

# ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Present:** M H Williamson (Chairman ), Cllr F Keegan , Cllrs M J Connor, M W Maczkowiak, S Joseph, MD Lloyd, N Schofield, DG Herald, JD Bergin

**In attendance:** 2 representative from the press  
2 members of the public

### Meeting

**Commenced:** 7:49pm

#### 1. Apologies for Absence.

None

#### 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 9th December 2011.

Approval was proposed by Councillor MW Maczkowiak , seconded by Councillor F Keegan and carried.

#### 4. Matters Arising

Cllr Williamson confirmed that he had contacted Streetscene with regard to the painting in the park. The people involved were aware of the problem and will address this later in the year. He will ask for confirmation that Cheshire East will carry out any further work.

A meeting was arranged with Mrs Munro. Cllr Williamson will draw up an agenda.

Cllr Williamson will use a letter from M. Scaife as the basis of a letter to Erica Wenzel highlighting the Parish Council's disappointment that Cheshire East did not tidy up the War Memorial as agreed. He will also include an email from the person responsible for the work.

A discussion followed about the cost of repairs to both the War Memorial and the Cemetery and who is responsible for these.

Cllr Keegan has contacted the Community Garden Centre about the possibility of them doing the tubs and hanging baskets for the village. The Parish Council will consider dates for a meeting.

The Parish Council want to meet with a representative from Cheshire East to discuss the costs of the Northern Gateway project as they do not accept the figures they have been given.

The new Police Inspector has been sent an invitation to attend a Parish Council meeting. There has been no response as yet.

There was a discussion about the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There are currently 32 active schemes in the area. Cllr Williamson has requested street names so he can identify any areas which are not covered. He will check that the PCSO knows about the schemes and establish whether he has any more information to add.

Cllr Williamson looked into the issue of banners in the village . He was directed to a website which stated that banners on railings technically need planning permission, however the local authority can give permission to charities or local non-commercial groups. There was no specific mention of safety issues.

The Clerk will draft a letter which can be put in the place of any removed banners, stating why the banner has been removed and that planning permission should be sought. Cllr Maczkowiak will be the lead on this and will advise charities and local groups to talk to the Parish Council before they erect any banners as there are size as well as time limits to consider.

Cllr Williamson asked who was available to attend a meeting with Ben Hamilton-Baillie on the 25th January at 6.30pm to discuss work on London Road and the traffic management scheme.

Cllr Joseph will attend the next LAP meeting at Wilmslow High School on 29<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr Williamson is attending a Patient Participation Group session.

There will be a public consultation regarding plans for the new medical centre on 26<sup>th</sup> January from 4-7pm in the Festival Hall which is open to everyone. The Doctors, PCT and Emerson will be in attendance. Cllr Williamson asked for other councillors to attend also.

## **5. Town Centre Management and Diane Smith**

Cllr Williamson has had no response to a second email to Cheshire East in which he expressed his concerns about the proposals for town and parish councils to buy back this service, which will cost in the region of £13,000 to £14,000 for one day a week. He feels this will cause a conflict of interest. The Parish Council wish to support Diane Smith and will approach neighbouring Town and Parish Councils to establish a joint position.

A discussion followed about the squashing of local services for the sake of the central budget. The Parish Council will challenge the failures of Cheshire East and what they consider to be double taxation. Cllr Williamson will draft an email to Cheshire East about this.

## **6. Diamond Jubilee**

Cllr Connor is meeting with Highways and the police about shutting London Road. The Parish Council would like the whole village to get involved and there are plans for a street party and other activities. Cllr Connor was asked to find out the position of the beacons.

There was a discussion about the possibility of commissioning a piece of art. Cllr Williamson requested that other councillors investigate this further, including the views of the village and fundraising.

There was a request for alderleyedge.com to ask readers for ideas.

## **7. Reports from Councillors.**

Cllr Herald requested immediate action on the suggested improvements to the park following a report he and fellow councillors produced. A discussion followed about costs and whether or not they could force Cheshire East to pay for it. The Parish Council believes that Cheshire East have the responsibility to do the work from the existing budget as they still own the park and the Parish Council should demand this is fixed before they take ownership. Therefore, it was agreed that the Parish Council will request that CEC removes the old railings from around the park and replaces them with new railings, installs a new gate where there is currently a gap in the hedge on Ryleys Lane, opposite the War Memorial, and tidies up the vegetation along London Road.

Cllr Connor reported that the Nurse Maud Hatton Memorial bench needs to be repaired. The Parish council agreed to get a local joiner to do the work.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Dog Warden to request an update on the matter of dog fouling and invite him to come and walk the village with some of the Councillors. Some Councillors feel there is a need for the warden to start issuing fines as there seems to be no improvement in the situation.

The Clerk will report the blocked drain on the junction of Windemere Drive and Chorley Hall Lane to Highways. The blockage is causing heavy flooding.

Cllr Maczkowiak reported on a problem at Wood Gardens. Cheshire Peaks and Plains are responsible for housing on Elmfield Road and have installed lighting which a resident on Wood Gardens has complained about. Environmental Health have stated that the lights are within legal requirements but Cllr Maczkowiak is frustrated that Cheshire Peaks and Plains are refusing to engage in discussion and she has had no success in three months of negotiation. It was agreed that Cllr Williamson will speak to Environmental Health and ask them to justify their position as it is felt that the lighting is an infringement on the resident in question.

Cllr Bergin reported that not all Alderley Edge residents received the information leaflet for the refuse collections over the Christmas and New Year period.

Cllr Bergin reported suspected burglars off Davey Lane. He reported it to Cheshire Police and was impressed with the response time. Cllr Williamson urged all Councillors to read the PCSO's report. There will be increased patrolling in the village due to the increased risk of burglary.

**Meeting Closed:** 9.11pm

**ACTION SUMMARY**

<b>Undertaken By</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>When For</b>
Cllr Williamson	Draw up agenda for meeting with Mrs Munro	As soon as possible
Cllr Williamson	Contact Cheshire East about War Memorial	As soon as practical
Cllr Keegan	Contact Community Garden Centre o arrange a meeting	As soon as practical
Clerk	Draft letter to replace any banners	As soon as possible
Cllr Williamson	Send email to Cheshire East about double taxation	As soon as practical
Cllr Connor	Establish position of Beacons for Jubilee	As soon as practical
Cllr Williamson	Contact Cheshire East about work to the park	As soon as practical
Cllr Williamson	Arrange repairs to Nurse Hatton bench	As soon as practical
Clerk	Contact Dog Warden	As soon as possible
Clerk	Report blocked drain to Highways	As soon as possible
Cllr Williamson	Contact Envoronmental Health about Wood Gardens	As soon as practical

**Councillor M Williamson**  
**CHAIRMAN**