

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24 2018 AT 7.00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: In the absence of Cllr Palmer, Cllr Digby took the Chair.

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Digby
Cllr Harris Cllr Kiff
Cllr Osben Cllr Oxby
Cllr Walker

There were two members of the public present.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Fellowes and Palmer.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Town Clerk suggested the formal meeting be adjourned until October 22.

She did invite Mr Tony Bone, Chairman of the Museum Trustees, to brief Cllrs on the latest developments relating to the Museum restoration project.

Mr Bone spoke of an exciting regeneration project which would reinvigorate static and lacklustre museum displays. He believed the newly-restored Museum would attract more visitors and have a much broader appeal to the local community. He outlined plans to improve visitor experience by adopting a more coherent narrative, using the latest digital technology. An important facet of the redevelopment plan, he said, was to introduce an outreach programme targeting schools and to forge partnerships with regional museums and history associations.

He confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Fund had approved a substantial grant for the work, with the Museum well on-target for a match-funding total of £51k.

Mr Bone set out a timetable for the project which would involve starting renovation work in the Museum in January for completion by the end of April. Building work on the fabric of the building costing £92k would, he believed bring huge improvements.

He outlined at length plans approved by the HLF covering artefact security, recruitment of new volunteers and Trustees with specific skills, a schools' development programme, an extensive range of activities and greater promotion of the Museum.

Cllr Kiff questioned the cost of the activity plan element of the budget and was reassured by Mr Bone that much of the £86k would be spent on a salary, over a three-year period for a new part-time employee of the Museum, together with funding for events and educational material.

Cllr Walker expressed concern that the appearance of the historic Moot Hall might be spoiled by unnecessary signage. Mr Bone told him that only two external signs would be erected with

minimal words. Cllr Walker also felt the relationship between the Museum and the local community was poor, a point conceded by Mr Bone who said that there were plans to radically improve this situation.

Cllr Digby asked Mr Bone about the fate of the Mayor's Chair and dais in the redevelopment plans. He understood that both the dais and chair might disappear under present proposals and believed this was a retrograde step. It was essential, he said, that the chairman of a meeting could see all the attendees and this could best be achieved from a slightly elevated position. He also felt the historic value of the Mayor's Chair should not be overlooked.

Cllr Fox, an ATC representative on the Museum Trustee board, said that the present dais was unwieldy and restricted the use of the Council Chamber for civic events. She believed a compromise solution could be achieved by more lightweight dais to be used in conjunction with ATC business, with the Mayor's chair utilised on those occasions.

Cllr Worster felt that ratepayers should not have to fund a new dais and asked for the cost to be included in the overall budget for the Museum Redevelopment. He wanted an assurance that every change to the concept of the Council Chamber and the Moot Hall was considered by ATC before implementation. Cllr Fox and Mr Bone gave him that assurance.

Cllr Fox asked the meeting to consider a number of designs for new chairs for the Council Chamber. She stressed the need for a contemporary style which would complement the historic nature of the Chamber. She commended the idea of high-quality, wooden stacking chairs with either a leather or upholstered seat.

Cllrs reacted positively when shown photographs of the chairs, but asked for samples of the furniture before coming to any conclusions.

Cllr Fox asked the meeting for approval to pursue the idea of obtaining stacking chairs of a modern design. Approved by a show of hands.

The Town Clerk thanked Mr Bone for his presentation. He will next address the Council on November 26.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

In the absence of the Chairman, the draft Minutes of the Services Committees meeting held on Tuesday August 28 2018 were held over until Monday October 22.

3. Matters for Discussion-SCC, SCDC and Police

There were no matters for discussion

3.1 Museum Update

(See above)

3.2 Highways

The Town Clerk announced that a meeting of the Services Committee working party scheduled for October 4 would now be held on October 11, when SCC Highways would be represented. Also, in attendance at that meeting would be a spokesman from the SCDC Civil Parking Enforcement Team who would be addressing the Committee on future parking plans for East Suffolk.

4. Committee Finance Business

There was no Committee Finance Business.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 7.40 pm.

