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**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE  
MOOT HALL ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024 AT 7PM**

**Present:** Cllr Haworth-Culf, Cllr Webster, Cllr Fellowes, Cllr Bond, Cllr Fox, Cllr Jones, Cllr Armytage and Cllr Walker

**In attendance:** Cllr Daley (ESC), Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and 2 members of public

The Chair reminded everyone present that the meeting is to be recorded.

**Public questions and comments (maximum of 15 minutes)**

Catherine Palmer from the Carnival Committee provided additional information to support item 156.1 on the agenda.

**East Suffolk Council Councillor Report**

The Town Clerk had shared the Parish Update and Energy Report received earlier from Cllr Daley.

The SeaLink response to the consultation can be found on the ESC website. The Nautilus response has been finalized and will be available to read from Tuesday on the ESC website.

The Chair thanked Cllr Daley for attending the meeting. Cllr Daley left at 7.10pm.

**Suffolk County Council Councillor Report**

Cllr Haworth-Culf had previously circulated her report.

She wished everyone a safe and happy Carnival weekend and extended her thanks to all who volunteer to make this event happen. 80 years of Aldeburgh Carnival is such a great record to be proud of.

Cllr Haworth-Culf reminded everyone that the Tech Register was available online and is where projects are registered at the very start of the process. It is not easy to follow, but all projects are listed. She also recommended keeping up to date with the SZC Works Tracker.

Cllr Haworth-Culf reiterated that we need to all do all we can to get our voice heard in relation to the various energy projects impacting our area.

**Police Report**

Information can be found on the link below in relation to Crimes and Priorities for Aldeburgh by zooming into the map. The map will give only a loose idea of where crimes have happened. Actual locations and details of crimes are kept anonymous.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/area/your-area/suffolk/halesworth/leiston-saxmundham-and-aldeburgh/contact-us/crime-map>



**137. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Haworth, Cllr Lumpkin and Osben.

**Absent**

Cllr Langley

**138. Declarations of interest**

Cllr Haworth-Culf has a dispensation at Suffolk County Council for discussions regarding any LionLink and Sealink discussions.

Cllr Haworth-Culf declared an interest in items 147, 149 and 145.

Cllr Jones declared an interested in item 145.

Cllr Bond, Cllr Webster and Cllr Haworth-Culf declared an interest in item 156.1

**139. To approve the draft minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 8th July 2024.**

It was noted that the action under agenda item 118 was outstanding. Cllr Fellowes will action.

The meeting minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were **PROPOSED** for **APPROVAL** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Walker.

In favour	8
Against	0
Abstention	0

The minutes were signed and dated by the Chair.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to upload the minutes to the website.

**ACTION:** Cllr Fellowes to action item 118 from the previous set of minutes

**As per Standing Order 10a(vi) Cllr Fellowes requested that energy items 149, 150, 151, 152 and 153.4 were brought forward and discussed following item 142 on the meeting agenda.**

**RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the request to change the order of business on the agenda as per Standing Order no.10a(vi).

**PROPOSED** for **APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In favour	8
Against	0
Abstention	0

**140.** It was noted that Cllr Langley will join the Energy Sub-Working Group.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Energy Sub-Working Group Terms of Reference

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Energy Sub-Working Group Organisation Chart



141. It was noted that Cllr Walker will join the Property and Finance Working Group.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Property and Finance Working Group Terms of Reference

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Property and Finance Working Group Organisation Chart

142. It was noted that Cllr Armytage will join the Planning Committee.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Planning Committee Terms of Reference.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Planning Committee Organisation Chart

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to upload the updated Organisation Charts to the website

149. It was noted the approved (by email) Aldeburgh Town Council response to the consultation on changes to the SeaLink project (deadline 11<sup>th</sup> August) had been submitted by the Town Clerk on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr Fellowes and the Mayor thanked Mr Mackie for his help working with us on our response to the SeaLink consultation. The Mayor expressed thanks to the Town Clerk for working over the weekend and to Mr Mackie who in his email dated 22nd July repeated his offer to help with submissions going forward. Councillors would like to give Mr Mackie a gift of appreciation. The Town Clerk advised Councillors that they were unable to give gifts to individuals as they do not have the General Power of Competence.

150. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the response wording provided by Cllr Bond to the consultation on changes to the Nautilus project (deadline 15<sup>th</sup> August) with the discussed and agreed changes along with attaching the Aldeburgh Town Council NSIP Statement.

**PROPOSED for APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster. Cllr Fellowes requested a named vote.

In favour	4	(Cllrs Armytage, Bond, Fox, Jones, Walker, and Webster)
Against	1	(Cllr Fellowes)
Abstention	1	(Cllr Haworth-Culf)

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to co-ordinate and submit this response by the deadline.

151. It was noted that the Council agreed by majority vote to sign the letter to Ed Milliband dated July 2024.

152. **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the response to SCC/0083/24/DoR/EA1N and SCC/0084/24/DoR/EA2 – Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia One North and Two Offshore Wind Farms.

**PROPOSED for APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.



In favour 6  
 Against 0  
 Abstention 0

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to submit a response and to use the wording in the submission relating to SCC/0069/24/DoR/EA1N & SCC/0070/24/DoR/EA2

**153.4 Energy Sub-Working Group**

Please look at the Tech Register as the proposed solar farm at Friston is part of this.

SZC have now announced that they need additional water and a de-salination plant is to be part of their future plans. Work has stopped because SZC were proposing to use an agricultural reservoir and transport water from Friston to Sizewell. Following objections, EDF have cancelled these arrangements and have stopped/reduced work on site to limit dust.

Cllr Fellowes has written to thank Mr Mackie for his help with an offer to meet to discuss how the council could work strategically. A future meeting to include the Town Clerk and Cllrs Fellowes and Fox.

**Cllr Fellowes left the meeting at 8.10pm. The meeting resumed at agenda item 143.**

**143.** The variance report for Q1 of 2024 was duly noted by councillors.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and Cllr Jones for producing the variance report.

**144. RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the Income list for the previous month.

**PROPOSED** for **APPROVAL** by Cllr Webster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 7  
 Against 0  
 Abstention 0

**145. RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the Payments List for the current month.

**PROPOSED** for **APPROVAL** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Armytage.

In favour 5  
 Against 0  
 Abstention 2

Cllr Webster signed the Payments List.

**ACTION:** Deputy Town Clerk to action the approved payments.

**146.** It was noted that we may be reaching a limit on the number of Memorial Benches we can safely accommodate and will need to review options in the future.

**RESOLUTION to APPROVE** proceeding with the purchase of 5 memorial benches at a cost of £2,735.95 excluding VAT. This funding will come out of general reserves with



income from the sale of the memorial benches covering the cost of purchase and installation.

**PROPOSED** for **APPROVAL** Cllr Bond and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 7  
Against 0  
Abstentions 0

**ACTION:** Deputy Town Clerk to place the order for 5 memorial benches as per quote.

**147.** It was noted that Suffolk County Council are conducting speed surveys in Aldeburgh.

**RESOLUTION to APPROVE** a small VAS unit for Thorpe Road to replace the defunct one in place. The VAS unit will be fully funded by Cllr Haworth-Culf's Suffolk County Council Highways Budget.

**PROPOSED** by Cllr Bond and **SECONDED** by Cllr Walker.

In favour 6  
Against 0  
Abstentions 1

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to proceed with ordering a small VAS unit.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to ask RRT to install it when it arrives.

**148. RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the Town Clerk proceeding with the Digital Strategy project in conjunction with East Suffolk Council and representatives of the Aldeburgh Business Association to produce a destination website.

**PROPOSED** Cllr Jones **SECONDED** Cllr Fox.

In favour 5  
Against 0  
Abstentions 0

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to proceed with Digital Strategy Project.

**153. Committees and Working Group Reports**

**153.1. Planning Committee**

Cllr Webster advised that there was no progress to report concerning Fishing Hut 3.

It has been brought to our attention that another fishing hut has changed hands and does not appear to be being used for fishing purposes as specified in the leases from East Suffolk Council (ESC). The huts are not for leisure use. ESC were not aware of the change of tenant and this case is now in the hands of their solicitor.

Cllr Webster has written by email to ESC asking that they write officially to all Fishing Hut tenants reminding them of the terms of the lease and the process for passing a hut on.



The Street Trading consultation is under review and this will be discussed at the next Services Working Group meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

**ACTION:** Councillor Webster to write to ESC (with the Town Clerk in copy) requesting they write all Fishing Hut tenants to remind them of the terms of their lease and the process for passing a hut onto another party.

### **153.2. Property and Finance Working Group**

The Head of the Property and Finance Working Group, Cllr Jones, read out her report. A copy is attached.

### **153.3. Services Working Group**

The Deputy Head of the Services Working Group, Cllr Fox, read out her report. A copy is attached.

### **153.5. Grants, Requests and Events Working Group**

There was no new business to report.

### **154. Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies**

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that we have membership with the Suffolk Preservation Society. Cllrs Fox and Bond to be noted as representatives and they will be forwarded any information received to the office.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to update the Aldeburgh Town Council Representatives on External Bodies document.

**ACTION:** Town Clerk to upload the updated version onto the website.

**155.** It was noted that no Gifts and/or Hospitality exceeding £50 had been received by councillors.

### **156. Town Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

#### **156.1. Carnival Request**

Solutions were discussed to help the Carnival Committee deal with cars needing to be towed on carnival day. The tow truck cannot access King Field this year as in the past. We cannot do anything this year about the access problems due to timescales. It was agreed to offer that they use the car park at the back of the Old Generator Station to tow the cars to. This will have the benefit of CCTV.

**ACTION:** Cllrs attending the Carnival Meeting tomorrow will offer this solution.

#### **156.2. Town's Clerks report**

The Town Clerk had previously circulated her report. A copy is attached.



**157. The Mayor’s Report**

The confirmed that she had attended the following events since the last meeting:

**July**

- 11<sup>th</sup> - Aldeburgh Primary School Performance at the Jubilee Hall
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Aldeburgh Primary School Sports Day and awarded the shield to the winning house - Crabbe
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Kemps Field working party
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital Garden Party
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Aldeburgh Primary School thank you Tea party
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Chaired the Carnival Committee meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Met with officer re Vehicle Activated Sign on Thorpeness Road
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Aldeburgh United Charities meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Old Generator Station Trustee meeting
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Kemps field celebration – thank you again to Rapid Relief Team
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Met with Carnival Representatives re Carnival timetable etc
- 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> - Aldeburgh Sports Week

**August**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Aldeburgh Sports Week – Thank you all involved
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Radio - Mayor interview regarding the Carnival
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Aldeburgh Town Council meeting with both Local Authorities
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Delivered netball post to RRT and are marked where to install with Cllr Jones

**158. To exclude the Public and Press from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 because of the confidential information being discussed.**

It was agreed to exclude the Public and Press from the remainder of the meeting because of the confidential information being discussed.

**159. To discuss the future staffing needs of the Council**

The Town Clerk talked Councillors through the Staffing Proposal which recommended to Full Council:

- That there was a requirement for the Council to employ a Marketing and Events/Community Engagement Officer (title to be confirmed)
- That the position should be a minimum of 15 hours per week to be worked Monday to Friday with occasional weekend and evening work, payable at the full-time equivalent salary of £27,209 (SCP 17) to £30,339.40 (SCP 23) based on the current National Joint Council for Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023.

**RESOLUTION to APPROVE** progressing the staffing proposal as outlined and for the Town Clerk to work with the HR Committee to develop a Job Description and to then advertise the role.

Councillors agreed unanimously with the proposal and permission was given to the Town Clerk to proceed as outlined above.



**160. Internal council communications**

The Mayor addressed all councillors present advising them that it had come to light that internal information had been shared externally without permission. She reminded all councillors that they should not be openly sharing confidential Council information.

**10-minute rule**

The Mayor advised that if Councillors needed to speak/meet with the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk for longer than 10 minutes that they needed to please make an appointment. This will enable both officers to manage their time effectively.

**153. Closure**

The meeting closed at 9.24pm



**ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2024**

**EXPLANATION OF VARIANCES**

**OVERALL**

The report from Scribe is in a different format than we have been used to. It is on a payment and receipts basis not Income and Expenditure. The notable difference is that accruals and prepayments are no longer reversed and so we have incorporated a category for year-end adjustments to enable expense categories to reflect true year to date income and expenditure.

Expenditure – At this stage we would expect to be at circa 25 % of budget and adjusted for accruals and expenditure covered by earmarked reserves it is 20%.

Income – We have received a half year precept payment. Adjusting for this and a few prepayments where the income has not yet been received we are at 31% of Budget. It is key to remember we cannot budget for all income so any grants and donations have a positive impact against budget.

**Grants, Requests & Events**

1200 Fireworks. The expenditure of £1701 for the deposit for November.

1201 Funday. There should be a saving in this expense category, with expenditure unlikely to exceed 80% of budget.

4200 Civic events. We have spent 55% of budget, where we would expect to be with two events per year.

4201 Grants S19 £15000 is the half yearly payment to OGS.

4202 & 4203 Early days as we have not received many requests so far. Code 4082 is specifically for the Citizens advice bureau.

**Human Resources**

Expenditure is marginally under plan at 19% of budget. However, revised NALC pay awards, which will be backdated to April are usually issued early autumn. Once they are received a recommendation will come to council for approval. The overspend on 4105 Training is largely the £1435 cost of the first aid training.

**Income**

1300 Precept, this is a full half year payment.

1301 Bank Interest. Improved Interest rates account for the 37% of budget.

1303 Grants received. £14370 Levelling up and £2010 from SCC.

1304 Misc Income £250 is the sale proceeds from the old mower.

1305 CIL. Payments when due are received in April and October.

**Office and Admin**

4400 Misc Expenditure £4566 unrequired vat adjustment.

4402 Insurance. This should be a saving as this is the annual premium.

4403 Professional fees. Fees relating to Scribe and Rialtas.

4404 Subscriptions. The cost incurred this quarter is for SALC most subscriptions are in Q4.

4405 Office supplies. There has been expenditure on first aid kit but this category is still at a higher level of spend than the 25% expected at Q1.

### **Property & Finance**

1100 Rents. The Marsh rent due in May was not collected whilst negotiations were ongoing. This should now be in Q2 and the second payment in Q3. The icecream kiosk rent is also at the end of the year. This should be on budget.

1503 Tennis Income. Tennis subscriptions are payable in Q2 and the monies from the honesty box is received in Q4, so this is on plan.

4502 Moot Hall Rates. The £15000 budget covers rates on all our properties for which we are responsible, including water rates. Actual spend is being allocated to codes for each property to enable an improved understanding of expenditure by property. So, there will be variances on each of these codes.

4504 Moot Hall General maintenance. We are unlikely to see a saving this year on this code as we continue with the maintenance programme.

4511 Kings field WC maintenance. The budget for the toilets for both maintenance and cleaning was budgeted under one category, actual expenditure is being coded separately to better understand the cost in particular of repairs.

4513 Kings field WC cleaning. See comments above.

4523 Tennis courts maintenance. We don't budget for this category funding from subscriptions. The expenditure is for the specialist report and the tennis club 10%.

4530 Tractor shed. The spend is on electrics and a locksmith. There is still an EMR to cover any tenants works needed.

4533 Groundsmans cottage electricity. See comments re Electricity and gas being coded by property.

4536 Groundsmans cottage water rates. We might want to consider a locking outside tap as this expenditure looks higher than expected.

4542 Kemps field. This expenditure is for the new furniture and covered entirely by an earmarked reserve.

4560 Town Marshes. This is for drainage rates and charged annually, so a small saving against budget.

4563 Park Road frontages. This is the full year cost.

4571 Contract maintenance. The majority of our expenditure is with ESS for grass cutting and general grounds work, which is invoiced in Q4.

**Next Quarter**

Coming up in the next Qtr.

Income – Additional tennis membership subscriptions. Sports week donations – Latymer Trust, EDF, Triathlon, Marshes and Icecream kiosk rents.

Expenditure –Sports week. Dick Ropa Funday hire costs, Tennis court repairs, rugby pavilion external decoration.

## ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

8 August 2024 (2024-2025)

## RECEIPT LIST

Date	Code	Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
01/07/2024	Rents	Pet Perfection Rent	Pet Perfection	£ 299.00	£ -	£ 299.00
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 225.00	£ -	£ 225.00
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
01/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
02/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 115.00	£ -	£ 115.00
02/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
03/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
05/07/2024	Bank Interest	Business Banking Loyalty Reward	Barclays Bank plc	£ 7.54	£ -	£ 7.54
10/07/2024	Sports Week	Donation Sports Week	Latymer Charitable Trust	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
10/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
11/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
12/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
15/07/2024	Sports Week	Donation Sports Week	EDF Energy SZB	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
15/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
16/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
16/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
16/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
17/07/2024	Sports Week	Donation Sports Week	Heritage Coast Events	£ 200.00	£ -	£ 200.00
17/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
19/07/2024	Energy Projects	Refund door to door delivery	Royal Mail	£ 200.50	£40.10	£ 240.60
25/07/2024	Tennis Memberships/Tickets/Fees	Tennis membership	Confidential	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
30/07/2024	Training	Refund training	SALC	£ 60.00	£12.00	£ 72.00
30/07/2024	Kemps Field Play Equipment Maintenance	Refund postage	Net World Sports	£ 3.00	£ -	£ 3.00
31/07/2024	Bank Interest	CCLA Investment	CCLA Property Fund	£ 903.46	£ -	£ 903.46
31/07/2024	Memorial benches	Memorial Bench Plaque	Confidential	£ 15.00	£ -	£ 15.00
				<b>£ 3,578.50</b>	<b>£ 52.10</b>	<b>£ 3,630.60</b>

## Aldeburgh Town Council

8 August 2024 (2024 - 2025)

### PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

Code	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT	Net	Total
Office Supplies	11/07/2024	Office supplies	Tesco	4.10		4.10
Tennis Courts Maintenance	11/07/2024	Works to tennis court surface	ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd	1,980.00	396.00	2,376.00
CIL Payments (pre 22/23)	16/07/2024	Netball posts	Net World Sports	67.53	13.51	81.04
Grants & Donations – S137	17/07/2024	Donation Citizens Advice East Suffolk	Citizens Advice	1,000.00		1,000.00
Grants & Donations – S137	17/07/2024	Donation Project40Seven	Project40Seven	350.00		350.00
Moot Hall General Maintenance	17/07/2024	Works to the Moot Hall	R & J Hogg Ltd	2,601.00	520.20	3,121.20
Moot Hall General Maintenance	17/07/2024	Works to the Moot Hall	R & J Hogg Ltd	3,125.00	625.00	3,750.00
War Memorial/Plaque	17/07/2024	Cleaning war memorial	R & J Hogg Ltd	102.00	20.40	122.40
Kemps Field Project	17/07/2024	Grass Mesh and U-pin	GCL Products Ltd	225.67	45.13	270.80
Kings Field Play Equipment Maintenance	18/07/2024	Aluminium post sockets	Mark Harrod Ltd	65.60	13.12	78.72
Kemps Field Project	18/07/2024	Weed barrier fabric	Sally Jones	11.66	2.33	13.99
Kemps Field Project	18/07/2024	Refreshments Kemps Field	Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf	8.00		8.00
Office Supplies	22/07/2024	Office supplies	Tesco plc	3.90		3.90
Tennis Courts Gas and Electricity	22/07/2024	Month 3 Electricity tennis courts	British Gas	25.07	1.25	26.32
Tractor Shed Gas & Electricity	22/07/2024	Electricity Tractor Shed	British Gas	21.49	1.07	22.56
Kemps Field Play Equipment Maintenance	23/07/2024	Ground sockets Football goals	Net World Sports	101.83	20.36	122.19
Moot Hall Gas and Electricity	25/07/2024	Month 3 Electricity Moot Hall	British Gas	132.57	6.63	139.20
HMRC & NI	26/07/2024	PAYE and NI	HMRC	289.48		289.48
Telephone	26/07/2024	Month 4 line rental	Focus Group	62.22	12.44	74.66
Bank Charges/SumUp Charges	26/07/2024	PAYE and NI	HMRC	0.21		0.21
Bank Charges/SumUp Charges	26/07/2024	PAYE and NI	HMRC	3.00		3.00
Moot Hall Gas and Electricity	26/07/2024	Month 3 Gas Moot Hall	British Gas	99.98	5.00	104.98
Creditors	26/07/2024	PAYE and NI	HMRC	68.73		68.73
Creditors	26/07/2024	PAYE and NI	HMRC	5,002.11		5,002.11
Professional Fees	29/07/2024	Architect Fees	Free Spirit Architectural Desi	495.00		495.00
Sports Week	30/07/2024	Yoga Instructor Sport Week	Linda Saint	35.00		35.00
Office Supplies	30/07/2024	Office supplies	Tesco plc	2.50		2.50
Office Equip/Rental/Repairs	31/07/2024	Office shredder	Amazon UK	114.99	23.00	137.99
Office Supplies	01/08/2024	Office supplies	Tesco	2.80		2.80
Moot Hall Rates	01/08/2024	Month 5 Rates Moot Hall	East Suffolk Council	484.00		484.00
Bowls Club Rates	01/08/2024	Month 5 Rates Bowls Pavillion	East Suffolk Council	284.00		284.00
Subscriptions	02/08/2024	SPS Membership	Suffolk Preservation Society	30.00		30.00
Rugby Hut	03/08/2024	Manhole Cover Kings Field	Build & Plumb	25.37	5.08	30.45
Sports Week	04/08/2024	Tennis coaching	Matthew Last	220.00		220.00
IT	05/08/2024	Month 5 Microsoft 365 & ESET services	Ipswich Computer Services Ltd	85.90	17.18	103.08
Contract Maintenance	05/08/2024	garden maintenance	D W West	280.00		280.00

Office Supplies	07/08/2024	Mobile phone case	Amazon UK	4.99	1.00	5.99
Office Supplies	08/08/2024	Mobile screen protector	Amazon UK	5.73		5.73
Training	12/08/2024	Clerk training	SALC	31.50	6.30	37.80
Training	12/08/2024	Code of Conduct on-site training	SALC	293.90	58.78	352.68
Employee Benefits	12/08/2024	Pension	Aegon Sipp	28.40		28.40
Sports Week	12/08/2024	Labels for Sports Week	Leiston Press	99.00	19.80	118.80
Professional Fees	12/08/2024	Internal Audit Service	SALC	106.60	21.32	127.92
Office Equip/Rental/Repairs	12/08/2024	Photocopier rental and usage	Green Angel Ltd	55.00	11.00	66.00
Moot Hall Cleaning	12/08/2024	Window cleaning	James the Window Cleaner	22.00		22.00
Moot Hall Cleaning	12/08/2024	Office and Museum cleaning	Lorraine Young	60.00		60.00
Moot Hall General Maintenance	12/08/2024	Fire alarm and em lights testing	Flameskill	180.00	36.00	216.00
Kings Field WC Cleaning	12/08/2024	Month 4 Cleaning WCs Kings Field	East Suffolk Services Ltd	532.14	106.43	638.57
Kemps Field	12/08/2024	Water saving gel	Amazon UK	5.96	1.19	7.15
Office Equip/Rental/Repairs	12/08/2024	Office supplies	Amazon UK	48.73	9.75	58.48
IT	12/08/2024	Month 5 Computer Support Agreement	Ipswich Computer Services Ltd	96.57	19.31	115.88
Energy Projects	12/08/2024	Advert in Aldeburgh Gazette July edition	Southwold Press Ltd	33.00	6.60	39.60
Bowls Gas & Electricity	12/08/2024	Electricity charges Bowls Pavilion	British Gas	29.24	1.46	30.70
Groundsmans Cottage Gas and Electricity	12/08/2024	Month 4 Electricity Groundman's Cottage	British Gas	16.42	0.82	17.24
Kemps Field Play Equipment Maintenance	12/08/2024	Reimbursement (goal locks)	Sally Jones	18.32	3.67	21.99
Kemps Field Project	12/08/2024	Bug Hotel Kemps Field	Amazon	8.32	1.67	9.99
Kemps Field Project	12/08/2024	Insect hotel Kemps Field	Amazon	11.12	2.22	13.34
Accruals	12/08/2024	Internal Audit Service	SALC	400.00	80.00	480.00
Tennis Courts Gas and Electricity	21/08/2024	Month 5 Electricity Tennis Courts	British Gas	24.14	1.21	25.35
Tractor Shed Gas & Electricity	22/08/2024	Gas Tractor Shed	British Gas	23.23	1.16	24.39
Yacht Pond Water	22/08/2024	Six monthly water charges Yacht Pond	Wave Utilities	256.94		256.94
Salary & Wages	28/08/2024	Salary	Staff	4,490.42		4,490.42
				<b>24,292.38</b>	<b>2,117.39</b>	<b>26,409.77</b>

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Sam Phillips, Deputy Town Clerk*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Kim Puttock, Town Clerk and RFO*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*TJ Haworth-Culf, Mayor*



10<sup>th</sup> August 2024

### **Aldeburgh Town Council response to SeaLink consultation**

Aldeburgh Town Council (ATC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the current proposed changes to the NGET SeaLink project. Our interest in, and overall position on, the SeaLink project is unchanged since our last submission, as a landowner, and local elected governmental body representing its residents, visitors, businesses and groups.

ATC is supportive of wind generated renewable energy however it remains strongly opposed to these specific proposals. Whilst noting the alterations made in this current limited consultation, ATC firmly remains opposed to the principle and detail of this project.

Please refer back to our response in December 2023 (Appendix A).

ATC recognises that this project with landfall (exit to sea) and cable runs within our parish boundary represents significant and serious harm to our tourism offer and vital economy, our way of life and the health and well-being of individuals.

ATC supports Saxmundham Town Council, Benhall and Friston Parish Councils and other potentially affected areas in their concerns. ATC firmly concurs with other Town and Parish Councils, that more sustainable solutions exist, and is appalled by these altered plans that threaten parts of Benhall and Saxmundham so substantially. As well as continue to threaten the hamlet of Friston. ATC concur with the responses from the Aldeburgh Museum and Aldeburgh Society.

ATC also concurs with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk (District) Council objections, especially access, working hours and works to the bridge over the river Fromas.

ATC continues to call for a review to be undertaken of this project in the wider context of East Anglian energy production, at Central Government level. ATC reiterates this is required specifically in this case on the grounds that:

1. The cumulative impact with other Energy projects proposed for the region has not been fully considered.
2. That the Lion Link project's findings, unequivocally ruling out Aldeburgh as a potential landfall site apply to this project also, and require to be accepted in SeaLink's case.
3. ATC continues to contest the PIER findings relating to disruption to the livelihood of thousands dependent on tourism by the disturbance caused by the construction of this project. ATC considers these findings appear to trivialise the importance of the National Landscape and its setting in the path of this project.

4. The local arterial infrastructure consisting of the single carriageway A12, connected to Aldeburgh by one 'A' road, the A1094, access to the town by the only other road the B1122 which is joined by the extremely narrow B1353 (both B roads serving Aldeburgh combine) at Aldringham results in vehicular access to the town being heavily constrained to the point of potential loss of life if impeded.

Separately and most importantly, ATC continues to question the viability of this project route being constructed through the RSPB North Warren Reserve, without significant damage to the aquifers that supply the many bore holes essential for food production, contributing to food security by local farms. These water sources also interrelate to the Reserve's habitat and if damaged would present a nationally significant environmental loss.

ATC remains to be convinced that the findings within <https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/152411/download>: are of sufficient depth to fulfil the criteria. We would politely request access to further in-depth information in this regard that ATC assumes has been commissioned, in order for our team to be able to examine and be confident in its viability.

The unsuitability of Aldeburgh for a landfall is an agreed position by the NG LionLink project and stated in submissions to the SeaLink project by ESC and SCC. For example:

*ESC: "The landfall option ...is located at the seaside town of Aldeburgh just across the road from the well-known sand and shingle beach. The site is within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and defined Heritage Coast and therefore during the construction phase the works will likely give rise to significant adverse effects on local designated landscape character and visual amenity.*

*In addition to the high landscape importance of the area, Aldeburgh is also considered of great cultural significance, once home of the composer Benjamin Britten, inspirational to other famous artists and writers and at the centre of the internationally acclaimed Aldeburgh Festival. The town is a hugely popular tourist and visitor destination with the area heavily used year-round as a walking route between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.*

*In addition to the designated landscape, the landfall area of search critically includes sites designated for their nature conservation value.. The site is located within part of the Leiston-Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is part of the North Warren RSPB Reserve. The Haven, Aldeburgh Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located immediately to the south-east of the landfall option. The site is also likely to support a range of protected and/or UK Priority species associated with the habitat types present. The use of this area as a landfall is likely to result in damage and/or destruction of habitats and potential disturbance of species for which the SSSI is designated.... See also [ESC-Response-to-Sea-Link-Statutory-Consultation.pdf \(eastsuffolk.gov.uk\)](#)*



SCC. *“Having reviewed the information provided by the applicant and considered the options in this consultation, SCC considers the site unacceptable due to its prominent location adjacent to and overlooking the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and other protected sites. The site is highly constrained as it is set in gently rolling countryside within the setting of, and on two sides adjacent to the AONB, on the outskirts of Aldeburgh, to the north of Hazlewood Hall. It is wholly within the Estate Sandlands landscape of the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). It is typical of that landscape, consisting of regular late enclosure fields, plantation woodlands and coverts, characteristic of that landscape type...”*

See: [sea-link-scc-response-non-statutory-consultation.pdf \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

While accepting the premiss that where the energy is being created is not where it is needed and that the current transmission network requires to be reinforced for the benefit of the country, ATC does not agree that this application and the current changes are acceptable.

The following is our detailed response to the changes proposed:

A. Permanent infrastructure

ATC rejects the proposal routing and siting option for on-shore infrastructure. Specifically in this consultation we object to the proposal that NGET should apply to build a substation at Friston, (should the proposed new substation not be built).

The location of substation then drives the location of Converter station (within 5km). We reject the proposal to build a new Converter station at Saxmundham which is a key market town and vital rail link. The siting of cable runs between this infrastructure and proposed landfall between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness remain intrusive and of detrimental impact to the environment and our economy of this rural coastal area, which is based on tourism.

B. Construction and Maintenance work

We welcome the alteration to the HVDC cable route north of Aldeburgh, moving construction activity further away from residential properties, but believe this still does not remove the damaging impact to the area - as the landfall point remains unchanged as within the National Landscapes, RSPB North Warren land (with environmental receptors and flood risk) albeit with a slight reduction to the draft order limits for the construction compound.

ATC appreciates that in general, ‘Vehicle movements per day’ relates to total, or over-all numbers involved in the project rather than per location / zone. ATC would request best estimates of the daily HGVs, LGVs, and ‘site-based’ staff vehicles that are predicted to enter and thus affect ATCs’ boundary/area at any period in time. This should include vehicle movements to and from compounds and access roads as well as public roads.

The increase in traffic associated with construction (in combination with other NSIPs projects proposed for the same timeline/ geographic area) would be both dangerous on rural roads/lanes and cause harm to the environment and wildlife. Routes include use of designated 'quiet lanes'. The risk of harm from dust, noise, air pollution, in a rural residential area is high, with significant light pollution in an area of dark skies.

Working hours, including 7am-5pm on bank holidays and Sundays is unacceptable and would have a detrimental impact on enjoyment of the countryside vital for health and well-being and negatively impact the perception of tranquillity that this area is known for, as part of our year-round, vital tourism offer. Should this project proceed we request that specific working hour would be in consultation with ATC, SCC and ESC and the DMO, and that very occasionally, specifically important peak times / periods were ruled out due to tourism spend being so vital to the Town and direct area. The tourism offer here, built up over many years of public and private investment is a year round offer, so we note that it may not be possible to reduce harm and mitigate or compensate for loss of income and permanent damage to this economy. We request that the developer takes this into its cost/benefit assessment.

NGET admit there are engineering challenges associated with the construction of a larger bridge crossing (up to 6m) over the River Fromus, and we believe if built this would remain an unacceptable route for both construction and maintenance.

#### C. Mitigation, enhancements and approach to biodiversity net gain

Current proposals are not adequate to mitigate the harm that the project acknowledges it will cause. The approach to biodiversity net gain (with small addition of new acid grassland near Aldeburgh, and along the banks of the Fromus is minimal.

The proposals do not include any legacy improvements or local employment opportunities. It is not sufficient to prevent the actual or perceived damage to the tourism industry. The subject of community benefit, should mitigation not remove all harm, is still under review and not agreed, but would need to be substantial.

#### D. Strategy for coordination

The current proposals are for co-location not coordination which implies a significant reduction in order limits to the footprint required, and to the associated infrastructure. For example, doing works to cable runs sequential in time, or located adjacently does not significantly reduce the negative impact, in fact this may either elongate the time frame and/or focus into one smaller area, so the magnitude of harm is potentially greater.

True coordination should be via a robust and cohesive, strategic plan for the whole of the UK power needs incorporating the latest technology to achieve an overall better legacy outcome. This may be more expensive for NG (private company) shareholders and take slightly longer to achieve but we believe the pace of development would then be able to be escalated, with the right solution and still meet net zero carbon targets.

ATC reiterates that proposing that additional NSIP projects utilise the capacity of the proposed onshore structures as discussed is equally unacceptable. The substation at Friston has only been consented for use by SPR EA1N and EA2. This area should not become an energy Hub by stealth, each project must be consulted on and examined in its own right, and the cumulative impact of these projects should be robustly considered, and if approved, with appropriate mitigation and if negative impacts cannot be mitigated with significant compensation, as per NSIP planning regime.

ATC would also welcome reconfirmation from which ever body within NG can fulfil this, that according to information in the public domain, currently 'Lionlink does not intend to land at Aldeburgh but still intends joining at Saxmundham'. If this is the case and the unacceptable co-location proposal continues, ATC would ask for further information and continued engagement as plans emerge.

#### E. Other matters

NGET in its introduction to this consultation, states that Sea Link is needed to 'increase the capacity of the electricity transmission network so it can carry more low carbon and renewable energy from where it is generated to homes and businesses across the country' because the existing network is not capable of doing this on the 400KV line in the 'Leiston' area. This proves that the connection point offer (based on existing capacity to connect onto the grid) made to other NSIP energy projects planned for the area is false.

With the lifetime extension to Sizewell B, the Great Galloper, and Gabbard wind projects, and the proposed new twin reactor Sizewell C, there is no capacity here on the grid, and it is extremely unlikely that there will be any need for additional power to be brought ashore on the East Suffolk coast.

An off-shore 'mesh' connection (with spider leg on-shore connections to brown field sites) could be achieved if the Government and the Developers accepted and addressed the need for this more advanced technology and resolved the supply chain availability issues.

#### In conclusion

We believe that other solutions exist where the energy generated off our coast could be connected out at sea with on-shore infrastructure located on UK brownfield sites (for landfall, convertor stations and substation) closer to where the power is needed. These options are more sustainable, and would avoid highly damaging environmental, economic and social impacts while still enabling the UK to meet its net zero carbon targets, and provide value to consumers.

We would request that there is a pause of both consented and in consultation projects, for an urgent strategic review to enable a real legacy for the UK of a coordinated and future proofed solution, which is less negatively damaging than the current proposals.

ATC would very much welcome specific and DIRECT engagement with the relevant team from SeaLink in order to properly understand the implications of the changes to this application, prior to the next stage in the process should it proceed, which we believe may be 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025. We requested a meeting with you during this consultation at which you could address the whole Council and members of the public, which you sadly declined. ATC would like to issue an invitation to representatives of the NGET SeaLink project to attend a formal meeting with Councillors, at your earliest convenience.

We would like to reiterate the concerns raised in our last submission. The current proposals from SeaLink are diametrically opposed to the continued existence of Aldeburgh as a year-round destination town with an economy reliant on tourism and leisure

Yours sincerely  
For and on behalf of Aldeburgh Town Council



**Kim Puttock**  
**Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**

Appendix A: Aldeburgh Town Council response December 2023  
Appendix B: Aldeburgh Town Council National Strategy Infrastructure Projects  
Statement

**Cc:**

Tim Striven, The Crown Estate  
Energy Security

The Crown Estate

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, MP

Mark McAllister, OFGEM

Jonathan Brearley, OFGEM

Secretary of State, DEFRA

John Pettigrew, National Grid

Paula Reynolds, National Grid

Katherine Jackson, National Grid

Mike Elmer, National Grid

Fintan Slye, National Grid

Cllr Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Council

Cllr Richard Rout, Suffolk County Council

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk County Council

The Officer Team, Suffolk County Council

Nicola Beach, Suffolk County Council

Andrew Cook, Suffolk County Council

Chris Bally, East Suffolk District Council

Cllr Tom Daly, East Suffolk District Council

Philip Ridley, East Suffolk District Council

Naomi Goold, East Suffolk District Council

Bethany Rance, East Suffolk District Council

Grahame Stuteley, East Suffolk District Council

Carolyn Barnes, East Suffolk District Council

**Aldeburgh Town Council's response to SeaLink statutory consultation**

**Aldeburgh Town Council's interest in the SeaLink project is as a landowner, and representative body for our residents, visitors, businesses, groups and organisations. ATC is supportive of wind generated renewable energy however it remains strongly opposed to these proposals to provide a network upgrade via an interconnector to/from Kent.**

**We remain opposed to the proposed locations for each the onshore infrastructure believing that other solutions exist where the energy generated off our coast would be connected out at sea and/or use made of UK brownfield sites closer to where the power is needed. These options are more sustainable and would avoid highly damaging impacts. We also do not support co-location here of up to three projects due to potential increased frequency and/or magnitude of harm.**

**ATC request an immediate pause and urgent review be undertaken of this project, along with all other proposed energy projects and consented energy NSIP (Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects) DCOs (Development Consent Orders).**

Specifically

- The cumulative impact with other projects (both energy and general construction) has not been fully considered.
- This is a rural area, and 'the Heritage Coast' where our economy is dependent on year-round tourism which would be negatively impacted by noise, dust, vibration & light pollution. In the PIER these have been rated as 'not significant' which we contest.
- The very limited road infrastructure in and out of the area does not have the capacity/ suitability for the volumes of heavy vehicles needed to support the construction elements. The area is constrained to the east by the North sea and the South by the River Alde.
- The route from out at sea to the Landfall is proposed to pass under the RSPB reserve North Warren (this SSSI/AONB land – now renamed 'Suffolk and Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape between Aldeburgh & Thorpeness which should receive the highest protection.
- The method proposed for drilling under the marshland at North Warren is not fully costed or technologically proven to be possible here and we believe other potential (and brown field) sites without protected marshland have not been fully evaluated.
- If there is no capacity to take the energy onto the high voltage grid, the power from other projects (such as windfarms and the Sizewell Group) should not be sent to and then from the proposed substation at Friston and then out to Kent via SeaLink or to Suffolk from Kent. The original NG offer to connect here should be rejected along with the current plans (approved but subject to JR) to construct a substation at Friston.
- There will not be the accommodation available for workers, and rat running/parking will destroy adjacent villages.

- This project is ill-conceived and misguided when other solutions exist where the energy generated off our coast can be connected out at sea to other countries in EU or to areas of the UK where the power is most needed.

## Background

Aldeburgh is a small town situated on the Suffolk Heritage Coast between Lowestoft and Felixstowe, accessed by one single carriageway road the A12. The town and surrounding area lie within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (now known as Suffolk and Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscapes) with other areas of special interest (RAMSAR, SSSIs) and is constrained by RSPB owned and maintained marshland to the north and the River Alde (RAMSAR, SSI site 692) to the south and the North Sea to the east. There are only three minor 'B' roads into/out of the town from the direction of Thorpeness, Aldringham/Leiston, and Knodishall/Snape/Friston.

Over many years it has developed into a well-known, all-year-round 'destination' town, heavily associated with the arts, music, historic and cultural heritage of the area, and its economy relies on tourism, leisure and retail following the demise of the traditional fishing, boatbuilding and brickmaking industries. This economic uplift also benefits the surrounding villages and towns and provides extensive employment.

The town attracts many day and longer-stay visitors through the year and its regular population of just over 3,000 regularly increases to well over 15,000. Recent footfall reports by East Suffolk Council state over 1M visits per year.

The town has recently gained another hotel/restaurant to add to the existing provision of three large hotels and several restaurants, cafes, bed and breakfast, Airbnb and thriving holiday let businesses. There are many major festivals (documentary, literary, poetry, theatre) throughout the year, as well as the internationally important Aldeburgh Festival now at nearby Snape Maltings.

Aldeburgh is known as the home of British composer Benjamin Britten, Britain's first female doctor and mayor Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. EM Forster, Susan Hill, Laurens van de Post and many other famous authors have written of the inspiration of the town. Facilities include a Community Hospital, GP surgery, Lifeboat & Coastguard service, Fire Brigade house, Library, Primary school, two award-winning Golf courses, two yacht/sailing clubs, several community halls and entertainment/performance spaces, and a vibrant High Street, with an independent Cinema, bookshops, pharmacy, and variety of retail outlets (boutique & chain).

Aldeburgh has a long, attractive but narrow shingle beach, with a Martello tower and a range of protected and unique flora and fauna. It also has the Garrett Anderson Era conservation area, with many important architectural buildings, the church of St Peter & St Paul, the Church of our Lady & St Peter, a Baptist Chapel, and a Grade I Moot Hall once the seat of local government, which is still used for council meetings and now hosts the town's museum. Public amenities include two large sports fields, two children's play areas, a large area of allotments, tennis courts and bowls pitches.

### Further evidence of specific concerns

NGV claim this project will enable the UK to meet zero carbon targets, yet driver appears to be cost and the failure of investment into the existing grid to enable the excess energy to be created off the east coast to be transmitted to where it is needed in the South of England.

We do not understand why Central Government and NG would now advocate that SeaLink and up to two other projects should coordination here rather than onto brownfield sites or via an off-shore grid system? The level of destruction and damage to our tourism industry, environment/wildlife is too high a price to pay, especially with brown field sites available. We understand that supply chain issues (including for HV cables and HV circuit breakers) mean that some target deadlines would not be met if an off-shore grid connection was progressed, but believe this would be of more significant benefit as it would enable other projects to connect and target for 2030 still to be met.

The assumption to connect to a substation in the 'Leiston area; or 'Friston' is flawed. This is still subject to JR and was consented only on the basis of SPR EA1N and EA2, the cumulative impact of additional projects was not included. There are issues outstanding with this project including flood risk which has increased recently. ATC wish to challenge how NG ESO can make a connection point offer to another part of NG NGV when the truth is overhead powerlines cannot take the capacity generated (due to lack of ongoing investment and planning by NGET) and an additional interconnector is now needed to take the power back out to sea and down south to Kent/London (SeaLink). Surely this proves it is a false offer, and should have been rejected. When the appraisal was completed the extent of the problems with pylons was not understood. We would request you reconsider this project as it is not deliverable as originally planned (to connect to the KV lines)

Claims that this project will be good value for consumers is false. It will not be financially viable because of the high level of compensation and mitigation required to resolve the harm caused. During the consultation stages local people have already suffered blight on their house value, and stress from approaches from the developer even before the DCO stage. Research indicates that other business development in the area has halted also as a result just due to speculation.

Reputational damage to the area from traffic congestion and increased movements, light pollution, dust, noise, vibration and disruption to wildlife will be significantly damaging, especially set against our benchmark our dark skies, quiet lanes and extremely peaceful tranquillity. Proposed drilling and trenching would lead to closures of footpaths heavily used by tourists and residents year-round, and you are unable to confirm the technical feasibility of detailed methods so the level of harm is also unknown/uncertain.

### Quality of consultation

Town and Parish councils are not provided with any additional resources to study and respond to consultations or to engage in the NSIP process, however we have done so because this is so important. Our experience of the consultation was that it was inadequate at best and deliberately vague at worst. Documentation and webinars lacked detail, (how drilling will be possible under fragile marshes for long lengths where HDD may not be possible and the public exhibition days which were attended by record numbers included inaccurate maps (historic features and listed buildings missing) and misleading information (not being honest about the total hectares required or location of the SSSI/AONB) and were sadly staffed by individuals who were not always able to answer questions. Consultations should be hosted not by Developers but by independent bodies.

Stating you have listened to our feedback at previous stages and then to carry on with the same plans you put forward in previous stages is disingenuous. The level of trust that our community has in the potential development and the developer is extremely low, because you have not demonstrated real regard to our concerns or to the protected internationally important habitats, or our impacted community. The PEIR states impacts are “not significant” and this is false, considering the background levels and thresholds of harm.

ATC objects to your consultation feedback form. Asking respondents to answer general statements is not effective consultation and is misleading. Of course, everyone will say they agree that delivering net zero should be a priority, and that the UK needs to improve its energy security, and we should keep energy prices down - but this project specifically in these locations will not be the only way to achieve this. We believe you are attempting to gain support for the project falsely.

ATC is very concerned that you have introduced the idea of potential co-location which does not reduce footprint and only coordinates potential siting or timelines. This would mean either more disruption to the same area over a longer time frame or of a greater magnitude for a shorter time frame, which neither is preferred. It is natural that respondents would favour some co-location and will answer this question without understanding the negative impact this will have. This is misleading, unfair, divisive and harms community cohesion. We are aware of the OCSS proposal to co-located the Northfalls and Five Estuaries wind-farm projects here with SeaLink which we reject.

There was no information on benefits to communities, residents or visitors for hosting onshore infrastructure, in addition to the cost of mitigation/compensation.

### Conclusion

We respectfully request that NGV consider a much broader and more creative approach to landfall sites, cable runs, convertor sites and sub-station construction than its current set of proposals, which all fall within and/or threaten green field, AONB, SSSI protected reserve locations. Either brown field or offshore connector stations should be used along with an offshore grid option.



We understand that you do not like to choose brownfield sites as they are often more constrained by structures which causes additional cost and time delays - but we would encourage you to look at the wider longer-term gains if you did locate onto a brown field site further north or south, and/or developed offshore hub/grid options. ATC believes that NGV has not properly considered alternative sites away from the Suffolk coast.

Building large-scale industrial buildings in rural villages/hamlets should be avoided. Many millions of public and private investments have created this as a year-round 'destination' and protected its wildlife, dark skies and tranquillity. The Suffolk Heritage coast is a unique and delicate coastal environment, with a truly special biodiversity that justifies the highest levels of protection in planning legislation. Only in exceptional circumstances should an area with internationally important protected designations be used, and this is not justified.

## **Appendix B: Aldeburgh Town Council National Strategy Infrastructure Projects Statement**

### **National Strategic Infrastructure Projects Statement**

Aldeburgh Town Council is in favour of clean energy, reduction in fossil fuels and energy security. Aldeburgh Town Council recognises the important part to be played in this endeavour by renewables, such as solar and wind energy, and nuclear, which is a low carbon generator and producing predictable, continuous energy output regardless of weather conditions.

The development of these projects has the potential to affect our town and its residents in many ways, some not yet envisaged. It is therefore important that Councillors remain well informed at all times on all developments as they occur and are best placed to engage with the issues and applicants in a timely, impartial and professional manner.

Aldeburgh Town Council has a Working Group which examines in detail all the energy projects which currently stand to affect us and our neighbours along the East Anglian coastline.

The Working Group has three main objectives.

Firstly, and principally, the Working Group is tasked with ensuring that it swiftly identifies plans generated by the energy projects which could negatively affect the town and our important AONB. The Working Group will analyse the issues that arise and challenge robustly and appropriately.

Secondly, the Working Group will ensure that Aldeburgh Town Council identifies and supports potential opportunities for its residents to benefit from the associated employment, training and education, and supply chain opportunities that these projects are certain to give rise to.

Thirdly, the Working Group will ensure that the town and its residents benefit from any mitigation measures which are proposed by the companies responsible for the energy projects.

Aldeburgh Town Council understands that Aldeburgh residents will want to be kept abreast of important developments in the energy projects that affect the area and will want to understand how they can feedback to the companies involved.

To facilitate this, Aldeburgh Town Council will respond to any changes implemented and will provide a regularly updated overview of the projects and their current stages which will be posted on its website, together with regularly reviewed options on the opportunities for public engagement.

## Item 150 - option 1 (Councillor Fellowes)

### Aldeburgh Town Council response to Nautilus Interconnector Consultation – August 2024

#### Introductory comments

Aldeburgh Town Council (ATC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofgem's consultation on changes to the Project Assessment of Nautilus Offshore Hybrid Asset as part of the OHA Pilot Scheme. Our interest in, and overall position on, this project is as a landowner, and local elected governmental body representing its residents, visitors, businesses and groups.

ATC is supportive of wind generated renewable energy and for ensuring value for money for electricity consumers. (We also note that this interconnector to/from Belgium will, at least in the initial years, also include energy generated from EU fossil fuel stations - which we do not support). Regardless of any in-principal support for Ofgem's exploration of different options to coordinate and link offshore via platforms or mesh grids, we must state in the strongest possible terms our opposition to these specific proposals.

ATC wishes to register its extreme disappointment at Ofgem's rejection of the alternative site at the Isle of Grain, Kent as a suitable location for this project. We would highlight that your assessment of cost to the consumer is flawed and based on assumptions. You (Ofgem) have stated "there is capacity in the electricity system at Friston. This means that the cost of connecting Nautilus at Friston is lower, as there are fewer reinforcements and upgrades needed to transmit the energy between Nautilus and the wider electricity grid." This is not correct - as our following detailed comments will illustrate.

It also does not take into account the significant negative impacts which will catastrophically harm our local economy and vital year-round tourism offer, our environment, ecology, wildlife and our health & well-being – especially when other strategic options would be possible, while still meeting your aims.

ATC supports our neighbouring Saxmundham Town Council, Benhall and Friston Parish Councils and other potentially affected areas in their concerns. ATC firmly concurs with other Town and Parish Councils, that more sustainable solutions exist, and is appalled by these altered plans that potentially threaten parts of our area so substantially. ATC also concurs with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk (District) Council objections.

#### Aldeburgh - Background

Aldeburgh is a small town situated on the Suffolk Heritage Coast between Lowestoft and Felixstowe, accessed by one single carriageway road the A12. The town and surrounding area lie within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (now known as Suffolk and Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscapes) with other areas of special interest (RAMSAR, SSSIs) and is constrained by RSPB owned and maintained marshland to the north and the River Alde (RAMSAR, SSI site 692) to the south and the North Sea to the east. There are only three minor 'B' roads into/out of the town from the direction of Thorpeness, Aldringham/Leiston, and Knodishall/Snape/Friston.

Over many years Aldeburgh has developed into a well-known, all-year-round 'destination' town, heavily associated with the arts, music, historic and cultural heritage of the area, and its economy relies on tourism, leisure and retail following the demise of the traditional fishing, boatbuilding and brickmaking industries. This economic uplift also benefits the surrounding villages and towns and provides extensive employment. The town attracts many day and longer-stay visitors through the year and its regular population of just over 3,000 regularly increases to well over 15,000. Recent footfall reports by East Suffolk Council state over 1M visits per year.

The town has recently gained another hotel/restaurant to add to the existing provision of three large hotels and several restaurants, cafes, bed and breakfast, Airbnb and thriving holiday let businesses. There are many major festivals (documentary, literary, poetry, theatre) throughout the year, as well as the internationally important Aldeburgh Festival now at nearby Snape Maltings. Aldeburgh is known as the home of British composer Benjamin Britten, Britain's first female doctor and mayor Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. EM Forster, Susan Hill, Laurens van de Post and many other famous authors have written of the inspiration of the town. Facilities include a Community Hospital, GP surgery, Lifeboat & Coastguard service, Fire Brigade house, Library, Primary school, two award-winning Golf courses, two yacht/sailing clubs, several community halls and entertainment/performance spaces, and a vibrant High Street, with an independent Cinema, bookshops, pharmacy, and variety of retail outlets (boutique & chain).

Aldeburgh has a long, attractive but narrow shingle beach, with a Martello tower and a range of protected and unique flora and fauna. It also has the Garrett Anderson Era conservation area, with many important architectural buildings, the church of St Peter & St Paul, the Church of our Lady & St Peter, a Baptist Chapel, and a Grade I Moot Hall once the seat of local government, which is still used for council meetings and now hosts the town's museum. Public amenities include two large sports fields, two children's play areas, a large area of allotments, tennis courts and bowls pitches.

#### Our detailed objection to the proposed changes to the Nautilus Offshore Hybrid Asset project

ATC continues to call for a review to be undertaken of this project in the wider context of East Anglian energy production, at Central Government level, on the grounds that:

1. The cumulative impact with other Energy projects proposed for the region has not been fully considered.
2. National Grid Energy Supply Office (NGESO) LionLink project's findings, unequivocally ruling out Aldeburgh as a potential landfall site for an interconnector to the Netherlands - apply to this project also. Specifically:

"Landfall E (Aldeburgh) was discounted due to significant environmental and technical risks associated with the nearshore approach to the site. LionLink would approach the coast from the north after connecting with a Dutch windfarm located in the North Sea. The Aldeburgh landfall site would therefore result in the longest offshore cable route of the shortlisted options. The offshore cable route would also cross up to 11 other cable routes, all within European designated sites and likely to result in impacts to the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), which could not be mitigated. The crossings will require scouring of the seabed to build concrete beds as protection for the cable, which would result in the loss of existing seabed and impact on the marine environment. This option would also potentially impact the Coralline Crag (a unique geological feature) and fishing netting grounds. Whilst offshore constraints were the primary reason for the discounting of Landfall E, a number of onshore environmental designations in this location create further challenges. These include the sites location within a SSSI and important bird areas which would require meaningful environmental protections, mitigations and restoration works. Although consultation feedback favoured coordination with other developers at landfall and converter station sites, the benefits of this at Landfall E (such as a reduction in construction traffic and sharing of materials), were not sufficient to outweigh the challenges presented from an environmental and technical perspective. Although some of these challenges could in part be mitigated, consultation feedback strongly noted the need to protect onshore and offshore environmental sites and designations which also informed our decision to discount this site. " (National Grid Ventures (NGV) 2021).

3. ATC continues to contest the PIER findings in the NGET SeaLink project (for an seabed cable from Suffolk to Kent/London) relating to disruption to the livelihood of thousands dependent on tourism by the disturbance caused by the siting and construction of this project. ATC considers these findings appear to trivialise the importance of the National Landscape and its setting in the path of this project.

The local arterial infrastructure consisting of the single carriageway A12, connected to Aldeburgh by one 'A' road, the A1094, access to the town by the only other road the B1122 which is joined by the extremely narrow B1353 (both B roads serving Aldeburgh combine) at Aldringham results in vehicular access to the town being heavily constrained to the point of potential loss of life if impeded.

4. The unsuitability of Aldeburgh for a landfall is an agreed position stated in submissions to the SeaLink project by East Suffolk (District) Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC).

For example:

ESC. "The landfall option ...is located at the seaside town of Aldeburgh just across the road from the well-known sand and shingle beach. The site is within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and defined Heritage Coast and therefore during the construction phase the works will likely give rise to significant adverse effects on local designated landscape character and visual amenity. In addition to the high landscape importance of the area, Aldeburgh is also considered of great cultural significance, once home of the composer Benjamin Britten, inspirational to other famous artists and writers and at the centre of the internationally acclaimed Aldeburgh Festival. The town is a hugely popular tourist and visitor destination with the area heavily used year-round as a walking route between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.

In addition to the designated landscape, the landfall area of search critically includes sites designated for their nature conservation value. The site is located within part of the Leiston-Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is part of the North Warren RSPB Reserve. The Haven, Aldeburgh Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located immediately to the south-east of the landfall option. The site is also likely to support a range of protected and/or UK Priority species associated with the habitat types present. The use of this area as a landfall is likely to result in damage and/or destruction of habitats and potential disturbance of species for which the SSSI is designated.... See also ESC-Response-to-Sea-Link-Statutory-Consultation.pdf ([eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://eastsuffolk.gov.uk)) Page 3 of 12

SCC. "Having reviewed the information provided by the applicant and considered the options in this consultation, SCC considers the site unacceptable due to its prominent location adjacent to and overlooking the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and other protected sites.

The site is highly constrained as it is set in gently rolling countryside within the setting of, and on two sides adjacent to the AONB, on the outskirts of Aldeburgh, to the north of Hazlewood Hall. It is wholly within the Estate Sandlands landscape of the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). It is typical of that landscape, consisting of regular late enclosure fields, plantation woodlands and coverts, characteristic of that landscape type..." See: [sea-link-scc-response-non-statutory-consultation.pdf](http://sea-link-scc-response-non-statutory-consultation.pdf) ([suffolk.gov.uk](http://suffolk.gov.uk))

## Assumption of onshore infrastructure, and the harm of siting here on the East Coast versus Ofgem's cost benefit analysis

Ofgem's decision appears to be solely based upon costs presented by NGVs, ie it is not Ofgem's analysis of the position in cost terms but their blind acceptance of NGV's figures based on their current (desktop) plans.

NGV's position at the non-statutory consultation in 2021 was that as it had rights to connect a project at the Isle of Grain in Kent and given its proximity to Belgium it would investigate if this could be a viable location for Nautilus.

To support ATC's point, Ofgem claims one of its responsibilities is *'We continually seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our approach. This includes setting out the costs and benefits, as well as the social and environmental impacts, of all major decisions.'* Yet the consultation exercise does not even mention the implications of moving the project back from a brown field site in Kent to one of the nation's most valuable green resources or the effect of the other concurrent projects at or near the same Suffolk landfall. Thus, ATC's position is that Ofgem is completely failing in its duty and responsibility in this regard in this application.

As a member of The UK Regulators' Network (UKRN), ATC assumes Ofgem is bound by (among others) the UKRN *'Climate Change Objectives: To understand and support implementation of efficient investment in climate mitigation, fair transition to Net Zero and informed decision making by regulators'* (this area chaired by Barbara Perata-Smith). Representing many consumers, ATC does not consider that Ofgem is 'making a positive difference for energy consumers'. Neither is Ofgem abiding by UKRN's area mission statement as above as the area of East Anglia is being treated without fairness or ensuring that the full facts are in place in order to ensure informed decision-making in approving the siting of this project. Overall, Ofgem's descriptor: *'Our role is to protect consumers now and in the future by working to deliver a greener, fairer energy system'* is in direct contradiction to how it is working in this application.

While the landfall site in question has been approved by Ofgem, no compelling supporting information has been produced to illustrate the viability of executing the build on this site. The aquifers upon which the local farms and residential properties depend for fresh water, and the balanced eco-system of the RSPB reserve, once damaged will be unrepairable. There appears to be no presented engineering solution to avoid catastrophic damage to either the RSPB bird reserve or productive farm land currently contributing to food security, other businesses or the residential properties in the vicinity of this project.

Ofgem appears to have believed the Developer's assertion that a substation at Friston exists. Although consented (only for the SPR EA1N and EA2 windfarms) this project has not progressed and the time line for this new build is uncertain. Strong opposition remains and issues have not been satisfactorily mitigated and will require extensive compensation. ATC rejects the use of Friston to build a substation, as there is no capacity for the wind energy being created off the coast here to enter the grid pylons to be transmitted to where it is required. NGET prove this in that they have applied for the SeaLink project an under the sea cable which will take the energy from Friston to Kent/London. So an offer to connect here should never have been made. Friston is a rural hamlet, adjacent to Aldeburgh.

The location of substation then drives the location of Converter station (within 5km). We reject the proposal to build a new Converter station at Saxmundham which is a key market town and vital rail link.

## Item 150 - option 2 (Councillor Bond)

### **Aldeburgh Town Council (ATC)'s DRAFT response to Nautilus Interconnector Consultation**

ATC wishes to register its extreme disappointment at Ofgem's rejection of the alternative site at the Isle of Grain, Kent as a suitable location for this project. This is despite the landfall site at Aldeburgh in its exploring by National Grid being described as *'... heavily constrained from an onshore perspective. Landfall E is located within an Important Bird Area (IBA), RSPB reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is also located close to a Special Protection Area (SPA) and County Wildlife Site. These ecological features present substantial siting and routing challenges. As such, Landfall E is not preferred from an onshore perspective.'* (National Grid Ventures (NGV) 2021).

That Ofgem's disappointing resulting decision is solely based upon costs presented by NGVs, appears highly questionable as it appears it is NGV that has driven the decision, ie it is not Ofgem's analysis of the position in cost terms but their blind acceptance of NGV's figures based on their current (desktop) plans.

NGV's position at the non-statutory consultation in 2021 was that as it had rights to connect a project at the Isle of Grain in Kent and given its proximity to Belgium it would investigate if this could be a viable location for Nautilus. Apart from the quite doubtful cost analysis being apparently presented, there does not appear any compelling case for abandoning the Isle of Grain position on viability grounds that ATC has found.

To support ATC's point, Ofgem claims one of its responsibilities is *'We continually seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our approach. This includes setting out the costs and benefits, as well as the social and environmental impacts, of all major decisions.'* Yet the consultation exercise does not even mention the implications of moving the project back from a brown field site in Kent to one of the nation's most valuable green resources or the effect of the other concurrent projects at or near the same Suffolk landfall. Thus, ATC's position is that Ofgem is completely failing in its duty and responsibility in this regard in this application.

As a member of The UK Regulators' Network (UKRN), ATC assumes Ofgem is bound by (among others) the UKRN *'Climate Change Objectives: To understand and support implementation of efficient investment in climate mitigation, fair transition to Net Zero and informed decision making by regulators'* (this area chaired by Barbara Perata-Smith). Representing many consumers, ATC does not consider that Ofgem is *'making a positive difference for energy consumers'*. Neither is Ofgem abiding by UKRN's area mission statement as above as the area of East Anglia is being treated without fairness or ensuring that the full facts are in place in order to ensure informed decision-making in approving the siting of this project. Overall, Ofgem's descriptor: *'Our role is to protect consumers now and in the future by working to deliver a greener, fairer energy system'* is in direct contradiction to how it is working in this application.

While the landfall site in question has been approved by Ofgem, no compelling supporting information has been produced to illustrate the viability of executing the build on this site. The aquifers upon which the local farms and residential properties depend for fresh water, and the balanced eco-system of the RSPB reserve, once damaged will be unrepairable. There appears to be no presented engineering solution to avoid catastrophic damage to either the RSPB bird reserve or productive farm land currently contributing to food security, other businesses or the residential properties in the vicinity of this project.

ATC wishes to register its support for ESC (East Suffolk Council) and (SCC) Suffolk County Council's compelling objections to this project overall. Should the Planning Inspectorate accept it for examination, ATC will make representation into the NSIP examination process.

The siting of cable runs between this infrastructure and proposed landfall between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness remain intrusive and of detrimental impact to the environment and our economy of this rural coastal area, which is based on tourism.

The increase in traffic associated with construction (in combination with other NSIPs projects proposed for the same timeline/ geographic area) would be both dangerous on rural roads/lanes and cause harm to the environment and wildlife. Routes include use of designated 'quiet lanes'.

The risk of harm from dust, noise, air pollution, in a rural residential area is high, with significant light pollution in an area of dark skies would negatively impact the perception of tranquillity that this area is known for, as part of our year-round, vital tourism offer. The tourism offer here, built up over many years of public and private investment is a year-round offer, so we note that it may not be possible to reduce harm and mitigate or compensate for loss of income and permanent damage to this economy.

We request that Ofgem takes these points into its cost/benefit assessment of the project.

There is a significant lack of detail in the project as to how the negative impact of these proposed changes will be mitigated. The proposals do not include any legacy improvements or local employment opportunities. It is not sufficient to prevent the actual or perceived damage to the tourism industry. The subject of community benefit, should mitigation not remove all harm, is still under review and not agreed, but would need to be substantial.

ATC notes that the Nautilus project includes a connection to the Dutch offshore platform, we would request that offshore connection points in the form of a mesh/grid are investigated for the UK. With landfall points onto brown field sites only.

There should be via a robust and cohesive, strategic plan for the whole of the UK power needs incorporating the latest technology to achieve an overall better legacy outcome. This may be more expensive for NG (private company) shareholders and take slightly longer to achieve but we believe the pace of development would then be able to be escalated, with the right solution and still meet net zero carbon targets. This area should not become an energy Hub by stealth, each project must be consulted on and examined in its own right, and the cumulative impact of these projects should be robustly considered, and if approved, with appropriate mitigation and if negative impacts cannot be mitigated with significant compensation, as per NSIP planning regime.

We would request that there is a pause of both consented and in consultation projects, for an urgent strategic review to enable a real legacy for the UK of a coordinated and future proofed solution, which is less negatively damaging than the current proposals. ATC would very much welcome specific and DIRECT engagement with Ofgem in order to properly understand the rationale for your potential acceptance of the changes to this application, prior to the next stage in your process, which we believe may be Autumn this year.

ATC would like to issue an invitation to representatives of the NG and Ofgem to attend a formal meeting with Councillors, at your earliest convenience. The current proposals for the Nautilus OHA project are diametrically opposed to the continued existence of Aldeburgh as a year-round destination town with an economy reliant on tourism and leisure, and we are electricity consumers to and request your urgent protection.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of Aldeburgh Town Council. Kim Puttock Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer etc.



Our Ref: SCC/0083/24/DoR/EA1N & SCC/0084/24/DoR/EA2

Date: 05 August 2024

Enquiries to: Georgia Teague

Tel: 01473 265 054

Email: [georgia.teague@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:georgia.teague@suffolk.gov.uk)

By email to:

Aldeburgh Town Council

Aldringham cum Thorpe Parish Council

Friston Parish Council

Knodishall Parish Council

Leiston cum Sizewell Parish Council

Snape Parish Council

Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council

Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council

Cc: Councillors Richard Rout, Richard Smith, T J Haworth-Culf, Andrew Reid

**FOR INFORMATION: DISCHARGE OF REQUIREMENTS 19(1) PRE-COMMENCEMENT  
ARCHAEOLOGY EXECUTION PLAN, REQUIREMENT 20(1) ARCHAEOLOGY AND  
REQUIREMENT 32(1) PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MITIGATION WORKS, IN RESPECT OF SCOTTISH POWER RENEWABLES EAST  
ANGLIA ONE NORTH AND TWO OFFSHORE WIND FARMS**

Dear Sir/Madam,

For information, Suffolk County Council, as the Discharging Authority, has received the above application to Discharge this Requirement(s).

This project has been granted consent by the Secretary of State of the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), following the recommendations from the Examining Authority. Suffolk County Council has the responsibility to assess the information provided in order to discharge the Requirements set out in the Development Consent Order (DCO). This will involve liaising with various experts within the County Council to determine whether the information provided by the applicant is satisfactory, and that the Requirement can be discharged. The County Council will not Discharge the Requirement until there is sufficient evidence and detail provided.

Although the proposed developments have been approved by the SoS, further detailed information is required to enable construction to be undertaken and the responsibility for the approval of the detailed information for certain matters rests with Suffolk County Council (SCC).

I am therefore writing to you to inform you that SPR have submitted information under Requirements 19, 20 and 32 for the approval of SCC. Requirements 19, 20 and 32 states the following:

### **Pre-commencement archaeology execution plan**

*19.—(1) No intrusive onshore preparation works (including pre-commencement archaeological surveys, archaeological investigations or site preparation works in respect of such surveys or investigations) may be carried out until a pre-commencement archaeology execution plan (which accords with the outline pre-commencement archaeology execution plan and the outline written scheme of investigation (onshore archaeology)) in respect of those works has been submitted to and approved by Suffolk County Council in consultation with the relevant planning authority.*

### **Archaeology**

*20.— (1) No stage of the onshore works may commence until for that stage a written scheme of archaeological investigation (which accords with the outline written scheme of investigation (onshore archaeology) and is informed by the pre-commencement archaeological surveys) has, after consultation with Historic England, been submitted to and approved by Suffolk County Council in consultation with the relevant planning authority.*

### **Public rights of way**

*32.—(1) No stage of the authorised development or onshore preparation works that would affect a public right of way specified in Schedule 3 (public rights of way to be temporarily stopped up) or Schedule 4 (footpaths to be stopped up) is to be undertaken until a public rights of way strategy in respect of that stage and in accordance with the outline public rights of way strategy, including the specification for the making up of an alternative right of way (where appropriate) has been submitted to and approved by the relevant highway authority in consultation with the relevant planning authority.*

The submitted information can be found by following the links below to the SCC planning website.

<https://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0083%2F24%2FDoR%2FEA1N>

<https://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0084%2F24%2FDoR%2FEA2>

If any parish councils or members of the public choose to provide comment, they are welcome to do so, but there is no expectation for parish councils to submit comments.

Any comments submitted should be in relation to the submitted document only, and not raise concerns or issues outside of the scope of the submitted document.

There is also no formal duty on the part of the discharging authority to have regard to comments from any person or organisation which is not a named consultee, though it may at its discretion.

It is not mandatory for any public comments to be received in order for the Planning Officer to Discharge the Requirement document that has been submitted to them.

**If you wish to make any comments to SCC upon the submitted information, please do so to the following email address, no later than Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.**

[planning@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:planning@suffolk.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

*Georgia Teague*

**Georgia Teague**

**Planning Officer**

**Growth, Highways & Infrastructure**

## Kim Puttock

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**From:** Kim Puttock  
**Sent:** 30 August 2024 13:46  
**To:** SCC Planning Mailbox  
**Subject:** RE: SCC/0083/24/DoR/EA1N and SCC/0084/24/DoR/EA2 - SCOTTISH POWER RENEWABLES EAST ANGLIA ONE NORTH AND TWO OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

Dear All

Aldeburgh Town Council encourages the developer and Council to support landowners who are affected by these works. We do not have the expertise to comment on the works, however we will make contact should we become aware of any concerns raised by our residents.

Kind Regards  
Kim

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**Kim Puttock CMgr FCMI StSLCC**  
**Town Clerk**



**Aldeburgh Town Council**

The Moot Hall, Market Cross Place, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. IP15 5DS

Tel: 01728 452158

Email: [townclerk@aldeburghtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@aldeburghtowncouncil.gov.uk)

[www.aldeburghtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.aldeburghtowncouncil.co.uk)

**Office Hours: 10am to 1pm & 2pm to 4pm (Mon to Fri)**



## **Item 153.2 – Property and Finance report**

### **Finance**

- The Q1 variance report was circulated and questions invited.
- We are awaiting both the ice cream kiosk and marshes leases for signing.

### **Sports**

- Sports week was very successful and enjoyed by many children. The weather was superb for the whole week. Thanks to all those who helped.

### **Property**

#### **Rugby Pavilion**

- The broken drain cover has been replaced. We are still trying to get NJB to site to deal with a drain.
- Cllrs Fox and Jones met with the architect last Thursday. He is still trying to get the FA to respond to some questions regarding their criteria.

#### **Moot Hall**

- We are waiting for the heating recommendation for the kitchen/toilet area.
- Cllr Jones has written to Robert Scrimgeor (Conservation Officer) regarding a grant application for the work on the windows as he advised there was a small budget, but I've been unable to find the application process online.
- We are awaiting a date for the work on the windows to commence.
- There is an upgrade needed to the alarm system to address the switch from analogue to digital telephone lines, this is a shared cost with the museum.

#### **Tractor Shed**

- There is no update on the enquiry for use, as mentioned previously any applicant will need to have a business case.

#### **Play Equipment**

- All minor issues identified by the inspector are being progressed. David Bracey who completes our monthly inspections is retiring at the end of this month. We are exploring inspection options.

#### **Kings Field and Queens Field Pitch Maintenance**

- Feed and weed will be applied to Queens field this Thursday. Kings field is too busy at the moment as any application needs to be left for approx. 6 hours and they have confirmed it will be done after the school holidays.

#### **Steps – River wall**

- The top of the wall nearer to Brickdock has been cut as has the footpath through the allotments and across the marshes.

#### **Bowls Green**

- The mower had to be returned to the supplier to deal with a further cutting issue. They have invoiced us and we are disputing this bill as we believe this is a warranty issue.

#### **Bowls Pavilion**

- We have damp developed in the kitchen and ladies toilets/changing rooms. A builder will be contacted to do an assessment.



#### Tennis courts

- We are going to put up additional signs including a QR code as a payment option. Cash can still be used in the honesty box. The problems with the verification using Sum up machines has now been rectified.
- The specialist has been instructed to produce the detailed scope of works for both Options 2 & 4. The quote was the same to do both options as to do one.

#### Kemps field

- We had a successful evening on the 26th July with a good attendance. The Plymouth Brethren did a marvelous job both in getting the goal posts all sorted and with the BBQ.
- We have purchased a netball post, which they will put up. We have a spare post as the first one was delivered damaged, so we may also put one on Kings field, we just need to buy the hoop and net for the second one.

#### Grass cutting

- With the dry weather grass is not growing as quickly but we continue to monitor.

#### Hedge Cutting

- This will start shortly.

#### Allotments

- Review completed last week and Deputy Town Clerk will be contacting those who fell into the Red and Amber categories.
- We have a waiting list which this might help to reduce.

#### Kings Field Shelter and Car Park

- Cllrs Jones and Walker met the CCTV engineer. The camera would be high on the chimney on the Groundman's Cottage with a clear view of the car park.



## **Item 153.3 – Services report**

### **Advanced directional signs**

- Changes to be agreed at the next SWG on 22/08
- Details will be sent to WG members in good time to enable debate

### **Speeding update**

- Speed surveys being undertaken on Thorpe Road with intention of checking if changes need to be made to the speed limits
- New VAS being installed by Rapid Relief Team
- Unit to be paid for from Suffolk County Council Highway budget c/o Councillor Haworth-Culf
- Public need to report speeding to the Police

### **Parking Update**

- Reports of irregular parking where signs and lines are in place need to go to the Police
- Reports of dangerous and inconsiderate parking where there are no signs or lines need to go to ESC

### **Town Board**

- We are awaiting a response from ESC to go ahead with erecting on their land at Oakley Square. Town Clerk is chasing.

### **Heritage Railings and Gates**

- We have asked the decorator who is booked to paint other railings for us whether he has the capacity to take these onboard as well. We need to use the grant money before March 2025 or we will lose it, and we need to get the work done before the weather deteriorates later in the year.
- We need to pen a letter to ESC to ask them to look at maintenance on the ironwork (bollards) in their car parks and it is not in a good state. Town Clerk to action.

### **Dog Poo signs**

- We have purchased 10 signs. Cllr Fox is organising getting them backed with board, and they will shortly go up around Aldeburgh in the hot spots.



## **Item 156.2 – Town Clerk’s Report**

### **External Audit Update**

We have had preliminary confirmation from the External Auditors that they were happy with my explanations for the variances on our accounts, subject to internal verification. As soon as the official outcome is released, I will bring to Full Council.

### **Tractor Shed**

We have received no further enquiries.

### **Microphones and Chamber Acoustics Update**

I have been given the details of a company who can help and am in contact with them to get a quote. Once this has been received, I will be able to request 2 more quotes.

### **Transparency Code**

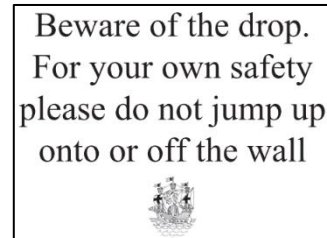
I have extracted the data for Q1 2024/25 and will upload to our website as soon as possible.

### **CCTV/Railings outside the Moot Hall**

I have spoken with East Suffolk Council who have told me that if we wish to have CCTV on the exterior of the Moot Hall that we will need to submit a pre-planning application.

There have been several instances recently of children, adults and dogs jumping up and down the wall outside my office. I am concerned that someone will come to harm if they misjudge the drop and so from a Health and Safety perspective, I have asked the East Suffolk Team about installing some low-level safety railings along the wall. They have advised including it at the same time.

I have in the meantime ordered a couple of signs from Leiston Press that can go up as a warning to protect the council:



### **gov.uk domain**

We have now obtained our new gov.uk domain and details have been shared with all Councillors. As soon as I have confirmation that everyone has moved over I will send an email out to everyone to confirm and that all emails should be sent to the gov.uk email address.

Can you also please make sure any footer that you have at the bottom of your email correctly shows your email address as gov.uk?

Please note that the website domain is not yet changing. This will happen with the rebuild of our website as part of our Website Content Accessibility compliance.

### **Policies coming to the next Full Council meeting**

I was due to bring the Grants Policy and Grant Application Form and the updated Finance Regulations document to councillors this month.

Unfortunately, this has not been possible due to my workload, but I will aim to bring them to the next Full Council meeting.





## Website Content Accessibility compliance update

I have contacted 3 further companies for a quote. 2 have not responded, the one who has responded is more expensive than the company I spoke to a couple of months ago. The company who has responded also did so simply by sending an email of costs and have had no interaction with us, which if this is how they do business, I am not confident we will get the support we need.

On the basis of the above as this is within my delegated responsibility, I will instruct Aubergine 262 to go ahead. They have already undertaken a check of our website to identify issues and to also map out our current site map. This has all been done free of charge. They were also extremely helpful in our application for a gov.uk domain and did this work within the funding that was available to us.

This won't be a fast-moving project, and they will lead and do the bulk of the work required.

## Correspondence

<p><b>Subject:</b> Coast &amp; Heaths National Landscape - Volunteer Work Parties</p> <p>Hello</p> <p>Not so long ago I was in touch to let you know that I am currently drawing up the next practical programme of work for our Coast &amp; Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) volunteers to run from <b>1 July to 1 October this year</b>. Normally, we get around 10 volunteers attending. We are therefore looking for projects that will keep our volunteers occupied between 9:30am and 3pm. We are keen to help as always if the job is right! As far as I know (forgive for any lapses of memory!) I have not heard back from you one way or the other.</p> <p>The rough and ready criteria for tasks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. In the AONB or very close to its boundary</li><li>2. Meet the AONB designation</li><li>2. Meet the AONBs Management Plan</li><li>3. Enhances the landscape and natural beauty</li><li>4. Has written landowner permission/support and the site is safe to work on</li><li>5. Work is not the legal responsibility of another party/organisation</li><li>6. Location of the work is reasonably accessible by vehicle (within 100m)</li></ol> <p>I will be scheduling mid-week work parties mainly for Tuesdays (although there will be some flexibility if other days suit you better).</p> <p>There is scope to include some weekend work parties also.</p> <p>To give you some idea of the type of tasks we can take on, below I outline some work completed over the last few years:</p> <p>We helped local residents clear the encroaching bramble from the edge of a wildflower meadow. We continued work at a green space managed by a Parish Council for nature – badger latrines were discovered but not investigated too closely! We managed several Sandings heath sites as a landscape feature and for wildlife – removing trees and saplings; creating bare ground; cutting bracken etc. We planted hundreds of metres of mixed hedging to benefit landscape, people and nature.</p> <p><b>Ideally if you could let me know of projects for us to consider by Mon 17 June pl. that would be appreciated.</b> <b>After 17 June I will consider all 'offers' and let you know if we can help out or not.</b></p> <p>Any questions, please ask.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Neil</p>
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**Town Clerk and RFO**

**8th August 2024**