**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**MEETING HELD ON MONDAY APRIL 10th 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 Kiff Cllr Osben

Cllr Partel Cllr Palmer

Cllr Oxby Cllr Cox

Cllr Worster Cllr Jones

Cllr Walker

Four members of the public were also in attendance.

Before the meeting commenced, The Mayor, Cllr John Digby, announced the Town Council would hold an in-camera session at the end of normal business and that item 9dii) on the agenda would be discussed then.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Smith (SCC) and Cllrs Haworth-Culf and Jones (SCDC).

**2. Councillors’ Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**3. Nominations of Office 2017/18**

The Town Clerk explained that, as requested, she had received one nomination for the role of Mayor for the forthcoming term of office 2017-18 for Cllr Jocelyn Bond. One nomination had also been received for the role of Deputy Mayor for 2017-18 for Cllr John Digby.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the appointment of the Mayor is the first business at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council scheduled for May 15th 2017. However, it is established practice to agree the appointment of the Deputy Mayor prior to the Annual Meeting

**3a) Appointment of the Deputy Mayor 2017/18**

Cllr Bond **PROPOSED** that Cllr Digby is appointed as Deputy Mayor for the term of office 2017-18. **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

**In favour 14**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Digby thanked the Council Meeting for their support and promised to support the Mayor-elect during her term of office.

**4. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 March 2017.**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday March 13th 2017 were **APPROVED** by a show of handsand duly signed.

**5. SCC report and Correspondence**

There was no report from Cllr Smith

**6. SCDC Report and Correspondence**

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

**7.** **Police Report**

No Police Report had been submitted this month.

**8.** **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum**.**

In the absence of any questions from the public, the Mayor reinstated Standing Orders.

**COMMITTEES REPORTS:**

**9a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**9ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee**

Cllr Jones reported upon the Sport England Drainage Grant for King’s Field. Questions from the agronomist had been received and the Town Clerk was dealing with these. She confirmed the programme for Sports Week was very nearly complete and progress was being made in obtaining quotes for replacing play equipment in the enclosed play area. Grants for this were being sought and she would report back.

She updated the Council on the situation concerning leases for the school playing field and the triangle which are having to be amended to reflect the change in Academy status of the school. She was seeking assurances that the legal costs involved would not fall on the Town Council.

Cllr Jones told the Town Council that remedial work on the Moot Hall was under way. Internal work was complete and she hoped the external repairs – including the repainting of the sundial - would be finished by the end of the month.

She highlighted a structural problem with the Pet Perfection building. A pillar supporting a gate was in a poor state and needed replacing urgently before any external decoration. Funds for this emergency repair were available in earmarked reserves and she invited the Town Council to approve this expenditure.

Cllr Jones referred to acid damage on the town’s tennis courts. Specialist contractors had recommended re-painting the top two courts, particularly as they were suffering from wear and tear. The courts will be out of action for a week between the two May Bank Holidays. She added that funds for this remedial work were available and asked the Town Council to approve this expenditure. Cllr Cox asked if insurers might cover the cost of repair, particularly if the damage was caused by vandalism. Cllr Jones promised to investigate.

**9aii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the acceptance of one quotation, based on best value, to carry out the external decoration of Groundsman’s Cottage and Pet Perfection was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

**In Favour 14**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

**9aiii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** expenditure out of earmarked reserves to carry out emergency repairs at Pet Perfection. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Worster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

**In Favour 14**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9aiii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** expenditure to re-paint damaged tennis courts.

**PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

**In favour 14**

**Against** **0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

##### 9b) SERVICES COMMITTEE

**9bi) Report from Chairman of Services**

Cllr Palmer informed ATC that he had received information from the War Memorials Trust on a pre-application grant scheme. He is seeking three quotes which will include cleaning, repointing and some repair work on the town’s War Memorial. He told the Town Council he was costing the provision of two defibrillators, one possibly in the area of the High Street and one potentially at King’s Field for use by all the local sports clubs. Grant money might be available, he suggested.

He was also costing the provision of solar-powered speed sensors for Thorpe Road and Leiston Road. He confirmed that SCC Highways department had agreed to replace some railings at Choppings Hill and paint the rest.

Cllr Palmer asked Cllr Cox to report on a recent discussion with residents of Church Farm Road and the Highways department concerning parking restrictions. Cllr Cox reiterated that the present plan to install yellow lines could not be altered now but can be reviewed in 12 months’ time. He suggested the Town Council might like to reappraise the scheme in 11 months’ when its impact can be assessed.

**9c. PLANNING**

**9ci) Report from Chairman of Planning**

Cllr Worster drew Councillors’ attention to a forthcoming meeting with Neighbourhood Plan supporters and again reiterated the Council’s preferred option of completing the actions from the Town Plan. He disclosed that tree work was about to start work on diseased chestnuts on Leiston Road.

**9d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS**

**9di) Report from Chairman of Grants, Requests and Events Committee**

Cllr Bond had nothing to report this month.

**9dii)** Whilst a discussion pertaining to Council involvement with the Pre-School Playgroup took place In-Camera, it was agreed that the **RESOLUTION** was a matter of public record.

In accordance with Standing Orders, Cllr Fellowes declared a pecuniary interest in Resolution 9dii) and left the Council Chamber.

**RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** that ATC agrees, in principle, to pay the costs of transporting pre-school play group children from Aldeburgh to a provider in a neighbouring village for the Summer term 2017 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Walker and **SECONDED** by Cllr Worster.

**In favour 13**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions** **0**

**Carried UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Representatives’ Reports.**

* Cllr Worster attended a meeting of the Jubilee Hall Trustees.
* Cllr Palmer reported on a meeting of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership Meeting which he attended with Cllr Harris.
* Cllr Jones chaired a meeting of the Community Centre Trust on April 6th which was also attended by Cllr Bond.
* Cllr Kiff attended a meeting of the Library Trustees to confirm Cllr Sue Osben as the new library manager and to discuss future developments.
* Cllr Harris attended a meeting of the Museum Trustees on March 31st.
* Cllr Bond attended a meeting of the Carnival Committee.

**11. Town Clerk’s Report**

The Town Clerk reported that Cllrs would be meeting with representatives from the Neighbourhood and Town Plan Group on May 2 to discuss future ideas. She was pleased to confirm that an insurance claim by a visitor who broke his hip while in the town had been closed and no further action would be taken. She explained to the Town Council she was dealing with solicitors in respect of the complexities of the three-way lease arrangement involving the school playing field and the triangle.

With Cllr Jones, the Town Clerk was progressing the Sport England grant for King’s Field and there was considerable interest in tennis memberships.

With Cllr Digby she had met the Cleaning and Operations Manager for Suffolk Norse to talk about the provision of new bins for the Thorpe Road car park.

She expressed continued frustration at the lack of progress in repairing street lights in the town and replacing a very dangerous broken bollard close to the Moot Hall.

She drew Councillors attention to the Mayor’s Sunday Civic Event on May 21st 2017.

**12. Mayor’s Notes.**

* 29 March – Attended retirement dinner for Grahame Tinnion at Thorpeness Country Club
* 30 March – Attended meeting at Aldeburgh Play Group with Cllr Fox
* 2 April – Attended Woodbridge Mayor’s Sunday
* 4 April – Chaired Carnival Committee Meeting
* 6 April – Thoroughly enjoyed Chairman of SCDC’s reception at the Suffolk Punch Trust
* 7 April – Attended Chairman of Leiston Town Council’s reception

**13. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence this month

**14. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors**

As present and former Mayors of Aldeburgh, Cllrs Digby, Kiff, Cox and Worster declared the hospitality

they and their partners had received at a retirement dinner at Thorpeness Country Club on March 29.

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

All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

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

**In Favour 14**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being nothing further to discuss the public meeting ended at 7.26 pm.

**The Annual Meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on Monday 15th May 2017 at**

**7.00 pm in The Moot Hall.**