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

**MOOT HALL ON TUESDAY 11th April 2023 AT 7PM**

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

Cllr Digby Cllr Howard-Dobson

Cllr Jones Cllr Haworth-Culf

Cllr Lumpkin Cllr Piers-Hall

Cllr Webster

**Apologies:**  Cllrs Fellowes, Fox and Lewis

Two 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 13th March 2023:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th March 2023 were approved by the Council members with a show of hands. Cllr Jones abstained as she was not present at that meeting.

1. **SCC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Haworth-Culf reported that there is no SCC report this month as we are in the period of Purda ahead of elections. Any urgent issues will be emailed directly to the Town Clerk.

1. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**

No report from ESC for the same reasons as Agenda item 4.

1. **Police Report:**

No report received. Cllr Haworth-Culf offered to monitor the police website and report on any matters ATC should be aware of.

1. **Public Forum**

Cllr Palmer suspended Standing Orders.

Members of the public offered the chance to raise any issues. Neither wished to speak and were here to observe only.

Cllr Palmer then re-instated Standing Orders.

**8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

**Finance**

Cllr Jones reported that both Dawn and Sam had been spending time with the team from Rialtas preparing for the end of year accounts. The team will be completing the end of year reports on 10th May and we have the internal audit visit on 24th May. Preparation of identifying accruals and the ear marked reserves has begun. Cllr Jones has been in contact with Barclays to change the bank mandate to add Cllr Webster as a cheque signatory and also to acquire new debit cards for the office.

**Sports**

Cllr Jones reported that rugby season has finished and there is still at least one football game outstanding. We are waiting to hear what plans the juniors have. The issue for us being that we have no floodlit training area. Bowls season is now re-starting. The tennis club collected £3505 from the honesty box last year. We have an agreement to pay them 10% for collecting and banking.

**Property**

Cllr Jones reported that the windows on Kings field toilets have been repaired. More repairs have been required in the disabled toilet, a broken tap and a rail pulled from the wall and also damage to both the ladies and gents. Norse have reported the damage to the police. CCTV footage has allowed us to identify possible culprits for the damage to the toilets which we will share with the police.

The carpet in the Bowls Pavilion has been replaced and looks very nice. An invitation to tender has been issued for the exterior re-decoration this summer and Vernon Strowger has agreed to investigate the problem with the down pipes.

The Groundsman’s Cottage electrical survey has been completed and there were some essential and recommended works which we have approved. These works are scheduled to be done on 25th April. It has been recommended that we consider putting the cable connecting to Pet Perfection underground. We will look at this when we have a digger on site for future works to the Tractor Shed. We have received a quote for insulating the rear roof over the office and creating a loft hatch. The work will cost £1100 and could be completed in September.

Cllr Jones has spoken with both Anglian water (sewerage) and Essex & Suffolk (clean water), who were both very helpful. Also contacted was Binders who installed the toilet at Pet Perfection in 2009 as they can provide sewerage solutions. Cllr Webster and Cllr Jones will meet with them on 30th March. They have suggested a couple of options to link to the outlet installed for Pet Perfection. We are awaiting their proposal.

Cllr Jones reported there has been some damage to the shelter on Kings Field. Dayne West has replaced the step of the shelter and will complete the other repairs.

The contractor David Bracey has taken over the inspection of our play equipment and completed his first major inspection on 28th February. There were some small immediate items that were necessary to address and are being progressed. His first monthly inspection was on 27th March. The issues raised are largely regarding bare surfaces where feet have eroded the grass. We are identifying who to assign different jobs to.

Cllr Jones reported that there is some asbestos forming the walls of a shed on an allotment. The tenant has asked for it to be removed and taken to a registered toxic site. A quote has been received of £1095 which will remove the asbestos but leave the wooden frame, which is likely to need removing.

**8aii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** proceeding with the work on the Groundman’s Cottage to insulate the rear roof over the office and create a loft hatch as quoted. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

In Favour 7

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8aiii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** proceeding with the removal of asbestos which is forming the walls of a shed on an allotment as quote received. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Smith and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster.

In Favour 6

Against 0f#;;kn

Abstentions 1

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Lumpkin asked for clarity with matters concerning the OGS. Cllr Jones replied that it is not appropriate for the minutes of the OGC to be circulated as they contain confidential personal information of personnel. Cllr Jones herself gives a monthly report at the Council Meeting. The OGS is governed and managed by Trustees including the Mayor and Cllrs Webster, Jones and Fox. Cllr Piers-Hall is the Director.

Cllr Howard-Dobson requested that the toilet in the Groundman’s Cottage, the black damp on the ceiling and yellow mould in the hall urgently needs to be rectified.

Cllr Haworth-Culf reported that green algae is beginning to appear in the Yacht Pond and requests this be look at.

**8b) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Palmer reported that the seafront walk has taken place with representatives from Norse, the report about this has already been circulated.

The owners of the Wentworth Hotel would like a path to the beach side of the hotel to provide disabled access. Highways have visited and will prepare a quote for them.

An alternative position is to be decided for the Leiston Road VAS speed sign. This is because the underground services were not available at the site suggested.

Slaughden Road (beyond the boat yard) is in desperate need of attention. ESC being advised of the issue as they are responsible for this land.

Cllr Palmer read out the energy projects report from Cllr Fellowes in her absence:-

This will be a busy year again for the Energy projects.   With the confirmation that we do not have a contested election and thoughts turning to potential co-options to fill vacancies following sadly losing Cllrs not standing after the elections, can we speak to people especially those who may be willing to work on the Energy projects (ideally not landowners/business affected negatively or positively, nor those with their own or family pensions/connections to the industry).

Update:

We are still awaiting outcomes of the JRs for SPR EA1 & EA2 and EDF SZC.

Pre-work on SZC, at Developer risk - prior to the Financial Investment Decision (FID) continues.  With creation of replacement habitat in Benhall area (across the River from Snape), and stripping of the area where the new access road would go (public paths and bridleway sections fenced off).   Light pollution through the night has been reported by those living locally.

There are two consultations which overlap that require our attention with drafts of responses to May full meeting and approval to delegate final changes by email following this.

Community Benefit related to off-shore wind power onshore impact and transmission network.   Closes 25th May.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-benefits-for-electricity-transmission-network-infrastructure>

There is a webinar on 11th May 2pm to provide more information on this.  Although not directly related to SPR or the interconnectors this potentially could set precedent for community benefits, so important.

Gov consultation on Decommissioning and waste management (impacts Sizewell A & B and potentially C if approved and built).  Closes 24th May.

Managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Cllr Fellowes attended a briefing and have requested slides to be forwarded.

**8c) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Webster reported that 14 members of the public attended the Planning Committee meeting on 6th April. All were there to comment on two applications for Fishing Hut 3. The owner was also present.

Minutes of the meeting have been circulated. We have sent copies of all comments also the ESC Assets department who manage the lease.

The next planning committee meeting will be on Monday 17th April.

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

Cllr Webster reported that help will be needed on the day at the Coronation event to be held at the OGS on Sunday 7th May. Please can anyone available to help let Cllr Jones know. Cllr Jones will be putting a rota together.

Cllr Webster has received a written request from Brian Harrison to be able to sell his paintings outside on Moot Green for one day per week over the Summer. A short discussion followed and all agreed to give permission for this.

A request has been received for a Japanese Car Club to visit consisting of approximately 30 cars to park on Moot Green on Sunday 28th May. They are happy to donate £5 per car to Mayor’s Chosen Charity. All agreed to permit this.

A requested has been received for the Caterham Cars Chip Run event to visit Aldeburgh arriving around 6.30pm on Thursday 15th June 2023. At least 10 cars are expected. The club are happy to donation £5 per car to ATC Chosen Charity. This was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

The Jubilee Hall have requested funding towards the cost of Coronation mugs to be given to those attending their Coronation Tea Party. The Jubilee Hall is a profit-making organisation but the event is free for people to attend. A discussion took place and then Cllr asked to vote as to whether to give a £50 donation as is being offered to other coronation parties in the town.

In Favour 5

Against 4

Abstentions 0

**9) Representatives’ Reports**

Cllr Webster has attended an OGS Trust meeting, a tribute to Pegg Davies at the OGS, a Thank You to Keith Coventry at the Jubilee Hall evening and the Annual meeting of the Carnival Committee

Cllr Howard-Dobson attended a meeting on the Museum as trustee.

Cllr Haworth-Culf attended the Annual meeting of the Carnival Committee and echoed how hard the committee and volunteers work. She is the RNLI rep and highlighted the problem with parking that they have, having to pay if they go out on a practise. We must also ensure a big boat is kept here as it is our history and future.

Cllr Piers-Hall talked about very much looking forward to helping with Coronation Sunday at the OGS.

Cllr Jones chaired a Trust meeting on 22nd March. She reported that Kerry Foreman has been appointed manager with effect from 1st March. Work has taken place to repair the showers in both changing rooms. The disputed energy bills are currently with the Industry Regulator and monthly meter readings are now being submitted. The resulted in OGS receiving both debt collectors and solicitors letters. Cllr Jones has spoken to the solicitors to explain why the debt is unpaid and provided them with contact details for the energy bureau who are managing the issue. Cashflow is tight because of the higher energy costs and the beginning of the year is always quieter, although business was good over Easter. The quarterly stock take took place this month and the books are with the accountants. Planning is underway for the Coronation funday.

Cllr Jones attended the Aldeburgh Society committee meeting on Monday 4th

April. There was considerable discussion about their talks programme for the next season. Regarding their review of planning applications, they objected to the application for a storage shed at Crespigny House. They will be requesting restrictions on the use of the application for Willet on Springfield Rd. There was lengthy debate about the application for fishing hut 3 which they will be objecting to.

**10) Report from the Town Clerk**

The TC has met with Rev’d du Boulay and church wardens about Mayor’s Sunday. The Rev’d has offered the use of the Church Hall for refreshments following the service. She will also attend the May Council meeting to do a blessing.

TC reported meeting with ESC representatives to talk about the Fort Green area. They may have funding and ideas for the area to be improved. There may also be funding for other projects that we identify. Whilst walking around they also discussed parking and made it know that a parking review will take place in the near future. This will include electric charging ports.

The TC reported that a timeline of events has been added to our website so that over the year events can be added.

Both the TC and DTC have attended a full day zoom session with Rialtas of the Omega financial system.

The consultation letters relating to Leiston Road Parking are due to be sent out on 18th April.

One VAS unit has been ordered and the other will be ordered when we have a definite position.

TC reported that she is on annual leave on 19th April and the DTC 12th,13th and 18th April.

**11) Mayor’s Notes**

Cllr Palmer reported that he attended the following events in the last month:

Wednesday 15th March Sizewell SSG meeting

Sunday 26th March High Sherriff Service at Bury Cathedral

Thursday 30th March AOCP meeting at Snape village Hall

Friday 31st March Leiston Chairmans evening at Leiston Community Centre

**12) Correspondence**

Three pieces of correspondence had been received and were read out by the Town Clerk.

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

Cllr Palmerreceived a meal onFriday 31st March Leiston Chairmans evening at Leiston Community Centre.

**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 7**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Smith would like to see a Town Meeting where organisations are brought together. This is her last meeting and commented that the agenda doesn’t offer a chance to discuss any other business. She remains part of the ABA and can be contacted in that capacity.

A comment was made to repair or wind up the clock that hangs upstairs in the museum.

Cllr Palmer thanked all those who are leaving the Council for all they have done, particularly over the pandemic.

Cllr Haworth-Culf presented a long service certificate to Cllr Digby who has been a member of Aldeburgh Town Council for 21 years.

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

**An In-Camera Meeting followed.**

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

Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm.