

ALDERLEY EDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 11th June 2012

Present: M Williamson (Chairman), JD Bergin, MD Lloyd, F Keegan, DG Herald, S Joseph

In attendance: 2 representatives from the press
3 members of the public, Hall Manager, PCSO

Meeting

Commenced: 7:47pm

1. Apologies for Absence.

Cllrs MJ Connor, N Schofield and MW Maczkowiak

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 14th May 2012.

Approval was proposed by Councillor S Joseph, seconded by Councillor F Keegan and carried.

4. Matters Arising.

Cllr Williamson reported on the Speed Networking event that he and Cllr Maczkowiak attended. He thought it was well organised and they managed to raise a number of issues including:-

The cemetery – He met with the officer responsible and he has offered to come and meet the Parish Council to discuss a way forward.

The War Memorial – Cheshire East are preparing a report to set out policy regarding the maintenance of memorials. The Parish Council are awaiting a report from the Cheshire East engineer who will visit the site to establish its condition. There is still a question mark over ownership of the memorial.

Highways – He discussed road markings and residents parking issues. Enforcement officers are taking action against restaurants that have extended their seating out onto the pavement. Unless they own part of the cartilage as in the case of the Bubble Room they are not entitled to impinge onto the pavement area.

Cllr Keegan gave an update on the result of the meeting with Cheshire East and Highways regarding the proposed closure of the by-pass. After much discussion it was conceded that due to health and safety issues it is not possible to use cradles and the by-pass will have to be closed. The Parish Council will be lent a number of Speed Indicator Devices to help monitor traffic and indicator boards highlighting when the by-pass is closed will be used to help minimise disruption. Cllr Joseph raised the issue of continuing roadworks on Congleton Road which may cause additional problems if the work is not completed before the by-pass closure. Cllr Williamson agreed to highlight this to Highways. It was confirmed that statutory authorities do not pay compensation.

5. Refurbishment of the Hall.

There was only one response from interested parties to a request from the Parish Council regarding the refurbishment. A discussion followed about raising awareness, as the original request may not have been advertised well enough. Other parties expressed an interest but declined to put their names forward and Cllr Williamson will contact them for feedback. A discussion followed about the way forward as councillors feel they need a clear vision of what they would like to achieve and how much money they are willing to spend. It was agreed that the Parish Council would approach some architects.

6. Updates on Wilmslow Town Plans and their possible impact on Alderley Edge.

Cllr Joseph raised the point of being more aware of this and establishing how it may affect Alderley Edge and its residents. It was agreed that there was a need to guard against the clear spaces between Alderley Edge and Wilmslow being impinged upon. Cllr Williamson has looked at the information on consultation and policies on the Cheshire East website and will circulate the link to other councillors. A discussion followed about housing need and the consultation that is taking place.

7. Reports from Councillors.

Cllr Joseph gave an update on the possibility of hiring an apprentice to work in the Festival Hall. Any offer would be for a minimum of 30 hours a week which would include a day or half-day at college and the position is for a minimum of twelve months. There is a grant of £1500 available towards the cost of employment. There was a discussion about the best way to recruit and she will update further at a later date. Cllr Herald has received estimates to have the embankment land tidied up. He requested that Cllr Williamson look at them and makes a decision. There was a suggestion that community volunteers could be used but it was agreed that this was impractical as the area is badly overgrown.

Cllrs Herald, Connor, Joseph and Maczkowiak had a look round the cemetery and compiled a list of faults. Cllr Williamson asked him to put this in a report and he will give it to the Cheshire East officer. He will also contact the local LAP manager and ask if they will adopt the cemetery as one of their projects.

Cllr Herald has rewritten the standing orders and these will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Bergin reported on a seminar he attended which predicts a third of retail will disappear from the high streets in the next few years and will be turned into houses or offices.

Cllr Lloyd asked if the Plans meeting is being moved to a different night. This will be discussed under Standing Orders.

Meeting Closed: 8.58pm

ACTION SUMMARY

Undertaken By	Detail	When For
Cllr Williamson	Contact Highways about roadworks on Congleton Road and the By-pass closure.	As soon as practicle
Cllr Williamson	Contact parties interested in the Hall refurbishment for feedback	As soon as practicle
Cllr Williamson	Circulate the link to consultation and policies on the Cheshire East website	As soon as practicle
Cllr Herald	Produce report of faults in the cemetery	As soon as practicle
Cllr Williamson	Contact LAP manager about the cemetery	As soon as practicle

Councillor M Williamson
CHAIRMAN