

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017
AT 7:00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Digby - The Mayor, took the Chair
Cllr Bond Cllr Fellowes
Cllr Fox Cllr Harris
Cllr Jones Cllr Kiff
Cllr Osben Cllr Partel
Cllr Palmer Cllr Walker
Cllr Worster

Cllr Richard Smith – SCC and Cllrs T.J Haworth-Culf and M. Jones – SCDC were present. Three members of the public were also in attendance.

At the start of the meeting, councillors held a minute's silence in honour of the late Clare Fosse, Mayor of Aldeburgh 1993-94.

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.

2. **Councillors' Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

3. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 January 2017.**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 January 2017 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands and duly signed. Councillor Walker abstained from this process as he was absent from last month's meeting.

4. **SCC report and Correspondence**

Cllr Smith delivered his report on behalf of SCC (see Appendix One.)

In response to Cllr Smith's observations on the proposed parking restrictions on Church Farm Road, Cllr Kiff asked whether it was possible at this stage to extend the parking restrictions, as he felt the proposed plan did not go far enough. Cllr Smith replied that if ATC wanted to make changes to what was being proposed, they would jeopardise the present plan. Amendments made now would mean another summer without any parking restrictions on Church Farm Road. He urged Councillors to go-ahead with the proposed plan and then consider how it could be extended at a later date.

Cllr Smith said that if the proposed plan was passed by the SCC Highways Committee on 5 March, some yellow lines might appear on Church Farm Road by the summer. He recognised the deficiencies of the present plan but changing it now would require a new traffic order.

The Town Clerk pointed out that during Christmas and New Year there had been complaints from residents about the number of cars parked on the road.

Cllr Digby said the proposed plan would help a little and it was important to at least have some action underway.

5. **SCDC Report and Correspondence**

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf submitted the monthly report on behalf of SCDC (see Appendix Two.)

Responding to Cllr Haworth-Culf's report, Cllr Jones asked if there was a date when parking enforcement would start. Cllr Smith intercepted, reminding Cllrs that, at present, parking enforcement was the responsibility of the police, but at some point in the future, the districts council will take over responsibility for enforcement. However, prior to this happening, every single traffic order in the county will have to be checked and that could take quite a while. Cllr Smith said that Aldeburgh faced another difficult summer without proper parking enforcement.

Cllr Haworth-Culf drew Cllrs' attention to a public consultation on February 21st about plans to convert Aldeburgh Primary School to Academy status. She urged everyone to attend and make their views known.

6. Police Report

No Police Report had been submitted.

7. PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum.

There were no questions and Standing Orders were restored.

COMMITTEES REPORTS:

8a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones had earlier circulated copies of the risk assessments. There were no questions concerning the risk assessments from the meeting.

Cllr Jones reported on the Sport England drainage grant for King's Field. She said that the agronomist had now submitted his quotation for the work. She confirmed action was being taken to finalise legal arrangements and to ascertain a possible start date. Local organisations, she said, needed to know as soon as possible whether King's Field would be available for events which are traditionally held there. The most important consideration, though, was to ensure the success of the work.

Cllr Jones said that work on King's Field was likely to impact on this year's Sports Week. Space is likely to be reduced and some activities may be curtailed. She asked Councillors to consider whether it was worth holding Sports Week this year and suggested this matter was discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Cllr Jones told the meeting that two football coaching sessions run by Inspire Suffolk had been held on King's Field. More sessions were planned for the Easter holidays.

Cllr Jones said she and Assistant Town Clerk Lori Hill will be meeting a representative of a play equipment company to discuss the enclosed play area. She said they hoped to replace the existing wooden equipment which is in poor condition with equipment made from recycled plastic. She would report progress at the next committee meeting.

Cllr Jones continued, reporting that work on the groundsman's cottage was very nearly complete and that a contractor was due at the Moot Hall within the next few days to discuss work on the South end of the building.

8a ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE that Aldeburgh Town Council adopts the 2016 revised NALC Model Financial Regulations. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In Favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

8a ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the revised and improved Risk Assessments for 2016/17. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Kiff and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bond.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer said that he had completed the online SCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan survey. He told the meeting he was satisfied the plan was sound and there was no real cause for dissent.

Cllr Palmer said repair work to the Thorpe Road car park was progressing and was expected to be completed by early April. He said that work to repair Slaughden Road had finished but said he was concerned the surface already appeared to be breaking-up.

He reported that Aldeburgh Town Council's response to the Sizewell C consultation had been submitted on time, despite a very short consultation period. Hopefully, he said, the Stage Three consultation period would be longer because of the amount of detail required.

8b ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE that ATC commits to partnership funding of £5000 to enable the first stage of the HLF bid concerning The Moot Hall to obtain the permission to proceed. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In favour 11

Against 1

Abstentions 0

CARRIED

8c. PLANNING

Report from Chairman of Planning

8c i) Cllr Worster invited Cllr Bond to comment on current matters and she reported that, together with Cllrs Worster and Partel, she had attended Suffolk Coastal District Council's new site at Melton to observe the ratification of the Site Allocation and Area Specific Policies.

8c ii) Cllr Fox observed that the Resolution concerning the Neighbourhood Plan should read "periodic intervals" and not "monthly." The corrected resolution, to read **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the issuing

of a statement on the Neighbourhood Plan, clearly stating the position of ATC, in the light of the SAASP

decision, coupled with a proposal to review the Neighbourhood Plan at monthly intervals. This was

PROPOSED by Cllr Worster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Jones confirmed there would be a working group meeting of the Town Plan on 20 February.

& EVENTS

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS

8di) Report from Chairman of Grants, Requests and Events Committee

Cllr Bond had nothing to report this month.

8dii) A resolution to **APPROVE** that ATC makes a donation of £1500 to support the vital work of the Aldeburgh Parish Nurse in the community was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Worster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8diii) A resolution to **APPROVE** that ATC makes a donation of £175 to support the work of the Forget-Me-Not Group with dementia and memory loss sufferers at the Fairfield Centre was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8div) A resolution to **APPROVE** that ATC makes a donation of £200 towards a second print run of the Patient Participation Group's medical services directory was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Kiff and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bond.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Co-option of New Councillor

This item was withdrawn until next month.

10. Representatives' Reports.

Cllr Worster had attended a meeting of the Jubilee Hall Trustees. He said members of the Jubilee Hall Development Group would like to make a short presentation to ATC. The Hall had recently been

re-decorated to a very high standard and some costs had been incurred. He said the Trustees might well be looking for a financial contribution from ATC towards the redecoration work.

Cllr Jones attended a committee meeting of The Aldeburgh Society on Monday 30 January. They discussed the various planning applications they had reviewed and they objected to 147 High Street,

Sundial on Wentworth Road, for which they suggested a number of conditions, implemented should SCDC be minded to approve an application for 115 High Street raised objections.

The Aldeburgh Society continues, with one exception, to support a Neighbourhood Plan for Aldeburgh. A strategic sub-committee has been formed to discuss how they can increase the ways in which the Society can meet its objectives and this has produced a number of ideas for further discussion. Many of these are Town Plan outputs.

11. **Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk attended a Town Clerk's meeting at SCDC, where a presentation was delivered on the changes to Public Space Protection Orders. This will involve a potential strengthening of by-laws concerning matters such as litter and dog fouling. The Town Clerk had given an interview on Radio Suffolk about aggressive seagulls. Her advice to listeners was simple: Don't feed them.

The Town Clerk told the meeting that Aldeburgh was a chosen location for many major events in 2017, including the 75th Carnival, the British Film Institute plan for a screening on the beach, the High Tide Festival and the Aldeburgh Triathlon.

She commended the work done by David Gillingwater of Herring Bone Design and Roger Collier on the town's new website.

the **11ai) RESOLUTION to APPROVE** and accept the annual return for 2015/16, now the opinion of

external auditor has been received. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris. **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. **Mayor's Notes.**

The Mayor reported that he had been involved in a variety of events and meetings during the past month. These included;

Tuesday March 7: Carnival Committee meeting

Friday February 10: Private view of the 2017 exhibition at The Red House, Queer Talk.

He will be chairing the Annual Town Meeting on 9 March 2017.

13. **Correspondence**

The Town Clerk reported a resident had emailed to suggest that Aldeburgh Town Council was profligate in awarding grants to charities for projects which had no benefit to council tax payers. The resident said that Aldeburgh Town Council's precept was one of the highest in the land. The resident called on councillors to act in the interests of council tax payers.

Cllr Smith pointed out that apart from a small increase in council tax to contribute to social care, basic council tax had not increased since 2010.

Cllr Haworth-Culf said that councillors on ATC worked extremely hard and rejected the resident's criticism.

Councillors noted the resident's email without comment.

14. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

Cllrs had nothing to declare this month.

15. Items to pay – details had been previously circulated to Cllrs.

All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

PROPOSED by Cllr Jones. **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 7.53pm.

The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on Monday 13 March 2017 at 7.00 pm in The Moot Hall.