

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
MOOT HALL ON MONDAY AUG 9TH 2021 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Cllr Webster – The Mayor took the Chair.
Cllr Digby Cllr Osben
Cllr Fox Cllr Jones
Cllr Palmer Cllr Lewis

1. Apologies: Cllrs Blackbourn, Fellowes, Howard-Dobson, Smith, Piers-Hall

Cllr Rainger (ESC) was also in attendance.

2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest:

None to declare.

3. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on July 12th 2021:

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on July 12th 2021 were approved unanimously by the Council, subject to the following amendment to item 8bi. 'Cllr Palmer was pleased with the offer to support ATC in its work on a whole-town parking scheme which would assist with the implementation please and save professional fees on consultants *should ATC decide to proceed.*'

4. SCC Report and Correspondence:

A Monthly report and also an Energy update has been received from Cllr Haworth-Culf. Cllr Webster requested that all members should read these fully and any questions can be directed to Cllr Haworth-Culf. Any feedback on the Sizewell community engagement structure would be appreciated as soon as possible by Cllr Haworth-Culf.

5. ESC Report and Correspondence:

Cllr Rainger is happy to raise any local matters in his capacity at ESC meetings. He reported that the Melton Hill premises are back on the market as all ESC staff have settled into their new premises at Rotunda Park. Cllr Rainger attended a full council meeting held at High Lodge in Darsham. He is beginning to work with the Alde and Ore community partnership. He is also attending planning committee meetings and will represent ATC if there are issues to raise.

Cllr Rainger is well placed to feed any issues regarding Sizewell C to relevant ES contacts and is happy to do so. He offered to help with any Services issues that there are, for example grass cutting of playing fields.

Cllr Rainger has been invited to the Aldeburgh Society meeting which he will be attending.

Although not present at the meeting, Cllr Fellowes requested that Cllr Rainger ask the District Council about the change in collection of waste. Food waste can only be put in the grey bin going forward...previously this was allowed also in the green garden waste bin. This means that householders have only a fortnightly route for disposal and that it will be with mixed waste. Would Norse/ESC provide the rationale for this change and if they propose to reinstate weekly grey bin collections? As part of the 2010 Environment Bill Councils got funding to collect food waste and guidance states:

"Food waste should be separately collected for recycling at least weekly. This will ensure that all local authorities provide a minimum weekly service for food waste, and thus directly address local residents' concerns about the harm to local amenity and public health from this rubbish not being collected frequently has concerns about the changes to services of collection of food waste.

Cllr Osben found the new guidance leaflet for residents to be very confusing. She has telephoned ESC for clarification who gave very confusing information. Cllr Rainger will raise these concerns with the relevant people.

6. Police Report:

The Town Clerk reported that there have been 11 crimes reported in Aldeburgh since the end of June. These were minor thefts and 2 violent domestic cases.

7. Public Forum

No members of the public were in attendance.

8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee Cllr Jones

Cllr Jones had nothing to report on Finances this month.

The latest progress on the toilets at King's Field is that three builders have been contacted to quote for the works. Cllrs Jones and Fox met with the first contractor on-site last Monday and the other two companies have received the drawings and will be in contact to arrange on-site viewings.

Kemp's Field - Cllrs Blackburn and Jones have submitted an updated project plan to the Govt Department associated with the Pocket Parks scheme. Last week the bracken was sprayed again. The next task is to get the digger on-site to crush the bracken and to level up the ground ready for the paths to be pegged out; at which point another working group needs to be organised to clear the edge where the digger cannot get to.

Cllr Jones referenced the letter that the TC has sent to ESC regarding the Norse contract and their performance and a reply is awaited. Cllr Jones asked if this was discussed at the Town Clerk's meeting today. Report to follow by TC agenda item 10.

The project manager appointed by Sport England is chasing the contractor to understand why they did not complete all the works specified when they were on site.

The contractor inspecting our play equipment is scheduled to be on site this week to complete the necessary repairs.

Work is underway to identify a contractor to clean the yacht pond, a job historically Norse has undertaken. One quote has been obtained already. Emptying and cleaning the pond will take approximately two days and so consideration must be given to the best time to have this carried out.

Quotes are being sought for painting of the railings along Moot Green, hopefully works to be completed once the area is less busy.

Cllr Jones has made contact with the preferred contractor regarding the pointing and painting works on the Moot Hall and the contractor concerning the damp in the Groundsman's Cottage. Cllr Jones will chase these up.

Cllr Jones suggested it will soon be time to cut hedges and there is a need to consider suitable contractors as it is not sensible to rely on Norse.

Church Farm Open Space has recently been cut but the cuttings were not cleared which is causing some concerns. The Town Clerk confirmed that the land has not yet transferred to ATC and currently remains the responsibility of Fieldens.

Cllr Jones talked about the coming weekend as the funfair will be on King's Field car park starting at 11am Saturday morning. For the Fireworks night in November, the car park will also be closed to vehicles. A barrier will be put across late on Friday evening to prevent cars gaining access. Cllr Jones asked if there is Council approval for this. Approval for this was agreed by a unanimous show of hands.

A response has been received from Natural England to ATC's objection to the proposed coastal footpath route across the marshes. TC reported that criteria to register our objection with the Planning Inspectorate has been satisfied. This is likely to be a lengthy process. Natural England have funds to support the maintenance required depending on the outcome of the process.

8bi) SERVICES COMMITTEE
Report from Chairman of Services Cllr Palmer

Cllr Palmer began by confirming details of the next Services Working Group meeting to be held via zoom on 2nd September at 10 AM via Zoom. He also confirmed that the fourth Sub-Group meeting will take place Thursday 12th August at 10am via Zoom to discuss the Whole Town Parking Scheme.

Minor changes to yellow lines on Wentworth Road are awaited following the outcome of a formal consultation which is in process.

Members are still waiting for all drains to be properly cleaned on Crag Path, The Terrace, Crabbe Street and High Street and work continues to push to get this done.

Work continues with SCC Highways to reduce the speed limits and road speed limit changes are in progress for the Saxmundham Road and the Slaughden Road. Road traffic surveys are taking place on the Thorpeness Road in September. There is a need to carry out speed surveys on Victoria Road and possibly other roads as part of the future speed control plans.

All Rubbish bins purchased for this year are now in place and Cllr Palmer reported that he is now looking ahead to the following year for the needs of the town including some individual bins that may be required in various locations.

He continues to Investigate various suppliers to obtain quotes for a new bus shelter on Linden/Leiston Road corner.

Cllr Palmer reported that the Leiston Road Parking Scheme had been discussed at the SWG meeting with Highways. It was agreed that there would be an on-site meeting to discuss the displaced car issue. Cllr Webster will carry out a parked car and position survey at various times over two weeks to back up ATC's thinking.

The Crag Path signage that has been awaiting action since March now appears on the roadworks list. The Slaughden re-surfacing is now complete although being heavily used due to the volume of traffic during the summer months.

A possible design for Chopping Hill Railings has been agreed for which costs are awaited. ATC will only be contributing the difference in cost between the standard design and the design chosen which is sympathetic to being in a Conservation area.

Cllr Palmer has investigated the cost of double yellow lines for the Choppings Hill corner. This is to prevent parking on the bend and the corner being blocked. The cost is approximately £7,000 including the TRO.

There are no Routine Maintenance Issues to report.

Cllr Palmer reported the SPR DCO examination is closed with the outcome awaited in three months. The PINS website carries a list of other projects likely to affect the Eastern area in the near future including other projects likely to terminate at Friston.

Cllr Osben confirmed that the Sizewell "C" consultation on potable water is open for the public to respond and closes on 27th August. This examines the requirement for a temporary desalination plant until the new supply pipe is installed. However, EDF is proposing to use tankers to bring water in until the desalination plant is up and running. This will add quite a few extra tankers to the HGV numbers early on. Cllr Fellowes report reads as follows:- 'You will have seen consultations and new proposals which are quite technical and have caused some confusion. I have asked for more information regarding producing pink hydrogen, the use of water (consultation open until 27th Aug for our comments) on the main site and associated infrastructure with 40 tankers a day, and the use of diesel to power the desalination plant (causing waste slurry and potentially a brown discharge into the atmosphere).'

Cllr Palmer will prepare a response to this on behalf of ATC to be signed off at the next Committees Meeting. The Council's Town Residents Consultation is still in progress.

Although not present, Cllr Fellowes has seen reported in the newspapers that EDF has delayed its final investment decision on SZC until the end of 2022/early 2023 compared with previously stated mid 2022. This follows the Government announcement that they will be seeking ways to block CNG (China General Nuclear) from any nuclear projects.

Cllr Lewis joined a guided walk in the area of the proposed SZC site and emphasised the enormous and lasting damage that this would bring to a very sensitive area (AONB). Cllr

Osben confirmed that the next date for a guided walk at Sizewell is 23rd August for anyone who would like to go along.

Cllr Palmer reported about Hornsea-4 Offshore Windfarm DCO. There is a mini consultation ending September 6th regarding mitigation measures for the above project off the Yorkshire Coast. They wish to add nesting sites for kittiwakes to the coast. These structures could be quite large and possibly not suitable for an AONB. Please see the link below for information:-

<https://hornseaprojects.co.uk/hornsea-project-four/compensation-measures-consultation>

8c **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

8ci Report from Chairman of Planning Cllr Webster

Cllr Webster confirmed that minutes of recent meetings have been circulated. He suggested that members look on the East Suffolk portal for planning applications where they can view associated drawings and any correspondence submitted.

The next Planning Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th August at 10am in the Moot Hall. Agendas have been distributed. Cllr Webster explained that the portal must be checked regularly so that Cllrs are aware of any objections placed before ATC considers each application. For this reason, applications will be brought to the Planning Committee fairly late on in the process so that all views are known and can be taken into account.

8d **GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS**

Cllr Webster reported on events taking place.

The Summer Theatre continues throughout August.

The Carnival Committee poster competition and pebble painting competition is taking place this coming weekend and will be judged by Cllr Webster this Saturday afternoon. A fun weekend has been organised for this weekend at the Old Generator Station as it would usually be carnival weekend.

Kemp's Men of Norwich and The Knots of May will perform Traditional Dance at The Moot Hall on Sunday 15th August at 2.15pm.

A Classic Car Club will meet at Moot Hall Green on Monday 30th August and another group on Sunday 5th September.

The Triathlon will take place on Sunday 12th September. Cllr Webster is to meet with Rob Mabey to agree parking arrangements and electricity to be provided from the Moot Hall.

TC has received a request from two residents from Aldringham who have written a book together. One elderly gentleman is a war veteran and it is about his memories. They have asked to sell from a table located on Moot Green for the month of August. Cllr Jones questioned if the profit from sales would be solely for the authors. TC is in conversation with them and it may be that they would give a donation. No objections apart from that we do not want to set a precedent.

9i) **Representatives' Reports**

Cllr Palmer had nothing to report

Cllr Fellowes gave apologies for the meeting and so has sent in her report. She is happy to answer any questions for the SZC/DCO examination.

There is another round of Open Floor Hearings on 24th August at which anyone can request to speak. The PINS team will allocate 5 minutes if an individual, or longer if representing a group or organisation/business. Please encourage especially businesses locally who have not engaged to date.

There are Issue Specific Hearings on Policy and Need in a couple of weeks and a proposed Zoom meeting before the next deadline for all Parish and Town Councils.

Email responses, predominantly opposed to SZC and a couple have been received in favour of, continue to be received by the Town Clerk. Cllr Fellowes reported that she would pull together a full summary for September's meeting. She is liaising with the TC on dates for a presentation by Tom McGarry from EDF in September or October.

ATC is also being asked to comment on mitigation for seabirds being proposed on the coast as part of the Hornsea Project 4 Offshore Windfarm DCO. Local campaign groups (SEAS etc) who were not aware have been notified and asked if their wildlife/habitats experts could provide some comment. This would also have a cumulative impact for both SPR as well as SZC DCO.

Old Generator Station

Cllr Jones will attend a Trust meeting Wednesday 11th August ahead of the fun weekend planned for this coming weekend. Attractions include a fun fair all weekend, stalls, food courtyard, children's races, a singer and children's disco on Saturday evening, bouncy castle and more stalls on Sunday.

Cllr Jones announced that the new website for the Old Generator Station is now live. Now that restrictions have been eased they have been able to schedule a monthly programme of entertainment. All details can be found on the website.

Aldeburgh Society

Cllr Jones attended a meeting on 19th July. She reported that they continue to review planning applications and had sent a letter of support for ATC's 'Dial House Garden' application. They would appreciate ideas regarding a site for a potential new town map. The Society continue to be engaged with the energy projects and are working with Cllr Fellowes on these matters.

10) Town Clerk's Report

TC joined a Zoom meeting today along with nine other Town Clerks. She reported that a representative from Norse was also in attendance. Both Leiston and Southwold have also been experiencing problems with the service from Norse recently. Norse admitted that they have not had the correct equipment or manpower to deliver the service sufficiently. They have had new equipment delays which has led to much of the problems we have seen.

TC has also learned during the Town Clerks meeting that a whole town strategic parking review for every town in Suffolk will be undertaken. During the summer months the twenty parking enforcement officers have been diverted to focus on coastal locations due to the volume of visitors.

Felixstowe TC have complained to SCC Highways about the inefficient yellow line process and appalled of having to pay upfront for TRO services.

TC reported that the Queen's Jubilee preparations are underway and will take place over one month entitled 'The Festival of Suffolk' and Aldeburgh will be asked to nominate champions. It has been requested that beacons are burned as on previous celebrations. This is an opportunity to showcase our town and what makes us special.

TC updated the committee that a small number of people are continuing with complaints about the view along Crag Path with the larger black bins.

TC has been in conversation with Eileen Haring-Woods of Ballroom Arts who is based in the premises to the right of the arch in the High Street. Ballroom Arts is being launched there in September and ATC have been invited to be involved in the opening. Eileen is receptive to the ATC noticeboard being re-located and will get back to TC with alternative suggestions.

Responses have been submitted to the external auditors regarding their supplementary questions relating to payroll provision and HMRC.

11) **Mayor's Notes**

The Mayor and Mayoress enjoyed an evening with the High Sheriff.

The Mayor is happy to be judging the 'Paint a Pebble' competition this Saturday afternoon. This has been kindly organised by the Carnival Committee.

Cllr Webster reported that there have been two car clubs who have gathered on the Moot Green recently, the Knuckle Busters and more recently the Nissan figaro owners club. Both were very good events and we would welcome them back to the town in the future.

12) **Correspondence**

There was no additional correspondence for discussion.

13) **Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors**

Summer Theatre tickets had been received by Cllr Webster, Cllr Osben, Cllr Lewis, TC and DTC. A maximum of two tickets each were kindly accepted.

14) **Items to Pay**

Details had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewis.

In Favour	9
Against	0
Abstentions	0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held in The Moot Hall on
Monday September 13th at 7pm.**