

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 10th January 2011

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

In attendance: 1 representative from the press (alderleyedge.com);
5 members of the public and the PCSO (all left after point 4)

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs A Jones, Y Wrinch and C Andrew (Cheshire East).

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2010

Approval proposed by Councillor M W Maczkowiak, seconded by Councillor D G Herald and carried.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Traffic Matters

a) Street Parking Review

Following the last meeting an e-mail had been sent to Peter Hartwell which had been responded to by Paul Burns. Councillor M H Williamson paraphrased the reply to inform both the councillors and the attending public of the situation and way forward.

There was concern regarding the apparent 2 parts to the review work and Phil Sherratt is to be contacted for clarification. Meanwhile, the offer of a pre-meeting (before the review commences) given by Paul Burns is to be taken up.

Many of the issues seen by the PCSO are parking violations.

A member of the public queried the current position:

- there are business/trader issues which appear to have been provided to Cheshire East
- the residents have issues which have not yet been submitted to Cheshire East.

Accordingly, should the local residents with issues be submitting them to Cheshire East now..?

Councillor P P Tomlinson clarified that the traders had provided details of their concerns, but no consultation was currently in train. The reply from Cheshire East alluded to above was merely confirming that some information was already to hand from the traders. The review would be seeking information from all interested parties.

The residents have 2 objectives:

- reflect the Parish Plan findings
- ensure that the proper legal route to achieve the desired outcomes is followed.

It was felt that the residents need direct consultation with CEC, rather than voicing their concerns at a public meeting, to get their points noted.

The Parish Council remains concerned that changes in one or two areas of the village may affect other parts detrimentally, hence an overall view is needed.

One of the residents quoted a recent situation in Wilmslow and the steps taken to resolve it.

The residents are trying to remove the blight of holiday/commuter parking all day/week. Councillor P P Tomlinson felt that the residents' plans should be presented to Mr Burns. A debate followed.

To summarise, Councillor M H Williamson re-iterated that no specific scheme could be backed – it the “global” view of the village that is needed before any actions can be recommended.

5. Non-Traffic Matters

a) Festival Hall

Councillor P P Tomlinson advised that as the GPs' budget has been capped and funding from Cheshire East remained uncertain, the current plan for the Hall didn't work. He advised that before the next Parish Council meeting, the councillors would be invited to attend a closed discussion/presentation of a new plan for the site. This is to include both the PCT's and Parish Council's aspirations, but would be funded differently to the current proposal.

Councillor M H Williamson thanked Councillor P P Tomlinson for his continued efforts to secure a viable proposal to redevelop the Hall.

Continuing, Councillor P P Tomlinson explained that he would need the services of a Quantity Surveyor for 2 days (costing several hundred pounds) and there will also be a need to obtain a “Best Value” report in due course which will also incur a cost (as yet unknown).

The councillors agreed that he may proceed on this basis.

6. Policing

The PCSO gave his report at the start of the meeting as he had to leave early, but it is recorded here.

Various issues were ongoing as follows:

- Parking – there are constant challenges, the biggest of which is the schools traffic in Lynton Lane. The parents dropping off/picking up children are very unhelpful and whilst saying all the right words these do not translate into actions. Accordingly, they continue to park as near to the school as possible causing mayhem at the peak times. All the local schools are causing problems and he feels he is continually “putting out fires”. The root problem needs to be addressed. The attitude of parents is poor; feeling that they have some right to cause chaos rather than park away from the school and walk. The schools have been sending letters home, but to no/little avail. He is keen for the schools to establish their own solutions e.g. it may be possible to use land behind Ryleys School for parking/drop off. Councillor F Keegan indicated that this was set aside for sports facilities, but he couldn't see why it might be used in this way. However, access would be necessary, at a cost. The PCSO continued by explaining that the village is very developed with little scope for dropping off near to the schools without causing the difficulties seen. He would like to meet with Paul Burns from Cheshire East to discuss the problems. Councillor M H Williamson agreed to set up a meeting where parish councillors would also attend to discuss the matter.
- Youth – The PCSO confirmed that this is to go ahead – hopefully by the Spring. The Royal Oak is to provide a room and 6 volunteers have stepped forward so far to help run the Youth Club. A few more are required. He would also like to involve the Parish Plan Group and intends to set up a Youth Committee to apply for funding. The Parish Council has agreed a sum of £2,000 in next year's budget to get the club started.
- Pub Watch – He is trying to set up this scheme for the village and has arranged a meeting with the local pub/bar owners this week to try to move it forward.
- Tramp – A former resident of the village has returned to the streets. The PCSO has spent some time with him trying to see how his future can be sorted out. Apparently, he is willing to seek intervention and the PCSO is hoping that this will solve the matter.
- No Drinking Zone – He is keen to establish a zone possibly for the park and surrounding area. There is one in Poynton and it was suggested that someone from that council be approached to explain how it was set up and subsequently administered.
- Probation Service – He explained that various characters are being provided to serve their community service around the village – particularly tidying up and clearing leaves/weeds, etc.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak thanked the PCSO for his update and went on to indicate that she thought he was an asset to the village.

There had been some national press coverage recently suggesting that funding for PCSOs might be cut and she wondered if the councillors felt that the full cost of the PCSO could be covered by the Parish Council if the police's 50% funding was removed. The councillors felt that the current 3 year arrangement (2 years left) would continue and a decision would need to be taken thereafter.

7. Licensing

Nothing to report.

8. Communications

Councillor M D Lloyd asked when the traffic questionnaire would be ready to re-issue as the next newsletter was to be distributed at the same time. Councillor N Schofield agreed to contact Cheshire East to see what stage the work has now reached and if the formulation of the questionnaire needs any changes/amendments before it is re-printed.

9. Reports from Councillors

Councillor N Schofield asked about the various speed limit signs in the village and the changes proposed post by-pass. He thought that a recommended 20mph area was to be established and also the 30mph limit was to be extended to the Harden Park roundabout. Councillor M H Williamson agreed to contact Phil Sherratt to find out when the signs are to be changed.

Moving round the table; Councillor M W Maczkowiak advised that Christine Munro was organising a public meeting for Wednesday 12/1 to discuss proposals for a May Fete/Parade on 21/5. Apparently, the schools and churches are eager to take part and Mrs Munro has arranged meetings with CEC regarding the use of the park and the police in respect of road closures to accommodate a parade. All available councillors were urged to attend. Mrs Munro has so far amassed £3,000 towards funding the event and Councillor M W Maczkowiak was concerned that CEC would be charging for the use of the park – although this had not yet been confirmed.

She went on to discuss parking in both bus stops at the south end of London Road the previous Saturday evening. She had observed the arrival of two buses where passengers alighting from the vehicles had not been able to move straight on to the pavements owing to the cars blocking the area supposedly reserved for the buses. The offending cars should be ticketed and if found to be owned by diners in any of the local restaurants which are paying the tickets, then the licences for those establishments should be reviewed. The PCSO has been advised and perhaps towing the vehicles away might be another option to consider. She is to write to Inspector Welstead regarding the matter.

Councillor M D Lloyd reported that residents in Clifton Street are suffering from the disturbances created by the very early collection of trade waste. It was suggested that the Environmental Health department at CEC be advised of dates, times and details of the contractor so that the matter can be investigated. He also mentioned the railings between the park and London Road (beyond the railway bridge) where it appeared that a vehicle had run into the railings causing substantial damage. He was interested to know who would be arranging for repair. Councillor D G Herald advised that he had contacted Roy Lowndes at CEC for clarification.

Councillor D G Herald mentioned Section 106 monies and the sum of £38,000 set aside for the park. He believed around £25,000 of this sum was left and wants it used in the park. He is meeting a play equipment officer on 19/1 to understand what might be achievable. He feels there is little for the age group 8-13 to do in the park; noting that a recent assault course installation at The Carrs in Wilmslow might be worth investigating further. He wondered if the Section 106 monies could be released by CEC leaving the Parish Council to administer it.

Councillor F Keegan asked about the bench formally along the path towards The Parade shops. Bluemantle had been contacted, but had not yet responded – a chaser e-mail is to be sent.

Finally, Councillor M H Williamson reported on two matters:

- he is attending a presentation on the CAA use of airspace on Friday 14/1 at the airport. However, he felt it unlikely that there would be any effect on the village
- a request had been received to contribute funding towards a bench to commemorate the recent untimely death of 2 students at Bramall High School following a motoring accident and to site the bench on The Edge. A response had been sent advising that the Parish Council's funds were not obtained from the residents to be used in this way and permission to place a bench on The Edge would be needed from The National Trust as owners.

ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
Clerk/MHW	Contact Paul Burns to arrange pre-meeting before Parking Review starts	By 21/1
All councillors	Attend presentation regarding possible way forward for Festival Hall	Before 7/2
MHW	Set up meeting with Paul Burns/PCSO re traffic in village/by schools	As soon as practicable
NS	Establish situation/actions needed regarding the traffic questionnaire	End January
MHW	Contact Phil Sherratt re speed limit signage	As soon as possible
All councillors	Attend public meeting re proposed Parade/Fete on 21/5	Meeting 12/1
MWM	Write to Inspector Welstead re parking at marked bus stops	As soon as possible
Clerk	Send further message to Bluemantle re the missing bench	By 17/1

Councillor M H Williamson
CHAIRMAN