

# ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 5th September 2011

**Present:** Cllr F Keegan (Chairman), Cllrs M J Connor, M W Maczkowiak, N Schofield, S Joseph

**In attendance:** 1 representative from the press (Wilmslow Express)  
2 members of the public

### Meeting

**Commenced:** 7:59pm

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs J D Bergin, M D Lloyd, D G Herald and M H Williamson.

#### 2. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

None.

#### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2011

Approval was proposed by Councillor M W Maczkowiak, seconded by Councillor M J Connor and carried.

#### 4. Matters Arising

None.

#### 5. May Fair in Alderley Edge

Mrs Munro was invited to speak. She explained that she had received a letter from the Chairman congratulating her and her helpers for the excellent event held in May, but disconcertingly, then went on to ask about finances in relation to the event.

Part of the text of the letter was read out:

*“There is considerable interest in the financing of the event and how any shortfall might be met, or any surplus used. Was the event self-financing.? Are there monies remaining which the committee will use towards another Fair.? Does the committee have any intention of publishing accounts related to the May Fair.? The Parish Council feels such a move would be beneficial and would help to secure a future for such an event here in Alderley Edge.”*

No funding had been provided by the Parish Council towards the Fair, so she was at a loss as to why it should now take such an interest in the financial aspects. The Fair made some money which is to be used towards a similar event in 2012 – however, the details are for the organisers to be aware of; not the Parish Council.

Meetings for the 2012 event are scheduled to start next week and, of course, if the Parish Council wishes to provide some funding it will be welcome as would attendance by some councillors at the organising meetings.

However, she was disappointed by the wording of the letter which perhaps implied that she had organised the event for personal gain – which is totally incorrect. She offered to answer any questions on the event and went on to explain that for 2012 she was investigating making a charge for entry. This was not technically possible owing to the event being in a public park, but it might be possible to “sell” a raffle ticket to gain

entry. There would then be some raffle prizes, but overall a substantial sum would be raised which would help the event to become self-financing. The site would need to be secure to ensure only certain entry points, so this is still being investigated.

Councillor F Keegan understood Mrs Munro's concern, but explained that for the Millennium event accounts and figures had been provided to the Parish Council. However, Councillor M J Connor pointed out that this was a totally different scenario as the Millennium event had been part funded and organised to some extent by the Parish Council and so it was expected that the financial aspects of the event would be fully known to the councillors. This was not the case for the May Fair and hence why should the Parish Council have access to the details..? Mrs Munro agreed to provide further information after the meeting.

Mrs Munro reiterated that the first meeting for ideas was to be next week and encouraged attendance. She explained that she had applied to the Manchester Airport Community Fund and The Alderley Edge Institute Trust for funding for gazebos to be used at the next event and possibly for a further event on the second Sunday of December. This would need London Road to be closed, but so far this was proving difficult as Cheshire East Council had indicated that it would cost £2,500 to close it. Further investigation is needed.

Councillor F Keegan thanked Mrs Munro for attending and providing the various details/information. He explained that the Parish Council was supportive of her efforts and would assist where it could to help her stage the events proposed.

## **6. Communications – update on website**

No update available as Councillor M D Lloyd and Councillor J D Bergin were not present – carried forward to the next meeting.

## **7. Reports from Councillors**

Councillor N Schofield asked when Cheshire East Council are to remove the “cages” along Wilmslow Road which are displaying the 30mph signs. They are aware of the need to take them away, but have not done so as yet. Flashing lights have also to be installed around the new 20mph signs outside the schools. He also mentioned the van which had been parked outside the new sweet shop on the pavement at the weekend. It was presumed that this was only for the opening and would not be regularly parked there.

Moving to Councillor M J Connor, she spoke on behalf of Cllrs D G Herald, S Joseph and herself in respect of the park. The three councillors had undertaken a walkabout, summarised their findings and circulated to councillors for views (the clerk also requested a copy). The recent visit by an outside company to indicate what could be considered in that area was all very well, but it needed time and consultation to move forward. The councillors were looking for more immediate actions that could be implemented to generally improve the area.

The War Memorial needs attention, the paving surrounding it needs re-laying, the actual monument needs power washing and the whole area needs a general weed and tidy up. Who is responsible for it..? The railings along the edge of the park need to be extended around into Ryleys Lane and the hedge removed or at least tidying up professionally – not just “hacked”.

Councillor F Keegan mentioned that he and Councillor M H Williamson had met with Ben Hamilton-Baillie (who had been involved in the Poynton Shared Space Project and others) to see if he had any thoughts about Alderley Edge village. He is returning in November – Councillor M W Maczkowiak clarified at no cost; confirmed by Councillor F Keegan....

...but this was just further delays in Councillor M J Connor's eyes and she and the other councillors wanted to see some action.

Councillor M J Connor agreed to return to the October meeting with a plan of action and likely costs.

The next councillor to report was Councillor M W Maczkowiak who started by referring to complaints from residents on Chorley Hall Lane who are finding it hard to exit the road onto Congleton Road/London Road owing to parked cars along Congleton Road by the De Trafford Arms. The PCSO has been asked to investigate. There are issues around the village with parked cars; some partially on the pavements, others just parked in inappropriate places. The PCSO is to be asked to arrange “blitzes” with the police actually ticketing the offenders. An associated problem is the builders vans/cars which are now being parked fully on the verges along Macclesfield Road – good to get them off the road; bad that in poor weather the verges will be ruined.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak moved on to the cemetery – which is in a poor and disgraceful state. She recently visited and was disgusted by the situation, especially the older graves which possibly have no surviving family members to complain. There are many gravestones lying on the ground which need attention. The whole site is an embarrassment and the Parish Council is to write to Cheshire East Council, firstly to establish the staffing arrangements for the site and then what actions can be undertaken to improve the area.

The topic of the recent correspondence between Mrs Munro (who was still present) and the Lord of Alderley was raised. Councillor M W Maczkowiak is concerned that Mrs Munro appears to be bearing the brunt of this person’s attack on her well established market whilst apparently ignoring other market organisers in the locality. The market originated some years ago and was held at Matthews Garden Centre (part of the Astra Zeneca site). When the centre was closed (the land being re-claimed by Astra Zeneca for its own use), the market was re-located to the Festival Hall. Both sites were used with the full permission and knowledge of Macclesfield Borough Council.

The Lord of Alderley has asked Mrs Munro for information to which it is believed he is not entitled and after some discussion, Councillor F Keegan suggested that it is for the Lord of Alderley to provide proof of his entitlement both to financial information relating to the market and possible share of any profits.

It was agreed that the market could be held as it was 6 and 2 thirds miles from the centre of Macclesfield. Additionally, the Manorial Society had been contacted and the view provided by it was that there are General Rights and Special Rights attached to various titles. The allowance of markets fell under a Special Right, but it is not clear, without specific proof, as to what the Lord of Alderley actually bought when he purchased the title – this needs to be clarified and the view of the council is that the onus of proof lies with the Lord.

If he can prove his right, then it is for Cheshire East Council (as successor to Macclesfield Borough Council) to explain why it allowed the market to be held. Additionally, if proof can be provided, any judge is likely to ask why such proof was not provided some years ago when the title was first purchased – why now..?

The overall view was that Mrs Munro had nothing to lose by waiting for the Lord to exhibit proof of his entitlement and whilst the councillors thought that he would not progress further, they agreed that if he did, Mrs Munro would have the Parish Council’s full support.

Finally, Councillor F Keegan mentioned banners which are tied to the railings along London Road towards and opposite Heyes Lane. These should be removed; only those for charities, schools or promoting village events – e.g. the Music Festival or the Horticultural Show – were allowed.

**Meeting Closed:** 9.17pm

**ACTION SUMMARY**

<b>Undertaken By</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>When For</b>
Mrs Munro	Provide financial details/accounts in respect of May Fair	As soon as practicable
MHW	Nominate cllrs to take actions to secure road closure for Christmas event	As soon as possible
MWM	Write to Cheshire East Council regarding the cemetery	End of September

**Councillor F Keegan**  
**CHAIRMAN**