

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 8 2018
AT 7:00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Bond - The Mayor, took the Chair

Cllr Cox	Cllr Digby
Cllr Fellowes	Cllr Fox
Cllr Harris	Cllr Jones
Cllr Kiff	Cllr Osben
Cllr Oxby	Cllr Palmer
Cllr Partel	Cllr Walker
Cllr Worster	

Four members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies: Cllrs M.Jones and T.J Haworth-Culf (SCDC).

2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on December 11 2017

Minutes of the Council meeting held on December 11 2017 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands and duly signed. Cllrs Kiff and Harris abstained because of their absence from the meeting.

4. SCC report and Correspondence

Cllr Rainger announced that SCC had submitted a business case to the Department of Transport seeking funds for a new dual carriageway to bypass Marlesford, Little Glemham, Stratford St Andrew and Farnham. He also drew attention to a deadline of Monday January 15 for parents and carers to apply for places at Primary, Infant, Junior and Middle Schools for September 2018. He pointed out that any child born between September 1 2013 and August 31 2014 is due to start primary school from September 2018. An application for a full-time school place must be made, he added, even if a child is already attending a nursery class in an infant or primary school, a pre-school or a children's centre next to a school site. His report in full can be found at <https://russrainger.wordpress.com/>

Cllr Rainger reported that following a number of complaints, work to repair the West Lane steps was scheduled to start on January 11.

Cllr Cox asked for clarification on the restructuring of the Highways Department. He understood that a Highways representative had been appointed for this area but nothing had been communicated to ATC. He said there were a large number of outstanding highways issues which needed to be resolved and called for an urgent meeting. The Town Clerk said that the Highways representative had met with all neighbouring authorities but not Aldeburgh. Cllr Rainger promised to expedite a meeting.

Cllr Kiff reminded Cllr Rainger that during the summer months bicycles had been chained to street furniture in the town advertising a cycle hire business. He gave Cllr Rainger a newspaper article which, he said, might provide a solution to this problem. Cllr Rainger said he would re-address this issue but was not confident of success.

Cllr Jones asked if funds were still available from the Locality Budget for further projects and Cllr Rainger said he would investigate. Cllr Fellowes expressed concern that there was still no news of where pupils would go when the Sixth Form moves from Leiston High School. Again, Cllr Rainger promised to investigate.

5. SCDC Report and Correspondence

In the absence of the District Councillors, the Town Clerk drew attention to a number of points in Cllr Haworth-Culf's submitted report. Cllr Haworth-Culf invited everyone to vote in the Suffolk Coastal Business and Community Awards which feature four local projects, including the town's new play area at King's Field. Voting is open to the public until February 28 and votes should be cast online at scbca.co.uk/enabling-communities. The winner will be announced on March 15. Cllr Haworth-Culf revealed that plans to transfer Civil Parking Enforcement from the police to Suffolk local authorities in April 2019 might now be delayed because of time constraints on Central Government.

6. Police Report

There was no police report this month but the Town Clerk said she was pressing the police for an update on two recent break-ins.

7. Public Forum

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum

Local resident Susan Harrison asked when photographs of past mayors, temporarily displaced to accommodate an Elizabeth Garrett Anderson exposition, would be restored to the walls of the council chamber. The Town Clerk told her that there were plans to digitise the photographs and present them in book form. Mrs Harrison also asked if dogs could be banned from the beach during the Boxing Day charity swim. She complained that a large number of spectators had dogs on leads which represented a trip hazard, particularly for elderly people. The Town Clerk promised to alert the organisers of the swim to this issue.

Resident Alan Collett told Cllrs he had used the County Highways Department reporting tool to log 14 separate issues involving potholes in roads and on pavements, all of which he regarded as dangerous situations. He complained that not only had work not been carried out, but a number of his reports had disappeared off the County Council website. He asked for an explanation of why these reports had vanished and when work to repair potholes would commence. His criticism of the Highways Department was echoed by Cllrs Worster, Palmer, Fellowes, Kiff and Cox, all of whom expressed frustration at delays to road and pavement repairs.

Cllr Rainger told the meeting that all reports of dangerous potholes remain on the website, but they were not always visible on the reporting tool. He promised to follow up many of the issues raised by residents and councillors.

The Town Clerk told Cllr Rainger that she had received correspondence from residents angered by the closure of both ends The Terrace for up to a month to allow construction work. She was also curious about the decision to resurface The Terrace during this period. Cllr Rainger said he had raised this issue with Highways and was disappointed by their response but he would continue to press for answers.

Another resident asked why the police no longer submitted monthly reports and speculated whether they had something to hide.

The Town Clerk explained that the report was not seen as a priority, partly because the police met with town and parish council clerks on a quarterly basis. She added that Aldeburgh was

now included in a large police area which stretched as far as Eye and statistics specific to Aldeburgh were difficult to extrapolate from a vast array of regional information.

There were no further questions from the Public Forum.

The Mayor then reinstated Standing Orders

8. COMMITTEES REPORTS:

8a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones reported that work on constructing a concrete base for the Tractor Shed project would start shortly and would be complete within approximately three days. Lighting at King's Field had been improved, she added, and a contractor appointed to resolve a problem with a street light. Following the tree survey, she told Cllrs, four trees at King's Field would be removed on January 23.

She reminded Cllrs that the new play area at King's Field had been nominated for a community award and encouraged everyone to participate in the vote.

She told the meeting that Cllr Cox was in discussion with a contractor to provide security covers for meters at the tennis courts and that invitations to tender would go out shortly for the external decoration of the Bowls pavilion and wood preservative to the Tractor Shed and the shelters on King's Field and Kemp's Field.

Cllr Walker drew attention to a dilapidated sign at the approach to King's Field and suggested it should be replaced with something more appropriate for the image of the town. Cllr Jones agreed.

Cllr Worster suggested that a sign on the roundabout advertising a fitness provider was inappropriate and should be removed. He felt the only signs displayed at this site should be for charitable events and not commercial enterprises. The Town Clerk reassured him the banner would be removed within two weeks but suggested the fitness providers might consider permanent sponsorship of the floral display on the roundabout itself, a better way forward, she believed.

Cllr Oxby asked why bag dispensers at dog bins had not been restocked. Cllr Jones explained that some dog walkers had abused the facility by removing handfuls of bags at a time. Providing bags seemed like a good idea, she said, but it was no longer viable and the dispensers would be removed.

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from the Chair of the Services Committee

Cllr Palmer told Cllrs that a response to the grant application for conservation work on the War Memorial had been delayed. He also said that both sites for the new defibrillators had been agreed and one was about to be installed at the Church Hall. Contractors were being contacted to discuss the fitting of the second unit. He reported no success with a repair to the speed sign on Saxmundham Road despite representation to SCC.

Cllr Bond pointed out that a speed reduction from 50mph to 30mph had recently been introduced at Stratford St Andrew and she believed this might help with ATC's desire to reduce traffic speed between the town and Snape.

8c) PLANNING

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning

Cllr Worster had nothing to report

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS

8di) Report from Chairman of Grants, Requests and Events Committee

Cllr Digby had nothing to report

9. Representatives' Reports.

Cllr Jones will be attending meetings of the Aldeburgh Society, the Community Centre Trust and with a representative from HighTide. She reported on three meetings with the organisers of the Music by the Sea event to held on King's Field in July.

Cllr Cox had met with Cllr Walker and had agreed to take over, with Cllr Partel, the BMX project proposed for Kemp's Field.

Cllr Walker will be attending the quarterly meeting of the Aldeburgh Library Foundation.

Cllr Palmer reported on a Sizewell A+B Stakeholders meeting on December 14.

Cllr Bond asked Cllr Fellowes if she could provide an update on the pre-school playgroup. Cllr Fellowes pointed out she was not an official representative but she would make enquiries and report back to ATC.

Cllr Bond reminded the Meeting that Cllrs should only attend external meetings if accompanied by a fellow councillor or an ATC officer. This was for the protection of the individual, she said.

10. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk told the Meeting that she had received a number of complaints over Christmas and New Year about commercial fireworks being discharged at holiday homes in the town centre. This had resulted, she said, in a number of near-miss incidents and was not acceptable. She invited Cllrs to address this problem at the next Committees Meeting but she believed the solution lay with holiday letting companies asking their clients to exercise common sense.

She praised refuse collection services over the Christmas and New Year period and told Cllrs that there had been no complaints about unemptied bins. Cllr Worster also congratulated contractors on clearing all the bottle banks promptly.

11. Mayor's Notes.

December 12 – With Cllr Jones and Cllr T.J.Haworth-Culf (SCDC) and Rainbow Tots had attended the official opening of the new Play Ground on King's Field.

December 15 – with the Deputy Mayor and his wife, attended the Draw of the Hospital League of Friends, followed by presenting Long Service medals at the Aldeburgh Lifeboat Christmas Dinner.

December 25 - visited Garrett House and then the Hospital, distributing gifts, provided by Ipswich Hospital League of Friends, to those receiving treatment.

December 26 – very impressed by the brave souls at the Boxing Day Swim.

January 6 - attended the celebrations and naming ceremony of the Rugby Clubhouse.

12. Correspondence

The Town Clerk reported she had been copied in on email traffic between Mr Collett and Cllr Rainger concerning highway matters and she had received numerous complaints about the closure of The Terrace. She also told Cllrs that she had received a request from Snape Music for a representative to address the Council.

13. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

No gifts or hospitality had been received by Cllrs this month.

14. Items to pay – details had been previously circulated to Cllrs.

All payments were PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL.

PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris

In Favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 7.53pm.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on
Monday February 13 2018 at 7.00 pm in The Moot Hall.**