**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE**

**MOOT HALL ON MONDAY 13th February 2023 AT 7PM**

**Present:** Cllr Palmer - Chair Cllr Smith

Cllr Jones Cllr Howard-Dobson

Cllr Fellowes Cllr Lewis

Cllr Lumpkin Cllr Daly ESC

Cllr Webster

**Apologies:**  Cllrs Haworth-Culf, Fox, Digby and Piers-Hall

Cllr Cooper ESC

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**2. To Receive Councillors’ Declarations of Interest**

None

1. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th January 2023:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th January 2023 were approved unanimously by the Council members with a show of hands.

1. **SCC Report and Correspondence:**

ESC High Street Improvements Programme 17th February 2023. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Following the approval of the ESC Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan shortly before Christmas, application for the grant schemes for High Street Improvements and Events are now open. Please see ESC website where there is guidance documents and application forms.

This is a competitive process with the first funding call closing on Friday 17th February with a decision due w/c 6th March. But there will be five further funding calls up until January 2024 and the guidance documents outline all the relevant dates/deadlines.

Essentially the High Street Improvement scheme is grants of between £5,000 and £15,000 for town councils.

1. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**

ESC have reported a £20,000 housing pot has been put aside to spend on empty properties in order to re-let. This is for the whole of East Suffolk and therefore does not demonstrate a commitment to provide affordable housing.

The Ease the Squeeze campaign is on-going.

East Suffolk Council is committed to helping end period poverty and the stigma attached to it, working with existing schemes such as Free Period in Waveney and Pride and period in Suffolk Libraries.

For elections all voters are required to show photographic identification (photo ID) at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper.

In previous years, East Suffolk Council has gifted bulbs to a number of groups in the north of the district, via commercial partner East Suffolk Norse. Voluntary and community groups are being encouraged to join the campaign by applying for bundles of bulbs to plant locally in time for next spring.

For 2023, the scheme will be opened up for any voluntary and community group across the entire district to plant bulbs on public land. East Suffolk Blooms officially gets underway in February – with groups required to complete a simple application form by 31 May, ahead of a decision panel meeting to determine applications in June.

1. **Police Report:**

TC reported that the police had visited the Fairfield Centre concerning bogus entry and theft.

1. **Public Forum**

Cllr Palmer suspended Standing Orders. As no members of the public were in attendance, he then re-instated Standing Orders.

**8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee**

Cllr Jones reported that the Income and Expenditure report and the report explaining the variances have been circulated together with the detailed budget. We have already agreed the precept to remain unchanged and the detailed budget and EMR confirm that this was the correct decision. The CIL money must be spent within 5 years of receiving it. We have £557 which should be spent this year or it could taken back by ESC. It has to be spent on infrastructure projects so I propose we use it on the Leiston Road double yellow lines project, reducing the cost of the project.

Cllr Jones has had confirmation that there will not be another application for a Saturday football team next season and so the Football Foundation have confirmed that they therefore will be unable to provide funding towards the changing rooms. Cllr Fox, Webster and I will resume discussions with the Rugby committee.

We need to decide whether to reopen the toilets at Kingsfield now that the drain has been repaired or is it better to wait for the windows to be repaired first. A quote has been received of £593 and we are waiting for a date for this to be done. Whilst we have CCTV there is still potential for damage. Cllrs agreed that the toilets should be opened as soon as possible.

Cllr Jones reported that all the electrical work required at the Bowls Pavilion has been completed. A date for the electrical work to be carried out at the Groundsman’s cottage is expected.

Cllr Howard Dobson is acquiring quotes for the insulation work on the Groundsman’s Cottage roof.

Vernon Strowger will investigate the problem with the Bowls Pavilion with the down pipes, possibly this week.

Cllr Jones reported that the contractor who is taking over the inspection of our play equipment will do his first inspection on 28th February. Cllr Jones is unable to meet for this first inspection at Kings Field at 9am. If there is someone who can do so please see Cllr Jones in advance.

Cllr Jones reported that the Yacht Pond has been filled for half term and work will commence after 22nd February.

Cllr Jones is to start chasing Anglian Water regarding connecting water to the Tractor Shed to enable works to prior to letting. Cllr Jones has found some old paperwork regarding the addition of a toilet to Pet Perfection and possibly this will show the position of the existing drains.

Cllr Jones reported that the farmer has a bigger digger arriving 1st March when he will be able to start the ditch clearance.

**8b) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**8bi) Report from Chairman of Services Committee**

Cllr Lewis reported that the next Services Working Committee will be held at 10am on Thursday 2nd March.

Cllr Lewis reported that the design is complete for the Village Gateways at the 30 mph limits.

Cllr Lewis reported that the posts for the Evolis speed signs to be put up by SCC on Leiston and Saxmundham Roads. These are included in the cost.

Cllr Lewis reported that the speed checks for Victoria Rd are being chased up.

Cllr Lewis reported that the Parking Group continues to plan its approach and is receiving much help from the ESC. Cllr Lumpkin is recording discussions with notes.

Cllr Lewis reported that similar Bollards to the one installed for Jubilee Walk to be purchased for Cragg Path The aim is to break up the impression of a through-route.

To obtain a quote for new Bollards for Cragg Path. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewis.

**In Favour 8**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8c) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning Committee**

Cllr Webster reported that planning permission for 50 Victoria Road has been given approval by ESC.

The Aldeburgh Golf Club planning application is back for comment after a couple more documents have been added but the closing date is 15 February.

**8d) GRANTS, REQUESTS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Cllr Webster reported that OGS would like to hold an old-fashioned fete on 7th May 2023 to celebrate the Coronation. This will be aimed at the whole family and Cllr Jones will hire some outdoor activities such as crazy golf and large snakes and ladders. To cover part of the cost Cllr Jones will apply for funding from Sizewell B Power Station.

An event for the whole family to be organised and held at OGS to celebrate the Coronation on 7th May 2023. This is subject to raising other donations. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Smith and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lumpkin.

**In Favour 8**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

To hold a quieter fireworks display on Kings Field as part of the Coronation celebrations. The display will use quieter fireworks throughout. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Lumpkin and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

**In Favour 6**

**Against 2**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9) Representatives’ Reports**

Cllr Fellowes attended the following:

Nautilus webinar

Mental Health Training session in Partnership with ESC

The Library Foundation discussing good practice.

Cllr Lewis reported that two allotments are to be cleared. Once this has been completed people from the waiting list can be shown around.

Cllr Howard-Dobson has attended a zoom course about planning hosted by SALC.

**Aldeburgh Society**

Cllr Jones attended the meeting on 23rd January. The Aldeburgh Society continue to work with Cllr Fellowes on energy projects. Discussion about their planned attendance at the Conservation Area Consultation took place as they were so involved in its development. They were keen to keep pressure on the developments at the caravan park. There were lengthy discussions about their collective view on the parking project ahead of the meeting later that week. They confirmed the illustrated town map was about to be delivered and the unveiling to take place on Saturday.

**Old Generator Station**

Cllr Jones chaired a Trust meeting on 25th January. Ben Blades was appointed a Trustee, filling the vacant position. The end of year stock take was good. The problem with our energy contract transfer was discussed and the bill for £3000 received from British Gas which the Energy bureau is disputing on our behalf. It was agreed to have a small food menu at weekends and this is being prepared for.

The King’s Coronation was discussed and it was agreed to investigate having a family fun day on Sunday 7th May. This is now planned as a fete during the afternoon, with 9 hole crazy golf, coconut shy, football shoot out, basketball shoot, bouncy castle, buzz wire, giant draughts, snakes and ladder and Jenga all being hired. In the evening a band and a quieter fireworks finale. A more detailed plan will be brought to committee asking for Council to provide the firework display.

**Tennis Committee**

Cllr Jones attended their meeting on 8th February. Their estimate for the honesty box takings, which they collect and bank on our behalf, this year is £3400. I updated them on our discussion about the defibrillator and the proposal for a one third contribution plus installation from ATC. They were happy with that. I also advised them on works to the Pavilion, as they use it, so the recent electrical works and the planned external redecoration in the summer. I also advised that the bowls club have offered to fund 50% of the cost of a new carpet, our share would be from the remaining surplus they are holding on our behalf.

**10) Report from the Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk began her report by confirming that this was her final Council meeting before leaving her role with effect from the end of March 2023. She thanked Cllrs for their support over the years, particularly those who had served throughout her tenure. She commented that the role had been most enjoyable and productive, if not without some challenges. She encouraged Cllrs to stand for re-election, highlighting that their role was to make Aldeburgh a better place to live, work and visit and everybody should be proud of their association with Aldeburgh.

She continued with a brief list of forthcoming issues that the town may face and although stepping away from the role, she offered her ongoing support as a resident.

**11) Mayor’s Notes**

Cllr Palmer reported the meetings and events he attended for this period:

Friday 13th January – Museum Lunch at Aldeburgh Church Hall

Tuesday 24th January – Carnival Meeting at the Moot Hall

Wednesday 25th January – OGS meeting

Thursday 26th January - AOCP meeting at Orford Town Hall

Sunday 5th February - Leiston Air Cadets Service at Aldeburgh Parish Church

Saturday 11th February – Unveiling of the new Town Map in Aldeburgh

Saturday 11th February – Rugby Club VP Lunch at OGS

**12) Correspondence**

None.

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

Cllr Palmer reported he had received a lunch when attending the Museum Lunch for volunteers and a lunch at the Rubgy Club event held at the OGS.

**14)** **Items to Pay**

Details had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster

**In Favour 8**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.32 pm**

The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held in the Moot Hall on

Monday 13th March 2023 at 7pm.