

NETHER ALDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at Nether Alderley Parish Hall

In the Chair: Cllr. J Shufflebottom

Parish Councillors present: D.Colgan. S.Shorland,, C.Walker and J.Wilkinson
Also present: Cheshire East Councillor G. Walton, Revd. J.Hale and the Parish Council Clerk

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – The Parish Council received apologies for absence from Nether Alderley Parish Councillors: Y.Bentley and S.Lewis

2. **Chairman's Report**

Once again it has been a busy a year in the life of the Parish Council which has seen both change and the foundations laid for new projects.

In September last year we said good bye to Penny, our Clerk for over 13 years. Penny has guided many Chairmen and Councillors in her time and on behalf of us all, I would like to thank her for her commitment and devotion to the Parish. As a result, we welcomed our new Clerk Barbara who has settled into the role and picked up the reins over the last 8 months taking on the varied aspects of the position. Although Barbara lives in Wilmslow now, she has lived in our parish previously and will be well known to many residents. I am sure all the Councillors will join me in hoping that Barbara continues to work alongside us for many years to come.

The Council continues to meet on a monthly basis, and the 3 sub groups Planning, Burial Board and the Joint Management Committee also meet as required and deal with the individual issues that arise throughout the year. The Planning Committee alone has consulted on over 40 applications in the last year and I thank all the Councillors of the 3 committees for their on-going time and input over the course of the year.

In November of last year, the Parish of St Mary's welcomed our new Rector Jon Hale. I was fortunate in my role as Chair to be able to attend his inauguration service and I am pleased to hear that he and his wife Kerry have settled well, and are both enjoying life in our Parish. Long may this continue.

The last year has seen the formation of a working party for the refurbishment of our historic Parish Hall. As you all know we were able to secure some s106 monies from the Outline Planning permission for residential development of Alderley Park, and I am pleased to be able to tell you that the group, made up of Church members, Parish Councillors, members of Alderley Park Ltd and local residents are working very hard to achieve this. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Martyn Bale who heads the team with amazing enthusiasm, for all his commitment to the project. We have also been very fortunate that our new Rector Jon has joined our working party and has been able to bring a wealth of experience to the group, having been involved in a similar project in a previous parish. There has been a great deal achieved over the last 6 months and as a result we are hoping that very soon we will be able to present to residents our vision for the future of the hall, for their comments. It is very much a Community Parish Hall and we look forward to being able to offer a hall with much improved facilities to suit the realistic needs and requirements of all our residents. My thanks go to all the team who bring a variety of skills and specialised knowledge to the project.

As ever we continue to work tirelessly for safety on all our roads within the Parish. Sadly, we have not been able to deliver all the measures that we hoped for due to lack of funds at Cheshire East Council, but we will continue our efforts to support and implement any measures possible to make our Parish a safer place. We have been able to deliver some restrictions on the A34 around the school area and have

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a 20mph in place at school times. Our Ward Councillor George Walton continues to support us on all highways matters and I thank him for his on-going involvement in all of our Parish issues.

The Pride of Nether Alderley continue to keep our roads and verges tidy by litter picking, which I am sure is appreciated by all. The daffodils bring us all spring cheer and once again were a great display this year. Many thanks to all concerned for their continued involvement which is for all our benefit.

In January of this year we had a presentation evening for the Neighbourhood Plan, which was very well attended by both Great Warford and Nether Alderley residents. Whilst the general feeling on the evening was that both parishes would benefit from the delivery of a plan, there is not total Councillor or community commitment for all the hard work necessary to produce such a plan, so a definitive decision has not yet been made. This determination will be a priority over the next few months.

Last year we adopted the Telephone Kiosk at the bottom of Bradford Lane. We now have the opportunity to do the same for the kiosk at Monks Heath and I can confirm that we are in the legal process of making this official. They will belong to the Parish Council but we will be looking to the residents for ideas on how to make best community use of these iconic pieces of street furniture.

There continues to be Liaison Committees for the Stakeholders of the Parish. Whilst the Mere Farm Sand Quarry is in its final years and now at the restoration phase, this committee will probably cease over the next year. Alderley Park on the other hand, who are still in their early days, have recently formed a Liaison Group and we look forward to being able to work alongside them for the mutual benefit of all concerned in our Parish. Works have begun following the granting of a detailed planning permission on a section of the residential land for 74 houses by PH Developments and we expect a second developer to present their detailed application for a similar number of dwellings to Cheshire East in the near future.

Our Clerk Barbara continues to operate and maintain the updating of our website and we aim to be able to give you as much information as possible via this and our noticeboards. We also have a database of email addresses that we can use for Parish updates and of course we welcome more names to join this list. I would like to thank her for all the input that this requires and to anyone who has sent articles or photos for the benefit of us all.

Last year the Parish Council decided to take part in Operation Shield that Knutsford Police Force had introduced to us. This is a home security marking system and we have been able to offer this to the community and have made available around 30 packs that can only help to make our homes and environment a safer place.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few “thank you’s.” Firstly, to my fellow Parish Councillors who work alongside me and have worked hard in what I think you will agree has been a yet another involving year in the life of the Parish. They continue to give a great deal of support, not only to me as Chair, but to all the residents and for this I am very grateful. Our thanks go to Norman Moore who continues to maintain our Burial Ground to a very high standard for all of us who live here or visit our family members buried here.

Finally, I have to report that we are saying goodbye to a fellow Councillor. Caroline McKeown has been a part of the Council for many years and indeed has been a past Chairman on two occasions, but has now decided to step down. I would like to thank her on behalf of all the previous Chairmen and Councillors for her dedication to the parish over the years and we wish her well in the future. I personally have very much enjoyed working with her, she has been a tremendous support to everyone including myself and she will be greatly missed.

I look forward to the next twelve months and all that it holds for us all here in Nether Alderley

Thank you

3. **Questions from the Public** – There were no questions.
4. **Any Other Business** – There was no other business.