

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 9th May 2011

Present: Cllr M H Williamson (Chairman), Cllrs N Schofield, D G Herald, F Keegan
M W Maczkowiak, M J Connor, J D Bergin

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs S Joseph and M D Lloyd.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2011

Approval was proposed by Councillor D G Herald, seconded by Councillor F Keegan and carried.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Traffic Matters

a) Street Parking Review

Following the meeting with residents regarding parking, Councillor M H Williamson had indicated that submissions should be sent to the clerk by the end of April so that concerns could be taken to the next meeting with Cheshire East Council. A small number of e-mails had been received which the Chairman will respond to over the coming days. A further meeting with Cheshire East Council is hopefully to be arranged for next week.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak raised concerns regarding the one way streets in the village, particularly Clifton Street and Stevens Street. Several instances of vehicles travelling the wrong way have been noted. Councillor F Keegan had seen a taxi exiting from Brown Street incorrectly. The instances of such behaviour are increasing and causing problems both for other drivers and unwary pedestrians. Signage needs to be improved with signs properly lit and possibly road markings to confirm the one way traffic.

Councillor M H Williamson is to arrange a meeting with Andy Buckley to discuss traffic matters and parking for 17/5 at 6.00pm. He also hopes to invite Paul Burns. Within the discussions a decision on whether to re-run the junction questionnaire needs to be made. Concerns remain that the original survey did not reach all villagers and therefore the responses do not fully reflect the opinions of the residents. Apparently, Phil Sherratt has funds to spend on roads locally, but proposals are needed sooner rather than later in case the funds are channelled elsewhere.

Councillor F Keegan mentioned that Brown Street is the only one without dropped kerbs for pedestrians – this needs attention.

5. Non-Traffic Matters

a) Festival Hall

Councillor M H Williamson is to send an e-mail to all councillors regarding a separate meeting to discuss the future of the Hall – i.e. where does the proposed redevelopment go next. Councillor M W Maczkowiak felt that the doctors should be involved and Councillor N Schofield suggested that they should perhaps provide a 10/15 minute presentation as to how they saw the future for a medical service in the village. The councillors could then discuss how that meshed with the Hall and its future use.

The councillors agreed that it would be courteous to advise the local chemists/pharmacy of the meeting, but not include them at this stage.

6. Policing

Councillor M W Maczkowiak reported that there were issues in the park now that the lighter nights and fine weather had arrived. The youths had been gathering at Beech Road and staying after dark causing problems and lots of noise. Currently there are no bye-laws regarding trespass after dark so the police cannot move them on.

The PCSO feels that it is the only a small group of 3/4 people causing the problems.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak and Councillor D G Herald are to look into the possibility of introducing appropriate bye-laws.

7. Licensing

Nothing to report.

8. Communications

Nothing to report.

9. Reports from Councillors

Councillor N Schofield mentioned the removal of the trees along Macclesfield Road and the apparent new entry being created at the site. The trees were supposedly rotten, but should have been replaced. This now appears not to be happening as workmen have appeared and a substantial area of walling has been dismantled.

He went on to mention litter and particularly that left following a cardboard/paper collection. He thought the problem wasn't helped by the type of lorry used for the collection and perhaps this should be pointed out to Cheshire East Council.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak talked about Yell.com which appears to be holding data sold by Cheshire East Council. There was concern that residents who had opted out of any scheme to release this information had nonetheless had their details passed on. It was decided that this was a Cheshire East Council issue and concerned residents should contact the council direct. Should it become apparent that many of the residents are affected then the Parish Council would contact Cheshire East Council for an explanation.

Moving around the table, Councillor M J Connor commented on the lack of cleanliness around the village. She felt that the 5th wealthiest village in the country was being poorly represented – didn't anyone care anymore..? Action was needed and she suggested the possibility of re-establishing the Village Enhancement Committee or something similar. Weeds around the village were mentioned, as was a sighting of a council employee spraying the same in a different part of the village. It was thought that this task may be one of those devolved in due course.

Councillor D G Herald reported that people were now noticing the visible improvements in the park, but he was dismayed by the continued use of portable BBQs on the grass which leave scorch marks. A suggestion to have permanent BBQs built was aired, but this gained little support once it was advised that those seen at other venues around Cheshire were not clean and rusted easily.

Councillor J D Bergin echoed Councillor M W Maczkowiak's sentiments regarding the youth problems and went on to mention the speed of traffic going over the railway bridge when entering the village. The by-pass, having taken traffic away, now seems to have encouraged the traffic that's left passing through the village to do so at much higher speeds. Traffic lights are not supported, but a solution must be found to slow the vehicles down.

Finally, the chairman reported that a specific employee at Cheshire East has now been tasked with summarising the Section 106 arrangements including where the money for each has been spent (or confirming that it is still held). Councillor N Schofield asked if there was a reason for this work and other councillors were concerned that as the information already existed, was it money being wasted. Councillor M H Williamson will liaise with the person to obtain details relevant to Alderley Edge.

He then moved on to Christmas Lights. These are being replaced with new bulbs, etc and the quote is for £18,100. The sum of £21,000 is in the budget which comprises £2,000 expected costs for running the lights and £19,000 set aside for the refurbishment. Accordingly, the work is covered by the sum already agreed.

However, further work has been quoted to put lights into 2 new trees at a cost of around £6,000. Clearly some of this is covered (£900) by the difference between the quote above and the budget, but further donations or confirmation of the extra spend by the Parish Council will be needed to progress this further work.

ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
MHW	Arrange meeting with Andy Buckley	17/5
Clerk	Contact CEC re Brown Street dropped kerbs	As soon as practicable
MHW	Arrange meeting with councillors re Festival Hall future	End of May
MWM/DGH	Investigate bye-laws for the park	End of June
Clerk	Contact CEC regarding paper collection lorries	16/5
MHW	Track progress re Section 106 summary and money	End of June
MHW	Progress Xmas Lights upgrade/replacement with Paul Tomlinson	End of May

Councillor M H Williamson
CHAIRMAN