

# ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 7th February 2011

**Present:** Cllr M D Lloyd (Chairman), Cllrs P P Tomlinson, F Keegan, M W Maczkowiak  
N Schofield, A Jones, D G Herald

**In attendance:** 2 representatives from the press (alderleyedge.com and The Wilmslow Express)  
2 members of the public

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs Y Wrinch and M H Williamson.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2011

Approval proposed by Councillor P P Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor F Keegan and carried.

### 3. Matters Arising

None.

### 4. Traffic Matters

#### a) Street Parking Review

A letter received from Heather Wienholt, carried over from the Parish Council meeting, was read out by the Chairman. Councillor M W Maczkowiak picked up on the content and indicated that the traders felt that the parking situation was serious in the village and the review couldn't come quick enough.

However, it is the whole situation for the village that must be looked at – not isolated areas which, if resolved, might cause problems elsewhere.

Following the last meeting, Paul Burns had been contacted and invited to attend this evening, but he was unavailable. No further dates have, as yet, been provided – the clerk was asked to chase.

Councillor N Schofield would like to know what the residents/traders think before investigating "solutions". It was felt that most problems would need to be resolved using Traffic Orders with funding coming from parking ticket income and Section 106 monies.

It was also stated that traffic management issues should be included in the review thus forming a complete package of measures.

Councillor F Keegan suggested that councillors should "walk the village" before any meeting to understand what might be possible. However, Councillor A Jones explained that both he and Councillor M H Williamson had done that last autumn and he had summarised the parking situation across the village. He was awaiting input from the other councillors, but apart from Councillor P P Tomlinson's response, he had received nothing. He re-iterated that if feedback/thoughts were forthcoming he would summarise them into one document.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak wanted to ensure that Parish Plan Group representatives had chance to provide input and Councillor P P Tomlinson felt that any changes should be driven by the experts. However, the councillors needed to be sure that they had facts upon which to base those changes.

Moving on to other matters, Councillor A Jones reported that a sign outside Tesco's had been covered by a black plastic bag – did anyone know why..? Cheshire East Council to be contacted to see if they are aware and to establish when the proposed Traffic Order for the change in that area is to be confirmed.

Councillor N Schofield asked about the 20mph/30mph speed signs which Councillor M H Williamson was to investigate. As Councillor M H Williamson was not present this was left for further discussion at the next meeting.

He continued in respect of by-pass signage which Peter Morbey from Cheshire East Council had confirmed was now correctly in place showing the main routes around the village rather than through it. However, Councillor N Schofield disagreed and indicated that he would be contacting Peter giving examples where signage had not been updated – approaching Chelford from Holmes Chapel being cited.

The third item he reported was the apparently poor road surface along Macclesfield Road, towards The Wizard. He admitted that this was outside Alderley Edge, but nonetheless remained concerned and asked that the Highways Department be requested to inspect it to see if repairs were necessary.

Councillor P P Tomlinson reported that several signs on the streets off London Road needed cleaning – the clerk is to ask the Lengthsman to attend to it.

## **5. Non-Traffic Matters**

### a) Festival Hall

The meeting for councillors alluded to at the last Parish Council meeting had not yet been held, so there was nothing further to report at present.

Councillor F Keegan mentioned a road sign on the approach to The Parade. He felt that it was too low and therefore dangerous to pedestrians. The Lengthsman is to try to protect the offending edges of the sign pending Highways raising it to a more suitable height. Councillor A Jones advised that if time permits he will tour the village and photograph the problems identified.

## **6. Policing**

Councillor M W Maczkowiak explained that she still intends writing to Inspector Matt Welsted as advised at the last meeting.

She is concerned by the cuts likely to affect Cheshire Police and the impact these will have on the PCSO. No definite affects are yet known, but the councillors wouldn't wish to see the PCSO used elsewhere to cover for staff lost in the cuts. The situation is to be monitored.

## **7. Licensing**

Nothing to report.

However, it was noted that the clerk had not received any complaints regarding licensed premises.

## **8. Communications**

Nothing to report.

## **9. Reports from Councillors**

Councillor M W Maczkowiak advised that the Youth Club proposals had stalled at present as it had become clear that the Royal Oak (and therefore the room made available for the club) was closing. She is investigating other premises – possibly the Methodist Church. There are still 6 volunteers ready to run the club once they have had the required checks.

Councillor A Jones raised the issue of the Post Office and its likely closure. Various parties had come forward to take over the Postmaster role, but all had dropped out when it became clear that solely operating as a Post Office is not viable. He asked if the Parish Council should correspond with the Post Office to see how it views the situation. The Co-operative Store might be interested in taking it within the store. However, Councillor F Keegan thought that a meeting with Bluemantle was needed – clerk to contact. Councillor D G Herald suggested that a trader might be prepared to take the facility into their premises in the hope of increased footfall for their own business – this might be another option to consider.

Councillor D G Herald continued in respect of the park railings. These have now been repaired following what appeared to be a car accident. He wondered if Cheshire East could claim on the car owners insurance – the problem is no-one seems to know the details of the car/owner.

He went on to mention the Friends of the Park who have arranged for the hand-rail on the stairs to the park from London Road to be power washed. When the weather is clement the rail will be stained/varnished for protection. He also mentioned play equipment for the park which he understands is on order and should be installed soon.

Finally, Councillor N Schofield mentioned that he is meeting some people on Monday regarding the use of hired buses and that the newly formed Local Enterprise Board has a good representation of Cheshire East personnel.

#### **ACTION SUMMARY**

<b>Undertaken By</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>When For</b>
Clerk	Contact Paul Burns for new dates re parking review pre-meeting	8/2
All Councillors	Provide thoughts to AJ re parking for summation into one document	As soon as possible
Clerk	Contact CEC regarding site outside Tesco's	10/2
NS	To contact Peter Morbey re by-pass signage	As soon as possible
Clerk	Contact Highways re state of road by The Wizard	10/2
Clerk	Ask Lengthsman to clean signs in village/protect dangerous sign	When next in
Clerk	Contact Post Office for its thoughts on local outlet	As soon as practicable
Clerk	Contact Bluemantle to arrange meeting to discuss Post Office	10/2

**Councillor M D Lloyd**  
**CHAIRMAN**