

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 23 APRIL 2018 AT 7.17 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Digby took the chair.

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| Cllr Bond | Cllr Cox |
| Cllr Fellowes | Cllr Fox |
| Cllr Harris | Cllr Jones |
| Cllr Kiff | Cllr Osben |
| Cllr Oxby | Cllr Palmer |
| Cllr Partel | Cllr Walker |

There were four members of the public present.

1. Apologies: Cllr Worster

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Cllr Digby commended the draft Minutes of the Grants, Requests & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 26 March 2018 which were **APPROVED** by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed.

3. Grants & Requests

The Town Clerk asked the Committee to consider a request from a local family for a marriage ceremony in the Council Chamber in December. She explained the festivities would take place in a marquee on the Rugby field after the ceremony in the Moot Hall. She asked for guidance on the principle of using the Moot Hall to generate income for the town.

Cllr Harris thought the idea was sound but pointed out that the Museum Redevelopment Project was due to start in October and the Council Chamber might not be available.

Cllr Fox agreed that a long-term plan to generate income was desirable, providing people realised there were no catering facilities in the Moot Hall and access was difficult for the disabled.

Cllr Fellowes thought it was a good idea but the logistics involved in private functions in the Council Chamber needed careful consideration and could be fraught with problems.

The Town Clerk understood why a beautiful building like the Moot Hall would attract ceremonies like weddings and conceded that the redeveloped Council Chamber could provide enough flexibility to generate income from private functions. However, she expressed concern at the practicalities involved in accommodating events, with particular reference to security.

She also pointed out that functions would inevitably lead to a substantial rearrangement of furniture in the Council Chamber and this was a task which would not be undertaken by Moot Hall staff. She pointed out that Aldeburgh Museum, long-term tenants of the Town Council, would need to be consulted.

Cllr Harris, Chairman of the Aldeburgh United Charities, declared a pecuniary interest in the following:

The Committee considered a request from the organisers of the Moules and Boules Petanque Tournament to use the town's boules pistes on Saturday July 21 for an annual event, with a donation to be given to Aldeburgh United Charities. The request did not meet with universal approbation. Cllr Cox revealed that a local hotel had withdrawn its support from the event after participants had brought their own refreshments. Cllr Kiff observed that, in the past, there had been a tardiness to part with a donation to the AUC, but Cllr Harris assured him he would be in attendance to collect the money. Cllr Fox was intrigued to know if moules *would* feature in the day's event. The request was **APPROVED** by a show of hands.

In favour 11

Against 1

Abstentions 1

The Wildlife Trust asked for permission to hold a drop-in event close to the Moot Hall on June 16 as part of a national Big Wild Weekend. The organisers have previously held beach events in Aldeburgh to highlight the importance of Britain's living seas, with young people being encouraged to take part in marine-related activities. The request was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by a show of hands.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

The Committee was asked to consider a request from a businessman who wants to operate a light, electric vehicle service in the town. The conveyances, carrying up to six people, would have three wheels, be battery-operated and would travel silently along the town's thoroughfares. The businessman pointed out that Waveney District Council, now part of the East Suffolk authority with SCDC, had already adopted a light electric vehicle policy which, he hoped would be introduced throughout the whole of the SCDC area.

Cllrs Fellowes did not like the idea of a policy adopted by Waveney being imposed on residents of the SCDC area. This was a very dangerous and undemocratic development, she believed. Cllr Palmer described the vehicles as Noddy cars and tuk-tuks and thought there was little merit in the idea. The Town Clerk pointed out that this could be part of a broader policy across the whole of East Suffolk to encourage and promote the introduction of rickshaws.

Cllr Walker was scathing in his criticism. He said the idea of these vehicles travelling up and down the High Street was utterly absurd. He felt it was beyond belief that anyone should consider adding to traffic management problems on Aldeburgh's already-overcrowded main street. A number of Cllrs expressed concern that the plan was too vague and raised many issues. A decision on this request was deferred, pending further information.

Music by the Sea Event:

Cllr Jones reported that residents of Aldeburgh could obtain priority tickets for this event from the Reception Desk at the White Lion between May 1 and May 15. Posters advertising this fact were now on display on the town's noticeboards.

Cllr Bond voiced fears that the event might attract more than the 5,000-crowd capacity limit. Social media had been awash with message about the concert and she was concerned that fans without tickets would travel miles and then be turned away by stewards if the event was over-subscribed.

She was assured by Cllr Jones the organisers were confident of their crowd control strategy.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 7.42pm.

