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

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

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

Cllr Digby Cllr Howard-Dobson

Cllr Fellowes Cllr Rainger ESC

Cllr Lumpkin

Cllr Webster

Cllr Haworth-Culf joined the meeting at 7.25pm

**Apologies:**  Cllrs Jones, Piers-Hall, Fox and Lewis

Cllrs Cooper and Daley ESC

One member 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 13th February 2023:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th February 2023 were approved unanimously by the Council members with a show of hands.

1. **SCC Report and Correspondence:**

The SCC monthly report from Cllr Haworth-Culf has previously been circulated.

1. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Rainger reported that the Ease the Squeeze campaign is on-going with grants available to set up community pantries or keep an established one going.

There is funding available to help to continue to engage people in communities following on from warm rooms and similar schemes. A model that promotes dignity, self-reliance and community and is a sustainable way of people accessing affordable food. Pantries are member led, each member contributes to the service, reducing stigma. Pantries aim to reduce the pressure on crisis response services such as Foodbanks, which are often having to stretch their policies of supplying food in an emergency because of long term need. Pantries schemes are so much more than a food source. They are relationship focussed and many schemes are community hubs, reducing social isolation, building confidence and skills. Ideally there

is also provision made for people to also access additional support and advice from local partners, particularly to mitigate other effects of the rising cost of living where appropriate.

The grant scheme can fund set up costs, equipment and franchise fees if appropriate. Support will be available to organisations on an ongoing basis.

Cllr Rainger altered us to the ESC Spring Bulbs scheme launched in February. Applications welcomed by groups for them to be given bulbs to be planted on public land. There is a form available on ESC website.

Community Litter Picking Kits are available from ESC to promote people taking pride in the area and to link in with the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.

Cllr Rainger finished by saying it is his last meeting and that it has been an honour to represent and work with Aldeburgh.

Cllr Fellowes asked a question. There is to be a 2.8% increase from the district council to Council Tax. Requests Cllr Rainger take the message back that we would like it to be a priority for keeping affordable housing in Aldeburgh. Cllr Rainger will do this however is aware that the policy is for new build as it is usually cheaper than to convert an existing property.

1. **Police Report:**

No report received.

1. **Public Forum**

Cllr Palmer suspended Standing Orders.

The member of the public asked if we could have any cycle lanes? Cllr Rainger talked about the Walking and Cycling Strategy and that Aldeburgh to Thorpe had been identified as a possible route. This would be beneficial to residents and for tourists. This is not a high priority project so may be useful for Thorpeness and Aldeburgh to work together.

Cllr Fellowes reported that possibly CIL monies could be used for this. The TC will look into this.

Cllr Palmer then re-instated Standing Orders.

**8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

No property report.

**8aii)** **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the existing NALC model (2018) Standing Orders, with agreed amendments for ATC. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8aiii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the existing NALC model (2018) Financial Regulations, with agreed amendments to ATC. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Webster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8aiv) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the existing Financial Risk Assessment 2022-2023. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8av)** **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the existing Risk Assessment Register, with agreed amendments. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8avi) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the Asset Register 2022-2023 with amendments. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Lumpkin and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8vii)** **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the continued appointment of SALC as the internal auditor. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Haworth-Culf joined the meeting at 7.25pm

Cllr Lumpkin raised a question about how much interest ATC should take in the Old Generator Station as we own the building and contribute to the running costs. He has heard various rumours about which football teams are using the facilities. Cllr Lumpkin would like to be better informed and particularly to encourage Kings Field to be used.

**RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** that ATC request a copy of the minutes of the OGS (Aldeburgh Generator Station Trust Minutes) for transparency. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Webster and **SECONDED** by

Cllr Digby.

In Favour 6

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8b) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Palmer reported that there is not a Services Working Group meeting this month until after the Teams meeting with Highways which happened on Friday 10th March.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th April at 10am in the Moot Hall.

Cllr Palmer reported on the Teams meeting with Highways 10/03/2023.

Those present: Cllr. Palmer, Cllr Lumpkin, Cllr Haworth-Culf, Town Clerk, Wayne Saunders - Highways, Jason Crane - Highways, Luke Merton Highways.

A long discussion took place on the proposed Leiston Road Parking Scheme. The outcome is to prioritise and implement within 20 weeks. The installation is based on discussions at a Stakeholder meeting held Friday 31st March 2022 in OGS. The process means letters are to be sent as soon as possible to inform residents of the decision and then normal procedures follow. This must go ahead as there are no possible further changes possible that would not invalidate the whole scheme. Costs have risen over the 4 years by approximately 10%, plus a question of the “contingency” element if not used. We must ensure we receive this back if not spent.

Cllr Palmer reported that the High Street Bus shelter proceeding now costs have been finalised.

Cllr Palmer reported that he will again investigate a solution, mainly for disabled access, to the seafront side of the Wentworth. Possibly a path.

Cllr Palmer reported that the paths on Linden Road will be re-done in July this year.

A few of the drain covers along Crag Path have been replaced which will now enable them to be removed for drain cleaning.

Cllr Palmer reported that Chopping Hill Railings are showing signs of rusting. SCC have confirmed that they have re-called Kiers to make good.

Cllr Palmer reported that the VAS posts for Leiston Road and Saxmundham Road are due to be delivered in June. Costs for the Vehicle Activated Sign were discussed. Cllr Haworth-Culf pledged funding for one of these as Suffolk County Councillor.

**RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the purchase of 2 x Solar panel Vehicle Activated Signs/VARs **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Smith and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In Favour 6

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Palmer will take part in the annual Seafront Walk with the TC, ESC and Norse representatives. He will circulate the report.

Large Infrastructure Group – DCOs

Cllr Fellowes reported worries concerning Sizewell C. There are workers on the estate that are cutting down mature trees, however works at this stage should be fully reversable. Under the Deed of Obligation, they must restore any works to original state if needed.

**8c) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Webster reported that there will be a short meeting on Monday 20th March. There are three applications to discuss but nothing contentious.

Cllr Fellowes requested that an urgent letter be sent to ESC Planning department, as requested previously, to make it known our view that the planning process route to committee is inadequate.

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

Cllr Webster has received a request from the Porsche Owners Club to visit on 30th September. This is going to be a ticketed event by the organisers to that each car will donate to ATC. **Cllr unanimously agreed to this by a show of hands.**

**8di)** **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the request to purchase Coronation mugs for children attending Aldeburgh Primary School. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fellowes.

In Favour 6

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8dii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the request to purchase Coronation mugs for each child attending Aldeburgh Sunflower Montessori. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lumpkin.

In Favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 1

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8diii)** The request from a local resident to plant bulbs on the land owned by Aldeburgh Town Council has been withdrawn.

**9) Representatives’ Reports**

Cllr Webster has attended a Carnival Committee meeting.

Cllr Lumpkin attended a meeting of the Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Partnership. ‘Cuppa and Chinwag’ schemes have been awarded funding and requested that Aldeburgh be included.

Cllr Fellowes attended the National Strategic Information Projects meeting. (INSIPS)

**10) Report from the Town Clerk**

TC reported that she has met with Paul Tynan (Norse) to ensure that they are cutting the areas of grass that we need them to. Also discussed our requirements this year for bedding plants and hanging baskets.

TC is compiling a list of events that will be happening in the town for the Coronation. She is also putting together a list of events taking place throughout the year.

TC reported that she has agreed a date with the Church for Mayors Sunday which is 9th July. This event is being planned for a little later in the year than usual because of elections and the Coronation.

TC reported that ESC have launched wifi in the town for all to use when out and about. If you are interested in attending the demonstration day in April, dates will be circulated when known.

TC has previously circulated a report from ESC about footfall in the town. Cllr Smith suggested that this information would be very useful for the Aldeburgh Business Association to have access to.

Election nomination papers were given out to all present at the meeting. TC informed Cllrs that papers must be delivered to East Suffolk Council in Melton and this is by appointment only. The DTC has an appointment on 31st March and will take all papers that are handed to her. If you do wish to deliver your own paper, please remember to make an appointment.

TC reported that she has a full day of training this week on Wednesday on the Omega financial system. The DTC is on annual leave from 20th – 24th March and so the best time to call the office to reach TC is in the mornings.

**11) Mayor’s Notes**

Cllr Palmer reported that he attended the following meetings:

Tuesday 21st February – Carnival Meeting - Moot Hall

Friday 10th March – Teams Meeting with SCC Highways

**12) Correspondence**

None.

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

None.

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

Cllrs discussed the cost related to moving a memorial bench into a position along the sea front. Alternative arrangements to be considered in future.

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

**In Favour 5**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 1**

**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

Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 7pm.