

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Jones took the chair

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Cox
Cllr Digby Cllr Harris
Cllr Osben

There were three members of the public in attendance.

Apologies: Cllrs Partel and Worster

Approval of previous Minutes

Cllr Jones commended the draft Minutes of the Property and Finance Committee meeting held on 25 September 2017 which were **APPROVED** by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed.

Matters for Discussion

3.1. Finance

Cllr Jones commended the variance report to the end of September and the proposed budget for 2018-19 which had previously been circulated to Cllrs. There were no questions relating to either item.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** the proposed budget for 2018-19 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Kiff congratulated all involved in the preparation of accounts and budgets and pointed out that next year would be the fifth year the precept had not been increased. He was, however, critical of the level of bank charges incurred by ATC and said complaints should be made to the bank concerned.

Cllr Jones pointed out that before the next Internal Audit visit, recommendations relating to EU legislation concerning financial risk assessment amendments needed to be agreed. She suggested a meeting with herself, Cllr Kiff and the Town Clerk in February or March 2018.

3.2 Sport/Management/Maintenance of Council Property and Land

Cllr Jones told the Committee that the King's Field drainage project had exceeded the budget set by Sport England by approximately £10,000. Additional costs had been incurred, she said, because specialist contractors regarded Aldeburgh as a remote location and were travelling some distance to complete the work. Cllr Jones explained that the Town Clerk had successfully persuaded the assigned consultant to allocate contingency funds to cover half the shortfall and that some savings had been agreed, but up to £5,000 was still needed to proceed with the plan and she asked Cllrs to approve this expenditure.

Cllr Fellowes asked if either SCDC or SCC should be approached for match-funding, particularly as both authorities placed great store in public health.

The Town Clerk said it was unlikely SCDC would provide funds because of their level of investment in Sports Week and new playground equipment. The County Council was a possibility, she declared.

Cllr Harris believed this was money ATC had to spend on what was a vital town asset.

PROPOSAL to approve expenditure of up to £5,000 as an additional contribution to the cost of drainage work at King's Field was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox

In favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Jones told the Committee that the solicitor acting for ATC in respect of the Tractor Shed project was being asked to pursue the matter with some urgency and that construction plans relating to this project were now back on track. She also confirmed that additional lighting at King's Field would be completed by December 8.

Cllrs Jones reported on a number of issues:

Tree Survey: With Cllr Cox, she had met with a tree surgeon to discuss the felling of six trees identified as potentially dangerous in the recent tree survey. The cost of removal and associated work would be approximately £3,000, she said, and would be completed in January. Power lines run through some of these trees, she revealed, and UK Power Networks have scheduled remedial work. Other work identified in the survey would be handled by a second contractor.

Play Equipment: Cllr Jones confirmed that fencing round the new play area on King's Field would soon be completed and that an official opening ceremony, involving Rainbow Tots, was planned for the morning of December 12. A plaque detailing the two sponsors of the new equipment - ATC and SCDC - would be installed.

She told Cllrs that quotes for a second five-a-side goalpost were being sought to enable an application for S106 funds, together with a new back board for the vandalised basketball post. A ROSPA report had recently been received but appeared to show nothing untoward.

The Town Clerk revealed that the new play area at King's Field is one of four projects nominated for an award by SCDC. The scheme which represented the most effective spend from the District Council's Enabling Communities Budget would win a cash prize after a public vote, she said.

Tennis Courts: Cllr Jones told Cllrs that vandalised meters would be replaced by December 8, with extra security measures, organised by Cllr Cox, to be fitted to the new machines.

Norse had been asked to weed and tidy the courts and surrounding paths.

Norse had also been asked to clear the ditch at the junction of Jubilee Walk and Dump Road, she added.

Cllr Jones said the yacht pond needed cleaning and repainting and she would contact previous contractors for advice.

Committee Finance Business

There was no new property and finance business to report

New Property and Finance Business

Cllr Jones reported that draft leases involving the Avocet Academy Trust were with solicitors and that leases for the Pumphouse and the Groundsman's Cottage were still outstanding.

Cllr Walker drew attention to the poor state of the tarmac path between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness but was advised by Cllr Jones that SCDC were probably responsibility for this roadway and not ATC.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 7.25pm.