

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th September 2011

Present: Cllr F Keegan (Chairman), Cllrs M W Maczkowiak, M J Connor, S Joseph, N Schofield (from point 9)

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

Meeting

Commenced: 7:30pm

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 Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2011.

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

4. Matters Arising.

None.

5. To ratify the General Purposes Committee minutes of 18th July 2011.

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

6. To ratify the Plans Committee minutes of 18th July, 25th July and 9th August 2011.

18/7 Approval proposed by Councillor F Keegan, seconded by Councillor M W Maczkowiak and carried.

25/7 Approval proposed by Councillor F Keegan, seconded by Councillor M W Maczkowiak and carried.

9/8 Approval proposed by Councillor F Keegan, seconded by Councillor M W Maczkowiak and carried.

7. Civic Service.

This item was carried forward from the last meeting so that councillors could decide whether to rotate the venue for the Civic Service or hold each one at St Philip's and St James' Church.

The councillors present unanimously supported leaving the service at the one venue. The clergy will be advised and further contact will be made early in the New Year regarding the 2012 service.

8. To receive the Auditor's Report on the accounts for year ended 31st March 2011.

Copies of the Annual Return including the reports from the external auditor and internal auditor were circulated prior to the meeting.

A clean report from the Audit Commission (external auditor) was noted.

There was one issue raised by the internal auditor in respect of the Fidelity Insurance. This is currently at £65,000, but it is suggested that it be increased owing to the higher balances held by the Parish Council at the year end which are further inflated by the payment of one half of the following year's precept in April.

Following a discussion and explanation by Councillor F Keegan that in his view as:

1. there were sufficient checks already in place and
2. all cheques are signed by 2 councillors

there was no need to increase the cover further (which would attract further expense by increased premiums).

Those councillors present and others who had expressed a view before the meeting, agreed and so Councillor F Keegan proposed, Councillor M J Connor seconded and it was carried that the cover be retained at its present figure.

The clerk confirmed that the statutory notice and copy of the Annual Return (sections 1-3) had been placed on the noticeboard from 21/7 until 25/8 with no queries having been raised.

9. Decisions made by the Parish Council.

Councillor M J Connor explained why she had requested that this item be placed on the agenda.

She cited the recent residents parking situation and the issue of various letters by Cheshire East Council to residents. These letters were supposed to be agreed by the Parish Council (Councillor M J Connor believing this to mean all the councillors), but only certain councillors had seen the drafts to be able to comment.

Councillor M J Connor's concern was that all councillors needed to be aware of all matters so that when meeting residents they knew what they were talking about.

There were also specific queries as to why certain letters had been delivered to certain streets with no obvious clarity to the process and in some cases certain residents receiving the same letter which they had already received some weeks earlier.

Discussions which have a knock-on effect in the village must be communicated to the whole council so that everyone knows what's happening.

Councillor M W Maczkowiak added that she is regularly contacted by residents and if you are not aware of the situation being discussed the council can appear disorganised and unprofessional. It can also be embarrassing for the individual councillor who might be expected to know what is going on, but has not been kept informed.

Councillor S Joseph also voiced her concerns, being new to the council, as she too felt isolated if not kept fully informed on all matters.

Returning to the residents parking situation, Councillor F Keegan advised that a public meeting being organised by Cheshire East Council had been "penciled in" for 18/10 to be held at the Cricket Club, although there was concern that the venue may not be able to accommodate the likely numbers wishing to attend. He indicated that no decision on any proposed scheme would be made until after that meeting.

10. Notices and Correspondence.

- a) Cheshire Playing Fields Association: Request for annual subscription and *The Playing Field* newsletter dated Summer 2011 – noted, held in the office for reference
- b) Action for Market Towns: Letter regarding the National Convention – Living Localism and Delivering Enterprise to be held in Ludlow on 13/10 - noted
- c) Cheshire Community Action: Request for membership payment – noted
- d) Cheshire Police Authority: Summary of recent Police Question Time events and questionnaire – taken by Councillor M W Maczkowiak for review and response as necessary. Councillor F Keegan thought that the police were trying to communicate more with the public
- e) Cheshire East Council: Invitation to the Chairman and guest to attend the Mayor's Civic Service to be held on 16/10 in Poynton starting at 11.00am followed by refreshments in Poynton Civic Hall – noted, to be circulated to the councillors to see if anyone is available to attend
- f) CVS Cheshire East: *Connects* – The CVS Cheshire East Newsletter dated September 2011 and *Funding News* September 2011 – Councillor M J Connor will review electronic copy circulated a few days ago
- g) Hidden Treasure in Cheshire East: Letter and Findings regarding the Go Project – uncovering the breadth and depth of work undertaken by members of our faith communities for the benefit and well-being of our area – taken by Councillor M J Connor to peruse

Meeting Closed: 7:58pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
Clerk	Advise clergy of decision regarding the Civic Service	End of September
Clerk	Circulate invitation to Mayor's Civic Service	6/9

Councillor F Keegan
CHAIRMAN