ALDERLEY EDGE
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on Monday 11th August 2025

Present: Cllr A Bates (Chairman), Cllrs P Bell, L Booth, C Browne, B Chapman, V Fogharty, M Garbett & R Howes

Clerk: A Ross, Assistant Clerk: C Tout
Public: 3

Meeting Commenced: 7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

None

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).

Cllrs B Chapman and R Howes declared an interest in item 10 and left the room during the discussion and vote.

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

None.

4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th July 2025.**

Approval proposed by Councillor V Fogharty seconded by Councillor B Chapman and carried.

5. To ratify the Plans Committee minutes of 14th July 2025.

Approval proposed by Councillor B Chapman seconded by Councillor P Bell and carried.

6. To ratify the Finance Committee minutes of 14th July 2025.

Approval proposed by Councillor M Garbett seconded by Councillor R Howes and carried.

7. To receive an update on the Festival Hall

Cllr B Chapman gave an update and the report was noted.

8. To review the PCSO and CCTV reports.

No CCTV report received. Cllr Fogharty summarised the PCSO report.

9. To approve accounts for payment in total £89,710.53.

Approval proposed by Councillor M Garbett seconded by Councillor R Howes and carried.

10. To consider and vote on the applicants for co-option.

Cllr A Bates explained the process, there were four applications received and these were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

After discussion a vote was taken. It was proposed that Patricia Edwards be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Approval proposed by Councillor C Browne seconded by Councillor V Fogharty and carried.

11. To consider any grant applications received.

None.

12. To discuss the issues raised by the internal auditor with the proposed follow up action.

Fidelity cover not high enough & cash balances higher than projected – the fidelity cover has been increased to £750k and balances should reduce this year with increased spending and reduced precept. The Clerk was asked to look into increasing the fidelity cover to £1million.

The Risk Assessment was not carried out in 2034/25 – the Risk Assessment was done in April 25 and an updated version will be put on the September agenda for approval.

General Reserves much higher than recommended in the current PC Reserves Policy – Clerk/Cllr M Garbett to update the reserves policy. The updated policy will be brought back to full council for review.

The website should comply with the publication requirements of the Local Authority Transparency Code 2015 - the website has been updated.

Approval proposed by Councillor M Garbett seconded by Councillor V Fogharty and carried.

13. To approve the signed annual return from the external auditors and discuss matters arising with the proposed follow up actions.

There were no matters arising other than those raised in the internal audit.

Approval proposed by Councillor M Garbett seconded by Councillor V Fogharty and carried.

14. To consider increasing the Christmas lights switch on event budget to £10,000.

Cllr V Fogharty explained the rationale behind the request. He is looking for sponsorship so hopes it won't be needed but would like to have it as a contingency.

Approval proposed by Councillor V Fogharty seconded by Councillor P Bell and carried.

15. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr A Bates reported that she and Cllr R Howes are looking into having a community champions awards service and are exploring ways to engage residents. She is attending a ribbon cutting service for Cancer Research and will be meeting the new minister of the Methodist Church. She thinks the planters look great and has requested to meet with Great Grounds to agree the winter planting scheme.

Cllr L Booth had a meeting about the proposed library agreement with Cheshire East. The legal team at Cheshire East will look at the proposed changes.

Cllr P Bell gave an update on her Youth Engagement work and raised the issue of empty units on London Road and the business newsletter.

Cllr B Chapman gave an update on preparations for the Village Show and Front Garden competition. She reminded Cllr Browne about emailing the library volunteers regarding training.

Cllr M Garbett reported that a tree surgeon is coming out to assess the poplar tree on Heyes Lane allotment.

Cllr V Fogharty gave an update on the empty units on London Road.

Cllr Browne gave an update on the local highways works taking place and reported he has asked the PCSO to target bad parking in the village.

Meeting Closed: 8.29pm

PART 11

Meeting Commenced: 8.30pm

16. To discuss and agree actions relating to Medical Centre tenants.

The issues and actions were discussed and agreed.

17. To consider the 3 quotes received to replace the ballroom floor and appoint a contractor.

The quotes were discussed and a contractor was chosen.

Meeting Closed: 8:35pm

Action Summary

Undertaken By	**Detail**	**When for**
Clerk	Increases fidelity cover	As soon as possible
Clerk/MG	Update reserves policy & write investment strategy	September/October meeting

Councillor A Bates
CHAIRMAN