

## NETHER ALDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Nether Alderley Parish Hall.

In the Chair: Mr. Clarke

Also present: Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Shufflebottom, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Worthington and Mrs. P. Langham (Clerk)

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Dick, Mr. Lewis, Mrs. McKeown, Cheshire East Cllr George Walton

#### 2. Parish Councillor Resignation.

The Clerk explained that, due to commitments and a removal out of the local area, Mr. Dick has verbally explained that he will be standing down from the Parish Council.

Parish Councillors expressed their regret and also their appreciation for all the work contributed to the Parish Council by Mr. Dick.

Mr. Dick has indicated that he will send a formal letter of resignation to the Parish Council.

***The Parish Council resolved to approve that the Clerk should pursue the process of filling the Councillor vacancy, should the letter of resignation be received prior to the next meeting.***

Mr. Dick has explained that he would be happy to continue following through various matters that he is currently undertaking in relation to the Parish Hall.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes.

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and approved ***by resolution of the Parish Council.***

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013, were confirmed as a true and accurate record and approved ***by resolution of the Parish Council.***

#### 4. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Mrs Walker declared an interest in Planning application 13/3313, due to her being a neighbour of the applicant.

#### 5. Declarations of Interests Conflicting with the Nolan Principles.

No declarations were made.

#### 6. Matters Arising.

##### 6.1 Parish Plan

A meeting has been arranged for the 1<sup>st</sup> October for the Parish Plan Steering Group to present the results of the Parish Plan survey to the Parish Council. The results presentation has been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr. George Walton and Mr. Richard Christopherson, Knutsford Local Area Partnership, have been invited to attend. The Parish Council discussed the next stages of the Parish Plan process.

### **6.2 Christmas Tree in Nether Alderley**

The Parish Council has been advised that it will not be possible to obtain a tree through the Bypass project. Mr. Simon Davies, Cheshire East Highways, has explained that the Cheshire East Street Lighting Department, could deal with the project in its entirety, including the requirement for a licence, if needed.

### **6.3 Bypass Grass verges**

The Clerk reported responses from Mr. Gomulski and Mr. Davies, Cheshire East Council, regarding the planting and upkeep of the verges along the A34 Bypass, further to the Parish Council's communication of concern over planting, maintenance and appearance. General verges (immediately adjacent to the Highways) are under jurisdiction of the Highways Department. Planting areas/sloped verges will continue to be maintained by the Bypass landscaping contractors until March 2016. These areas are cut twice each year and Mr. Gomulski will contact the contractors regarding the broken trees and shrubs. He explained that he inspects the route at least twice each week. Mr. Davies provided a link for the Parish Council to the Rural Grass cutting schedule and standards on the Cheshire East website, in relation to the verges under Highway's jurisdiction.

Parish Councillors suggested considering seeking sponsorship of the Nether Alderley roundabout to improve its maintenance and appearance.

### **6.4 Excavation of Grass verges alongside Highways in Nether Alderley.**

The Clerk explained that, following the excavation of verges overgrown on to the pavement alongside the length of the A34 through Nether Alderley in April 2013, the Parish Council had sent a request to Cheshire East Highways for excavation/siding out on pavements alongside the A537 and the B5359. The A537 request was also included in the recent Cheshire East Route Management Study and Mrs. Shufflebottom confirmed that it had been confirmed to her, at the Study day, that this stretch of pavement would be included in the study and would be cleared by Cheshire East. The Clerk had followed up the matter with Mr. Simon Davies, Cheshire East Highways, who had suggested that the A537 stretch would be included in the Study work. However, he also confirmed that the B5359 was not identified for excavation work and that it was unlikely that this would be undertaken by Cheshire East Council.

***The Parish Council resolved to approve that the Clerk should approach contractors, who have the appropriate public liability, insurance and documentation for carrying out Highways work, for quotations for the excavations of the identified areas of pathways adjacent to the B5359.***

### **6.5 A537 Route Management Study**

Further to the assessment and consultation by Cheshire East Council relating to the A537 Highways route, outcomes and recommendations have now been published. One local outcome is the recommendation for a safety assessment of the Monks Heath junction, including a possible reconfiguration of road markings that is scheduled for this financial year. No mention has been made about pavement clearing.

### **6.6 Nether Alderley Boundary Sign**

Further to contact by a local resident, who had identified that the boundary sign near to the junction with Whitebarn Road was overgrown by foliage, the Clerk had contacted Mr. Andy Wilson Local Area Highways Officer. Mr. Wilson had inspected the sign and arranged for cutting back of foliage and the repositioning of the sign to limit occlusion in the future.

#### **6.7 Overgrown Hedges, Welsh Row.**

Further to the Parish Council's request, the hedges belonging to Cheshire East, which run alongside Welsh Row, have now been cut back.

#### **6.8 Overgrowth Railway bridge.**

Mr. Wilson has explained that Network Rail have been contacted about the overgrowth of foliage on to the bridge that cross the railway line.

#### **6.9 Stone bollards, vicinity of Railway Bridge.**

Mr. Wilson is continuing to follow up the origin and future of the bollards that were left on the grass verge further to the Bypass works.

#### **6.10 Manchester Airport Bridgewater Hall tickets.**

The Parish Council discussed the kind offer of tickets to a Bridgewater Hall concert, donated by Manchester Airport to pass to community volunteers.

***The Parish Council resolved to approve that they should be passed to a member of the Parish Plan Steering Group in recognition of work on the Nether Alderley Parish Plan.***

#### **6.11 Bench and Bin, The Cross.**

The Parish Council has received a reply from Cheshire East Council to explain that, as the bench and bin near to the wooden bus shelter at The Cross, are not listed as Cheshire East assets, they cannot be devolved to ownership and care of the Parish Council. Mr. Davies has explained that if the Parish Council inspects and undertake any works required, it would just have to inform him of works intended.

***The Parish Council resolved that it would include the bench and bin on its annual inspection of other Parish Council assets and contact Cheshire East should it notice that any maintenance is required.***

#### **6.12 Jubilee Bench**

It was noted that the Jubilee bench has bleached and may require some preservative treatment again, to protect it in the forthcoming winter months.

***The Parish Council resolved to approve that the Clerk should arrange for the treatment.***

#### **6.13 Superfast Broadband.**

The Clerk gave details of some recent communication regarding the Superfast Broadband project

#### **6.14. Local Police 'Surgery'**

PCSO Lindsey Whitehead has confirmed that, following a successful Police Surgery in October, she will hold a further surgery at Monks Heath Garage on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk will advertise the surgery. Mr. Clarke suggested that the Parish Council could consider holding a joint 'surgery' with PCSO Whitehead, for local residents.

***The Parish Council resolved to ask PCSO Whitehead to the next Parish Council meeting and to discuss this possibility with her.***

#### **6.15 Burial Ground Access**

The Clerk confirmed that there has been no response, as yet, to the letter regarding ongoing access to the Burial Ground. The Parish Council agreed to wait until the next meeting to discuss again.

## **7 Correspondence.**

### **7.1 Cheshire Community Action**

Correspondence was received giving details of Cheshire Community Action's support with Neighbourhood plans and Community Land Trusts.

### **7.2 Community Pride Awards Evening.**

A representative of the Parish Council has been invited to attend the awards evening on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Councillors will consider their availability.

### **7.3 Great Warford History website.**

The Parish Council has received information from a lady who has established a new website that details the history and area of Great Warford.

***The Parish Council resolved that the Clerk should ask whether the lady would like to place an article about the new website, on the Nether Alderley Parish Council website.***

### **7.4 Police Crime Commissioner Surgery.**

The Clerk was contacted by a local resident who had attended a Police Crime Commissioner Surgery. The Clerk gave details of points raised with the Crime Commissioner by the resident.

## **8 Parish Hall Joint Management Committee**

### **8.1 Parish Hall Caretaker**

There continues to be no Caretaker in post. JMC members explained the current arrangements for practical management of the Hall. The JMC have organised a rolling programme of people taking responsibility for opening the Hall. The JMC secretary has taken responsibility for bookings and contract cleaners are carrying out most of the cleaning work.

### **8.2 Parish Hall Lintel.**

Mrs. Reynolds explained that the architect, who originally carried out the survey of the Hall, is returning to inspect the lintel in the main hall. The matter was discussed further and financial regulations and VAT requirements were discussed in relation to the works.

### **8.3 Upper Room.**

The accumulation of items in the upper room was raised.

### **8.4 Parish Council representation, JMC.**

The Parish Council discussed the vacancies on the Parish Hall Joint Management Committee (JMC) and Burial Board that Mr. Dick's resignation would create. On request for a Councillor to fill the vacancy, Mrs. Worthington volunteered to take a role as Parish Council representative on the JMC, once Mr. Dick has formally resigned from Office.

***The Parish Council unanimously resolved to approve the appointment of Mrs. Worthington to the JMC.***

***The Parish Council resolved that appointment to the Burial Board would be considered at a future meeting.***

## 9 Finance.

### Receipts

BACS	HMRC VAT Repayment	£619.72	
BACS	Utility Warehouse Electricity refund due to overpayment due to estimated reading	£14.87	
BACS	Cheshire East Council	£6,550.00	Half precept

### 10.2 Payments to make

1047	Damian Whyatt	£70.00	Honours Board update	Approved prior to payment s137
1048	Mr. G. Beeby	£336.00	Bus shelter repairs	(£280 plus £56.00 VAT) D
1049	Cheshire West and Chester – Cheshire Pension Fund		September 2013	Pension contribution £128.48 H
1050	Clerk's salary September 2013 (£498.48). Postage expenses (£66.22)			Total: £564.790 H
1051	BDO LLP	£120.00	(£100 plus £20.00 VAT)	External Audit fee I
1052	Henshaws	£37.42	Waste collection for August 2013	(£31.18 plus £6.24 VAT) A,C,E,F,G

### 10.4 Approval to send to CVS Cheshire East to include in payroll

Clerk's travel expenses for period 16/4/13 to 11/9/13 £135.95

***Payments were proposed by Mrs. Worthington, seconded by Mrs. Shufflebottom and approved by resolution of the Parish Council.***

## 10 Planning.

### 10.1 The Stables, land off Welsh Row – communication

The Parish Council had requested that this application should be called in to Planning Committee. The Parish Council has subsequently been informed that the application has been withdrawn.

### 10.2 Application 13/3313M

#### Proposed building for domestic storage and use

#### Sandle Heath Hall, Bollington Lane, Nether Alderley, Macclesfield, SK10 4TB

With regard Minute reference 3, Mrs. Walker declared pecuniary interest in the planning application and withdrew from the discussion.

***Parish Council approved response:***

The Parish Council has a strong objection to the proposed development for the following reasons:

1. The proposed building is out of character with the rural setting, both in visual presentation and size. It presents as a very large, industrial, storage facility.
2. The Parish Council understands that there are clauses preventing further development on this site.
3. The Parish Council perceives that there would be a significant negative impact upon the narrow access drive, if the shed was used and accessed for any commercial purposes, due to ensuing potential increased traffic movements.
4. The Parish Council perceives that there would be a significant negative impact upon Bollington Lane, a narrow rural road, if the development was used for any commercial purposes, due to ensuing potential increased traffic movements.

**10.3 Application 13/3451M  
New roof remodelling and alterations  
Manorfield, Chelford Road, Great Warford**

***Parish Council approved response:***  
No objection

**10.4 Application 13/3427M  
Proposed replacement dwelling  
Northover, Sand Lane, Nether Alderley, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 4TS.**

***Parish Council approved response:***

The Parish Council objects to the proposed development for the following reasons:

1. The proposed dwelling is on too large a scale for the site.
2. The proposed anterior garage would alter the character and visual presentation of the front of the property.
3. The proposed depth of the property is out of line with the street scene

***Responses to Planning applications were proposed by Mr. Clarke, seconded by Mrs. Shufflebottom and approved by resolution of the Parish Council.***

## **11 Policies and Procedures.**

### **11.1 Results of External Audit.**

The Clerk has received notification from BDO LLP that External Audit work has been completed, for the year ending 31/3/13. The certified Annual Return/ external audit certificate has been returned to the Parish Council.

The Clerk is instructed to present the Audited Annual Return to the Parish Council so that the Parish Council can consider any issues in the report and decide whether any action should be taken, and so that a minuted reference can be made to confirm that the annual return has been approved and accepted by Nether Alderley Parish Council.

The External Auditor's certificate and Report states "on the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met." No comments are added for further consideration or action and there are no other matters affecting the opinion of the External auditor that they wish to draw to the attention of the Council.

***The Parish Council resolved to approve and accept the results of the Audited annual return.***

***The Parish Council resolved, on the basis of the results of the External Audit, that there are no actions required of it to be taken in relation to the external audit.***

***The Parish Council considered the actions now required and resolved to display the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to inspect the Annual Return on its notices boards for the stipulated period of 14 days, with a £1.00 charge for each copy of the Annual Return requested.***

***The Parish Council resolved that the Annual Return should also be published on the Nether Alderley Parish Council website.***

#### **11.2 Salary Awards for Clerks, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.**

New National Salary Awards for Clerks have been received from the National Association of Local Councils.

The Clerk suggested that, in view of her salary banding having been independently re-evaluated and realigned in June 2013, the new proposed salary increase should be left for consideration until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

***The Parish Council considered the increase, at Spine point 25, from £11.185 per hour to £11.296 per hour, proposed in the salary awards and resolved that the salary award should be effective immediately.***

#### **11.3 Nether Alderley Parish Council Complaints Procedure.**

***The Parish Council considered and resolved to retain the Complaints Procedure currently in place.***

#### **12. Burial Board**

A meeting of the Burial Board has been arranged for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7 pm. The Burial Board will inspect the Burial Ground, meet with the Caretaker to the Burial Ground and review all Burial Board policies and procedures.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Minutes taken by: the Clerk.

Minutes confirmed and approved at the Nether Alderley Parish Council meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

Signed..... Date.....

**Burial Grounds, Cemeteries and Crematoria**

Power to acquire, provide and maintain **A**  
Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9 and 10

Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials **B**  
Parish Councils and Burial Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1970, s.1

Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries **C**  
Local Government Act 1972, s.214

**Bus Shelters**

Power to provide and maintain shelters **D**  
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, s.4  
Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1

**Community Centres**

Power to provide and equip community buildings **E**  
Local Government Act 1972, s.133

Power to provide buildings for clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives **F**  
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

Power to provide a range of recreational facilities **G**  
Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1975 s19

**General Administration/Running Costs**

LGA 1972 s111 **H**

**Audit**

Audit Regulations 1996 **I**

**Parish Plans**

S141 LGA 1972 **J**

**Benches**

Power to provide roadside seats and shelters Parish Councils Act 1957, s.1 **K**

**Section 137**

Local Government Act 1972. Power to do something that will benefit the community where there is no other specific power covering the action; it cannot be used retrospectively. Can spend up to£6.44 per elector in 2011 and 2012. Expenditure must be commensurate with the benefit to the community **L**