

NETHER ALDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 6th May 2021 at 5.00 p.m. The meeting was accessed remotely via ZOOM

In the Chair:	Cllr. N.Howick
Parish Councillors present:	Y.Bentley, D.Clarke, A.Farrell, S.Joseph, J.Shufflebottom and J.Wilkinson
Also present:	The Parish Council Clerk
Public:	A member of the public was present.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence** – The Parish Council received apologies for absence from Nether Alderley Parish Councillor: S.Lewis

2. Chairman's Report

Despite having held the post for almost two years, this is my first report as Chair of Nether Alderley Parish Council. At this time last year, the pandemic conditions were gathering pace and the Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting were cancelled due to extraordinary circumstances; little did we know or suspect that a whole 12 months later we would still be in the same position! Nevertheless, plenty has been happening and with an end to restrictions on the horizon, we look to build on the significant progress that we have made on many fronts despite adverse circumstances.

In December of last year, we received the exciting news that our planning application for the improvement and refurbishment of the Parish Hall had been successful. Not only will the works provide us with much needed extra storage and disabled toilet facilities, but also the building will be brought up-to-date structurally with a more efficient and effective heating system and level flooring throughout for improved wheelchair access. We would like to thank the Parochial Church Council for their support and Alderley Park Ltd for their assistance. Now the not-inconsiderable task of appointing and commissioning works begins!

The previous year or so has seen many highways issues throughout the parish. These include serious flooding, poor surfaces, anti-social speeding and parking to name but a few. The Parish Council has undertaken to address these issues by forming a Highways Group, which has already made an impact. Whilst not completely resolved, the flooding issue on Welsh Row has been substantially mitigated, and the group is currently exploring the options available to curb speeding on the lanes. The Highways Group is also represented at the regular "Cluster" meetings of local Parish Councils which are attended by the Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council, ensuring that our voice is heard at regional level.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is well underway and is making great progress after a slight setback due to lockdown. Having completed the initial stages, we are looking forward to being able to move on to interacting with residents in the consultation phases now that restrictions are easing.

Alderley Park continues to be the cornerstone of our local economy and has had many major successes and achievements over the past year. As well as its growth and significance amongst the scientific industry, it is proud to have played a key role in the R&D of the COVID-19 vaccine and a vital role in its deployment. All of this takes place within beautiful and well-maintained parkland which is enjoyed by many throughout our parish.

The residential element continues to grow as more properties are built and occupied and the Parish Council warmly welcomes these new residents into our community. In order to help tackle the inevitable issues that come with such a rapid increase in the size of our village, we are pleased the regular Alderley Park liaison meetings are being re-introduced in June of this year. These meetings will represent all stakeholders with a more focussed format.

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Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government Guidelines and social-distancing, there is nothing to report on any community events during the past year. However, prior to the pandemic in 2020 we were extremely proud of the success and momentum, having just launched our first and hugely successful off-site gathering of Friends of Nether Alderley at the Bengal Tiger Lily. The Parish Council plans to resurrect our social activity at the earliest possible opportunity and will keep you all informed via our social media, website, newsletters, notice boards etc.

One of the news outlets that is now available is our Newsletter which is delivered to every household in Nether Alderley. One would think that in this digital age an “old school” newsletter wouldn’t have succeeded but quite the opposite is true! We know from feedback that the Newsletter is much loved and read and special thanks go to Cllr. Jenny Shufflebottom for leading the way and to Cllr. Sue Joseph for her expert assistance.

For quite some time the position of Vice Chair has remained vacant, but I am now delighted to inform you that Cllr. Angela Farrell has agreed officially to step into the role. Angela has been outstanding as Chair of the Parish/Church Joint Management Committee (JMC) and her able support as Vice Chair is most welcome. I have agreed to extend my tenancy as Chair beyond the statutory 2 years with Angela taking over when I step down.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Parish Councillors for their continued enthusiasm and input across the many projects, committees and working groups that exist to support our community. In particular, special thanks must go to our Clerk, Barbara Thorpe for her invaluable stewardship, guidance and professionalism.

Cllr. Norman Howick (Chair)

3. Questions from the Public – There were no questions.

4. Any Other Business – None

There being no further business the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.

Minutes taken by the Clerk.

Signed..... Date 14th June 2021