

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 26 MARCH 2018 AT 7.55 pm**

Present: Cllr Jones took the chair

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Cox
Cllr Digby Cllr Harris
Cllr Kiff Cllr Osben
Cllr Partel Cllr Worster

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Apologies: There were no apologies.

Approval of previous Minutes

Cllr Jones commended the draft Minutes of the Property and Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 26 February 2018 which were **APPROVED** by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed.

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1. Sports

Cllr Jones confirmed that funding arrangements for Sports Week were either in place or had been applied for and that the programme was virtually complete.

3.2 Sport/Management/Maintenance of Council Property and Land

Cllr Jones reported on the following items:

- Delivery of the new storage unit at the tractor shed was imminent with electrics to be installed shortly.
- Approved work to fill in potholes between Victoria Road and the car park at King's Field would commence in early-May.
- Moss spraying on the tennis courts was now complete, with dates for pressure-washing and re-painting still awaited.
- Contractors to be contacted to advise on repairs to the central heating boiler at the Moot Hall.
- Quotes for carrying out ground works had now been received from contractors Norse, though ditch clearance work would now have to wait until the autumn.
- The yacht pond had been emptied and cleaned.

Cllr Jones advised the Committee that a revised quote had been received from Norse for the refurbishment of the public lavatories at King's Field. The work would involve replacing the lighting, new doors and redecoration. She said the estimate was within budget and asked for Committee approval to carry out this work.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** expenditure as per budget to refurbish the public lavatories at King's Field was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Worster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour **9**
Against **0**
Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Committee Finance Business

Cllr Jones confirmed that the insurance review of all Council-owned assets was underway and that Cllr Kiff had agreed to photograph these and the Moot Hall for potential future claims. The focus, shortly, she declared would be on preparing year-end accounts for the external auditors.

She told the Committee that she and Cllr Digby had met with solicitors to progress the Mint Fitness lease and grant security documents for Sport England in respect of the drainage work at King's Field.

5. New Property and Finance Business

Cllr Jones invited Committee members and Cllrs to consider adopting a new policy for memorial benches in the town. She drew attention to councils in the south of England who were taking steps to reduce the number of benches and asked if Aldeburgh should consider similar measures. She pointed out that although benches in the town were purchased privately, the cost of renovating old wooden ones was borne by the Town Council. Recycled benches, which needed little maintenance, were available, she said, but asked if the town could accommodate any more, particularly along Crag Path. Cllr Jones called for ideas on how, in the future, relatives might want to remember loved ones if benches were no longer available. She believed the time was now right to adopt a coherent policy for the provision and upkeep of benches.

Cllr Cox agreed that the proliferation of benches had become a problem and suggested a no-maintenance policy for older wooden benches. These should be removed, he said, with the metal memorial plaques returned, if possible, to relatives.

Cllr Fox suggested that metal plaques removed from old benches could be fixed to the seaward side of the sea wall as a fitting memorial.

Cllr Kiff said that until a firm policy had been agreed, only benches in stock and supplied by ATC should be sold and installed.

Cllr Harris felt this might be an opportunity to standardise the appearance of the benches so they all matched.

Cllr Jones said she intended bringing this matter before the Committees Meeting in April and asked for help in formulating a memorial bench policy.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 8.10 pm.