagrant has not been causing problems of late, although he had been moved on from the library. He is keeping a low profile, knowing that the police are looking out for him.

Councillor A Jones asked about law and order in connection with drivers going the wrong way down one way streets – Clifton Street being specifically cited. Councillor M H Williamson advised that this will be raised with Paul Burns and there was also concern raised that the CCTV may not be monitored constantly – hence offenders would not necessarily be spotted.

Councillor N Schofield raised the problem of builders’ vehicles being parked on the road around a given site causing blockages. The PCSO tries to ascertain the Site Manager’s contact details in such cases and then liaises with that person to alleviate problems.

Finally, Councillor D G Herald indicated that there continued to be evidence of drinking in the park – cans, bottles, etc not put in the bins (which after a sunny weekend tend to be full anyway). The PCSO was aware.

**7. Licensing**

Nothing to report.

**8. Communications**

It was agreed that when the List of Councillors is re-issued for the new Civic Year in May it is to include e-mail addresses.

**9. Reports from Councillors**

Councillor A Jones mentioned that, disappointingly, there was no progress regarding the repair of potholes or updating of signage around the village.

**ACTION SUMMARY**

<b>Undertaken By</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>When For</b>
MHW	Meet with police	18/4
MHW	Contact Paul Burns re ongoing parking review/arrange meeting	By month end
FK	To confirm if Parking Statement is for release to the press	As soon as practicable
Councillors	To contact local businesses re parking needs	To be determined
MHW	Contact Mr Daghish re Swiss Hill	As soon as practicable
Councillors/Clerk	Undertake whatever is necessary regarding Festival Hall contracts	As soon as possible
Clerk	Include e-mail addresses in new List of Councillors	After 9/5

**Councillor M H Williamson**  
**CHAIRMAN**