

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 APRIL 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	

There were 10 members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies: District Cllrs T.J.Haworth-Culf and Maureen Jones

2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Nominations of Office 2018/19

The Town Clerk explained that, as requested, she had received one nomination for the role of Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming term of office 2018-19 for Cllr Jocelyn Bond.

In accordance with Standing Orders, the appointment of the Mayor is the first business at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council scheduled for May 14th 2018. However, it is established practice to agree the appointment of the Deputy Mayor prior to the Annual Meeting.

3a) Appointment of the Deputy Mayor 2018/19

Cllr Worster **PROPOSED** that Cllr Bond is appointed as Deputy Mayor for the term of office 2018-19 and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 March 2018

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 March 2018 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands and duly signed. Three Cllrs abstained because they were absent from the meeting in March.

5. SCC report and Correspondence

Cllr Rainger told Cllrs that the County Highways Delivery Centre in Halesworth were seeking to recruit new staff and that discussions would take place soon to resolve ATC highways issues. He expressed satisfaction at the number of people who had attended public information sessions organised by ScottishPower Renewables in respect of windfarm proposals. He was

thanked by Cllr Bond for providing important background information relating to the windfarm development.

His full report can be found at <https://russrainger.wordpress.com/>

Cllr Rainger was quizzed by Cllr Kiff on the seasonal problem of bicycles being chained to street furniture advertising a local cycle hire business. Cllr Rainger replied that there was no apparent solution to this problem unless the bikes represented a hazard.

The Town Clerk asked for a progress report on repairing street lights at West Lane Steps and Chopping's Hill following prolonged and vociferous complaints from residents. Cllr Rainger said he now believed the light at West Lane Steps fell within the jurisdiction of SCDC and not SCC. The Town Clerk confirmed that this issue at West Lane Steps had been raised more than a year ago, she told Cllr Rainger, and she was dismayed to discover that not only has it not been resolved, it might now be the responsibility of SCDC.

6. SCDC Report and Correspondence

In the absence of both District Cllrs, an SCDC report had been circulated to all Cllrs in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Walker questioned the absence of the District Cllrs, asking whether they had other places to go instead of attending Council Meetings in Aldeburgh. They should start showing up, he asserted, because their continuing non-attendance was sending the wrong message to the electorate. The Town Clerk said that parishes tried to coordinate their schedule of meetings to prevent overlapping commitments but, when asked, she replied that there had been no constant SCDC representative at meetings in Aldeburgh since last December.

7. Police Report

There was no police report.

8. Public Forum

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum

A resident observed that plans by SCDC to introduce a charge for emptying brown bins would almost certainly result in an increase in fly-tipping. She also complained that people who were unable to fill brown bins fortnightly were being unfairly penalised, a view shared by Cllr Walker, who said the scheme had not been well-managed. He encouraged SCDC to promote the use of composting bins which should be issued free to householders. Cllr Bond suggested that complaints about the new brown bin arrangements should be directed at the District Councillors. Cllr Fellowes questioned the business case for changes to the brown bin collections. She believed that large lorries and their crews would be collecting garden waste from fewer homes as a result of this charge, which made no economic sense. She suggested that householders who had previously put food waste in brown bins would now have to use grey bins which would then need to be emptied weekly to minimise health hazards.

The same householder also criticised car parking on the High Street and called for resident-only zones, controlled by a permit system. She complained that car parks in the town centre were half-empty when there was parking chaos on the High Street.

Cllrs were sympathetic to this complaint, but felt the answer lay in better enforcement of existing traffic regulations. Cllrs Digby and Harris both suggested the police could do more to stop all-day parking on the High Street.

Cllr Cox, while recognising the problem, said that Aldeburgh was very fortunate to have free parking on its main thoroughfare. He also felt that short-term car park charges were low and motorists should make more use of this facility rather than fight for spaces on the High Street. Cllr Osben suggested an innovative idea. If SCDC did not charge for town centre car parks in Aldeburgh, motorists would use them instead of the High Street, she believed, though she conceded this plan would probably not come to fruition.

A second resident was highly critical of the poor state of pavements in the town and suggested that it was only a matter of time before a mobility scooter user had a serious accident. Cllr Rainger encouraged people to use the Highways online reporting tool to register problems, a suggestion met with scepticism by a resident who complained that issues he had reported had not been dealt with and had disappeared off the Highways system. Cllr Cox was scathing in his criticism of the Highways department. Everything Cllrs in the town wanted to achieve had hit a brick wall, he declared, describing the situation as hopeless. Cllrs Worster and Fox complained about the poor state of railings at Chopping's Hill, an issue raised by the Town Council in early-2017. Both felt the railings were dangerous and in need of replacing. Cllr Rainger said the railings had been surveyed and were structurally sound and, as such, would probably not attract SCC maintenance funding.

A third resident called for illuminated speed indicator signs on Saxmundham and Leiston Roads. He was assured by Cllr Palmer that this matter was due to be discussed by the Town Council in the near future.

The same resident raised eyebrows by introducing the subject of nudity. He expressed dismay at plans to introduce gender-free changing facilities at Leiston swimming pool when the centre is redeveloped in September. Men and women would be using the same area in which to dress and undress, he said. Small cubicles would provide some privacy, he conceded, but more consultation was needed before this scheme was introduced.

Cllr Jones told him it was not uncommon to find mixed changing facilities at public swimming pools. Cllr Worster advised the resident to direct any observations to District Councillor T.J.Haworth-Culf.

The Mayor reinstated Standing Orders

9. COMMITTEES REPORTS:

9a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

9ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones briefed Cllrs on work at the Tractor Shed, where a new unit had been installed. A quote was being sought for supplying electricity to the shed and this would include outside lighting to further improve illumination in the area. The tennis courts had now been weeded and sprayed, she said, with pressure washing and respraying operations to begin shortly.

Cllr Jones told the Meeting work on preparing documentation for the year-end accounts was underway. She also confirmed that a survey of council-owned assets had been completed for insurance purposes and that she would be discussing with the Town Clerk amendments to insurance cover.

Cllr Worster suggested reintroducing the process of setting future budgets in conjunction with the Chairs of ATC Committees to ensure projects were properly funded.

9a ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE expenditure as per budget to refurbish the public facilities at King's Field was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Cox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

9bi) Report from the Chair of the Services Committee

Cllr Palmer reported that a decision on a grant application for renovation work on the War Memorial would be made at the end of April but warned that the donation from the War Memorial Trust might not cover all the cost.

New defibrillators at the Brudenell Hotel and the Church Hall were now installed and working, he said, and told Cllrs he was working on costings for future projects for which he would be seeking Council approval.

9c) PLANNING

9ci) Report from Chairman of Planning

Cllr Worster thanked Cllrs Bond and Jones for formulating ATC's response to ScottishPower Renewables plan to construct a windfarm off the coast at Aldeburgh and associated onshore developments.

He anticipated a lengthy Planning Committee meeting on April 10, with discussions including the Brickfields Appeal.

Cllr Osben asked if a decision had been made by SCDC on the planning application for Church Farm Holiday Park. The Town Clerk told her that the applicant had sought an extension to the process to enable the applicant to respond to issues raised by the Environment Agency.

9d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS

9di) Report from Chairman of Grants, Requests and Events Committee

Cllr Digby told the Meeting that arrangements for the Music by the Sea event at King's Field were being discussed on a regular basis.

9dii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £250 to the East Anglia's Childrens Hospices was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Walker and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Representatives' Reports.

- Cllr Jones attended a meeting of the Aldeburgh Society on March 16 to review planning applications and related issues; with other Cllrs, she met with Music by the Sea organisers on March 13 and 27 to discuss parking on the rugby pitch and a park-and-ride facility from Thorpeness. There would be no parking at King's Field or the Community Centre on the day and businesses in the vicinity had been informed. Discussions were taking place on how to restrict numbers to 5,000 and how to ensure local people got tickets for the event. Cllr Jones would be attending a meeting of the AC&ST Trust.

- Cllr Worster attended a meeting of the Crescent Road Area Residents Association to discuss road resurfacing plans.
- Cllr Palmer attended a meeting of the Suffolk Coast Against Retreat organisation to discuss coastal defences.
- Cllr Oxby, with other Cllrs, attended the ScottishPower Renewables windfarm information event.

11. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk confirmed that year-end accounts would be ready for the external audit in May and the second part of the internal audit in early June. She anticipated all accounts being submitted for approval to the Council Meeting on June 11.

Invitations for Mayor's Sunday had now been despatched, she said, and, already, there had been a good response.

She called for comments and observations on the Brickfields appeal which was an agenda item for the ATC Planning Committee on April 10. She believed the Public Inquiry was due to start in September.

The Town Clerk also asked Cllrs to respond promptly to the consultation process promulgated by ScottishPower Renewables, who plan to construct wind farms off the coast at Aldeburgh.

She said it appeared that SCDC intended to charge for parking at Slaughden Quay, but there were a number of issues yet to be resolved.

Regrettably, she said, an EDF presentation to the ATC Planning Committee concerning Sizewell C would have to be rescheduled to a later date because of a lengthy planning agenda.

Cllr Walker asked if there had been any developments in Snape Music's interest in developing the Pump House. The Town Clerk said this was an on-going matter which would be brought before the Town Council shortly.

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12. Mayor's Notes.

March 13 - interviewed by Luke Deal (BBC Radio Suffolk) about how Aldeburgh would celebrate Suffolk Day (June 21).

March 15 - with Cllrs Digby and Partel, attended the Business and Community Awards Ceremony, where Aldeburgh had been nominated for the Children's Play Area.

March 16 - with Cllr Digby, met Neil Ward and Philip Rowson (SCDC) regarding the Brick Dock Inquiry.

March 20 - with Cllr Fox and Peter Hill attended a Suffolk Preservation Society Heritage event.

March 24 - National Infrastructure presentation by ScottishPower Renewables.

April 3 - attended Carnival Committee meeting at the Moot Hall at which the next Carnival Queen was chosen.

April 6 - with Cllr Fox, met local residents in connection with the Brick Dock Inquiry.

April 7 - attended the successful event at the Baptist Chapel for Brain Tumour awareness.

13. Correspondence

The Town Clerk said a number of letters had been received concerning a planning application on Wentworth Road.

The Easter holidays, she added, had produced the usual litany of complaints about bottle banks, refuse and dog bins and public facilities. Happily, she confirmed, these issues had now been resolved.

14. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

Cllrs Bond, Digby and Partel attended the Business and Community Awards dinner on March 15 2018.

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

All payments were PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL.

PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In Favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 7.56pm.

**The Annual meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on
Monday 14 May 2018 at 7.00 pm in The Moot Hall.**