



## THE EDGE ASSOCIATION

**Chairman**

Martin Steiger,  
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**Honorary Treasurer**

James S T Jennings,  
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**Plans Secretary**

Martin Sinker,  
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**Administration Secretary**

Ian J Standen  
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### Minutes of the Thirty Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in The Council Chamber, Festival Hall, Alderley Edge

**In the Chair:** - Mr Martin Steiger

**Apologies:** - Ms J Brock, Mr R Jones, Mrs D Forshaw, Mrs E Standen, Mr & Mrs S Napper, Mr & Mrs J Waller, Mr & Mrs I Copeland, Dr and Mrs Theofilopoulos, Mr J. Jennings and Ms L Booth

**Present:** - Mr I Daghish, Mr and Mrs M Whittaker Mr C Blades, Mr S Taylor, Ms Marsh, Mr A Brown, Mr A Leah, Dr P Forshaw, Mr M Steiger, Mr M Sinker, and Mr I Standen

**Minutes of Previous A. G. M.:** - The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were approved.

**Chairman's Report:** - In his second report to the AGM, the Chairman started by thanking the Secretaries for their support over the year. The Plans Secretary had even represented the Association in the media on various occasions. James Jennings has decided to stand down as Treasurer because of pressure of work. His efforts have been very much appreciated and he has agreed to continue as a Committee Member. The Committee will be nominating Philip Forshaw as his replacement as Treasurer.

Our most newsworthy event during the year was the meeting on development on 11<sup>th</sup> April. We distributed over 2,000 leaflets and got an encouraging turnout and virtually unanimous support for our concerns. As a result of the meeting, the Association has produced some Planning Policies, which we sent to all candidates of the May elections. We are continuing to press the new Shadow Authority for their support for them, have attended a seminar in Congleton and are seeking a meeting with the Councillors.

On planning matters, the Chairman observed that many recent applications minimise the size of the garden (a trend which seems to be popular in some quarters). Unsurprisingly, there has been a significant slowdown in the number of applications recently and the continuing failure to sell properties such as 'Thornfield' demonstrates that the Association was not wrong to object so strongly to it.

We do not, however, object as a matter of principle and acknowledge that some developments have enhanced the village. With many unobjectionable schemes we make no representations and in some cases we support the proposed development. We continue to employ the local representative network to encourage letters about unsuitable applications but it is recognised that multiple applications about the same site can result in "objector fatigue". We would, however, encourage continued written objections if a renewed scheme remains offensive because weight is placed by the councillors on the volume of letters received and this may be a factor in any appeal against refusal.

Members of the Association held a "Spring Clean" litter pick round the village on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April followed by a pleasant lunch at the No 15 Wine Bar. This was an attempt to demonstrate the connection between development and litter and we eventually received some publicity in the local paper. We intend that this should be an annual event and we now have a stock of fluorescent vests with the web-site address.

The Chairman observed that it is good news indeed that the by-pass works have now started after many decades of delay and prevarication. Although there was a minority of strongly held views against in Nether Alderley, the committee believes that the new road will make a massive improvement to the environment of London Road. We should all be on our guard against "ribbon development" such as happened with the Wilmslow section of the new A34.

The Westbrook site has received very mixed reviews. It is good that development has, at last, started but the Clifton Street residents are very unhappy about the access arrangements and future parking. The Harvest Supper was deemed to have been a great success and our speaker, Matthew Hyde had been in good form. Next year we will switch back to the Edge Hotel.

Finally, he appealed for some younger blood to join the Committee.

The Chairman's Report is available in full on the Association's website..

**Treasurer's Report:** Philip Forshaw presented the Treasurer's report for the 12 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The financial position was set out in the Receipt and Payment Account, which summarised the receipts and payments over the period and the assets and liabilities as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. This year The Association generated a small deficit of £100, compared to a surplus of £513 last year. Subscription income was slightly lower at £1,023 (2007: £1,197), and costs increased by £438, of which £168 related to the insurance premium for the public liability policy. As in previous years the Autumn Leaves Dinner "broke-even", and recorded a small surplus of £17. From October 2008 the cost of hosting the website will reduce by £15 per month, which should reduce the annual cost by £180. The Association continues to have a strong financial position with over £7,000 on deposit with the Britannia Building Society. It was agreed that whilst we were changing the bank mandates to reflect the new Treasurership, we would reduce the value of cheques that can be signed by only one person from £500 to £250. The new Treasurer will investigate the possibility of having the accounts independently reviewed. The Chairman thanked James Jennings for producing the accounts and Philip Forshaw for presenting them. They were accepted by the meeting.

**Planning Matters: -** Martin Sinker tabled a list of all recent planning applications. The Planning Report in September's Newsletter highlighted the increase in applications over the previous twelve months - how things have changed! Since mid-June there have only been two "Demolish and Build New" applications in the village and these were both second attempts. Clearly the credit crunch is having an effect. Applications now are almost all for amendments, extensions and alterations and even these are reducing in numbers. As you may know the moratorium on new site development was lifted during the year and there is new legislation making domestic extensions easier.

The major approval during the year was for the Oatlands site, now Eden Park, for demolition of seven houses and replacement with four mansions. Work has started but there is an authoritative rumour that only one mansion will be built at present. We are monitoring this site — steel gate posts have just appeared which is a worry — and also The Whins site just down the hill.

A major concern recently has been the proposed retail development of a building on Steven Street; many letters of objection have been sent in including ours; the Conservation Officer has now recommended refusal and this seems the likely outcome.

The committee is pursuing a meeting with the elected Shadow Councillors for the Alderley Division to discuss the future of Planning under Cheshire East. We are keen to get some power back to the Parish Council — more news on this in due course. Meanwhile you will find some recent changes in viewing Applications on the MBC website: to open submitted documents and drawings you now have to disable your pop-up Mocker — pop-ups is a polite term for some of Alderley's recent developments.

In principle we will only object to Applications if there is strong local opinion, and a head of steam to take action by writing letters, meeting the planners, speaking at Planning Committees and so on. We will rely on the Area Representatives to gauge local opinion and will act accordingly. The Area Representatives will be put on the website.

Following discussion about Macclesfield Road traffic at last year's AGM the Parish Council was contacted and eventually trials were carried out with a SID (Speed Indicating Device) in early October. At least half of all vehicles on Macclesfield Road were speeding and about 10% were above 40 mph. Trials on Heyes Lane showed speed to be less of a problem there. Recent feedback from the County via the Mayor Mary Maczkowiak is that village traffic will be investigated once the bypass is complete, using a "Benefits Realisation Strategy"! I will pass on full information to the appropriate section of the Parish Plan group.

**Election of New General Committee:** The members of the General Committee elected last year were re-elected en bloc apart from Stuart Lord resigned during the year.

**Any Other Business:** The following matters were raised: -

- Invitations to tender for the modifications to the Festival Hall will be issued in January
- The Parish Plan is expected to be issued in draft in the spring of 2009

There then followed a brief meeting of the General Committee. The result of the election is shown below. A schedule of dates for the meetings in 2009 is in the Minutes of the General Committee for 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

**General Committee Members for 2009: -**

Mr M Steiger Chairman	Dr P Forshaw Vice Chairman and Treasurer	Mr M Sinker Plans Secretary	Mr I J Standen Admin Secretary
Miss J Brock	Mrs S Shorland	Mr J Jennings	Mr M J Whittaker
Mr I J Daghish	Mr J Waller		

While Clare Pye of the Manchester Museum was preparing, the meeting had a glass of wine. Clare then gave a very interesting talk by on 'The Two Alderleys'.