



ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th September 2023

Present: Cllr V Fogharty (Chairman), A Bates, L Booth, C Browne, K Hulme, S Raja.
Clerk, Assistant Clerk

Public 1

Meeting Commenced: 8.26pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs B Chapman, M Garbett, R Grantham.

2. To receive Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary interest (DPI).

None.

3. Public Participation – A period of not more than ten minutes will be made available for the public to ask questions or submit comments.

None.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th August 2023.

Approval proposed by Councillor C Browne seconded by Councillor A Bates and carried.

5. To ratify the Plans Committee meeting of 14th August 2023.

Approval proposed by Councillor C Browne seconded by Councillor A Bates and carried.

6. To receive an update on the Festival Hall.

Cllr Hulme gave an overview of the Festival Hall report. There was a discussion around the fact the bar income was down, it's hoped this will improve in the next three months. The report was noted.

7. To review the PCSO and CCTV reports.

No reports were received this month.

8. To approve accounts for payment in total amount of £26,014.21

Approval proposed by Councillor K Hulme seconded by Councillor A Bates and carried.

9. To consider any grant applications received.

None

10. To agree a new budget line for ‘warm space sessions’ at the Festival Hall in the initial amount of £50, to be increased as and when needed.

It was suggested the budget be increased to £100

Approval proposed by Councillor C Browne seconded by Councillor S Raja and carried.

11. To agree to increase the ‘Floral Displays budget line to accommodate sponsorship of a wild flower or herb garden within the village.

It was agreed to defer this item until more information is available regarding Cheshire East’s plans around green space maintenance.

12. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr Browne gave a report – Appendix 1 attached

Cllr Hulme raised the issue of gardeners dumping remains and feels the green bin subscription service will exacerbate this.

Cllr Bates reported on behalf of Cllr Chapman – they have been meeting with others to discuss the warm space initiative. They had a Christmas event meeting; minutes have been circulated. Next meeting is 9th October.

Cllr Raja is continuing to work on getting the Youth PC up and running and will request a budget line at the next formal meeting. She is also working on a food waste initiative. She suggested a regular article in the newsletter around such things as make your own compost, etc.

Cllr Fogharty requested the Parish Council write to The Botanist about their outdoor seating area encroaching too far onto the pavement. Cllr Browne feels there are a few businesses on London Road that need to be reminded of this, he will follow up with CEC highways. Cllr Fogharty will write to CEC about Dizzy Dough not having a premises licence. He requested the lengthsman collect a discarded A-Board from West St. He has prepared a sponsorship poster for the Christmas event.

Meeting Closed: 9:19pm

Action Summary

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
Clerk/ Cllr CB	Follow up re businesses on London Road	As soon as practical
Clerk/lengthsman	Collect A board on West St	As soon as possible

Councillor V Fogharty
CHAIRMAN

Appendix 1

Ward Member's Update to Alderley Edge Parish Council

Consultation on reviewing the council's car park charging strategy will commence on Wednesday 20th September, for a period of six weeks.

Cheshire East Council has only reviewed its charging strategy once since it was formed in 2009 and the review is driven by a wish to a fairer charging regime across the borough.

Key elements of the consultation relating to Alderley Edge will include the introduction of a charging regime on Ryleys Lane Car Park, with a handful of short-stay bays introduced.

Proposed charges at South Street Car Park will increase from 50p to 80p for the first hour and from £2.20 to £2.70 for four hours.

The council is also launching a new green waste subscription service from 1st January 2024 and residents will be able to sign up to this from 1st October.

It is necessary partly because the current contract for managing our household waste recycling centres is up for re-tender before the end of the financial year.

Partly because inflation has added 10% (or £35m) to the costs of delivering council services, but a 4.99% Council Tax increase only raises £13m, so there is a £22m funding gap.

And partly because the demand for high level SEND (which is a statutory service) has increased by 62%, with the gap between what the government pays us and what the service costs us to deliver extending to £48m this year.

Naturally therefore, the council is also looking to reduce costs and in line with this there will be a green spaces report coming to Environment & Communities Committee on 28th Sept.

Of local interest, Cheshire East Council are proposing to discontinue maintenance of the island at the junction of Macclesfield Road, Congleton Road and London Road.

As a Parish Council, we will need to decide how we wish to respond to the consultation and whether we wish to adopt or otherwise fund maintenance of the island from 1st April.

For clarification, the green space at the back of the bowling hut on Redesmere Drive is not included in the proposals and I have followed up why this has not been maintained.

A number of residents have contacted me as they believe they are in possession of evidence following the attack on Heyes Lane on Saturday evening. I have directed them to our PCSO, who has now made contact with those residents.

I've also been made aware of a Road Traffic Accident that occurred on the southbound approach to The Merlin on Sunday afternoon. As a result, I've been contacted by a resident who some councillors will remember from the Annual Parish Meeting, once again asking that the speed limit and signage on Wilmslow Road are improved. I will need to wait for the formal incident report to be shared with me by Highways Officers, before deciding how to respond. It would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage until after the formal incident report has established causality.

Finally, a reminder that a consultation on proposed changes to extend the council's FlexiLink service is still live until 30th September and I would encourage all councillors to submit a response in support of the proposals, as well as a formal response from the Parish Council.