

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 JUNE 2018
AT 7:00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Digby- The Mayor, took the Chair

Cllr Bond	Cllr Cox
Cllr Fellowes	Cllr Harris
Cllr Jones	Cllr Kiff
Cllr Osben	Cllr Oxby
Cllr Palmer	Cllr Partel
Cllr Walker	

Cllr Rainger – SCC and Cllr Maureen Jones – SCDC were present.

Seven members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Fox and Worster.

2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The Town Clerk explained that Cllr Bond had delayed her arrival at the meeting to enable Cllrs to consider her request for special dispensation to continue her work on the Brickfield appeal. The Town Clerk made it clear that Cllr Bond would participate in discussion and debate on this matter but would not vote. She told the meeting that Cllr Bond had a pecuniary interest in this issue because she lived close to the proposed Brickfield development.

By a show of hands, Cllrs **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** the request for special dispensation and Cllr Bond joined the meeting at 7.10pm.

3. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 14 May 2018.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 14 May 2018 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 1 (Cllr Fellowes did not attend the meeting)

CARRIED

4. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29 May 2018.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 29 May 2018 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Kiff and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 2 (Cllrs Fellowes and Oxby did not attend the meeting).

CARRIED

5. SCC report and Correspondence

Cllr Rainger drew attention to two further public information days in Aldeburgh relating to the ScottishPower Renewables plans for offshore windfarms and related onshore developments. The first event is on Friday July 6 between 10am and 1pm at the Jubilee Hall and the second on Thursday July

26 between 4pm and 7pm at the Parish Church Hall. Cllr Rainger said that further information was available on the SPR link: https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/east_anglia_two.aspx

Cllr Rainger's report in full can be found at <https://russrainger.wordpress.com/>

Cllr Cox repeated requests made previously for a meeting with Denise Mortimer of SCC Highways Department to resolve a number of issues relating to the town. Cllr Cox expressed frustration at the lack of progress in fixing a date. Cllr Rainger promised to expedite matters and the Town Clerk said she would attempt to initiate a meeting.

6. SCDC Report and Correspondence

Cllr Maureen Jones confirmed that Parliament had now approved the merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils into the new East Suffolk Council from April 2019.

She also told the meeting that a new parking policy for East Suffolk had been drafted based on the assumption that the new district authority would eventually assume responsibility for parking enforcement. Once the Secretary of State for Transport had authorised the policy, she said, it would need to be approved by the new District Cabinet before a public consultation process.

Cllr Fellowes expressed concern that the merger of the two authorities could lead to all council policies being re-written. The alignment with Waveney could create problems between rural and urban environments, she said, and called for greater communication and discussion. If something is going to change, she told Cllr Jones, let us know so we can work with you.

Cllr Walker, a stern critic of the garden waste collection charge, asked whether, after 12 months, SCDC would produce a balance sheet to indicate the efficacy, or not, of the scheme. Cllr Jones said she was unaware of plans to produce revenue figures for garden waste disposal.

Full SCDC report: **See Appendix 1**

7. Police Report

The Town Clerk announced she would address police matters under Agenda Item 11.

8. Public Forum

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum.

There were no questions from members of the public and the Mayor reinstated Standing Orders.

9 COMMITTEES REPORTS:

9a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

9ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones reported that road resurfacing between the roundabout and King's Field had been completed; gutters at the Tractor Shed would be fitted imminently; a non-return valve would be installed at the Museum Office to prevent flooding; the exterior of the Bowls Pavilion had been decorated; contractors were expected shortly to resolve problems with two tennis courts and, with Cllr Cox, she was seeking quotations to replace a Perspex roof at Pet Perfection.

She told the meeting that drainage problems at the new storage unit and the Carnival shed needed to be addressed because, after heavy rain, water flooded the area. With Cllr Cox, she had identified a contractor to resolve this matter but could only achieve one quotation for this work. Cllr Cox said new drainpipes, downspouts and a trench carrying a six-inch drainage pipe was required.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** expenditure to undertake essential drainage work at the new storage unit and the Carnival shed was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Cox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Partel.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Jones showed the Meeting the new refillable water bottles which would be used for Sports Week. Cllrs seemed impressed. Cllr Jones said the results of two grant applications for Sports Week activities would be known within days.

In anticipation of the successful outcome of negotiations to re-site the large play centre at the King's Field play area, Cllrs Jones and Cox had met with a contractor to obtain a quote for re-aligning the fencing. Gate fastenings would also be improved, she announced.

Cllr Jones spoke of an impromptu meeting with the Environment Agency and their contractors on the river wall. She said the EA representatives were reviewing remedial work and had confirmed that the river wall would remain closed until December 2018. Advisory signs would be erected.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the final Internal Audit had been completed successfully with the annual statement awaiting approval during the meeting.

Cllr Kiff welcomed the re-surfacing work between the roundabout and King's Field but asked if ownership of the entire roadway could be established to facilitate any further surface improvements. Cllr Jones said that ATC owned the stretch of road which had been treated but ownership of the rest had always been a matter of conjecture.

Cllr Oxby complained of a large sail banner which had been temporarily erected in the centre of the roundabout. The Town Clerk said this matter would be addressed under Agenda Item 11.

9a ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the erection of a small shed behind the Tractor Shed for storage purposes was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Partel.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9a iii) RESOLUTION to implement the NALC pay scales for 2018-19 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

9bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer told the Meeting that the grant application for conservation work on the town's War Memorial had been approved and that new litter bins had been ordered. He, too, stressed the need for a meeting with Suffolk Highways to discuss outstanding issues.

Cllr Palmer reported on a meeting of the Alde and Ore Estuarine Partnership, where dissenting voices had been heard concerning fund-raising for river and sea defences. Cllr Palmer said the Estuary Plan had been signed off by all parties but there now appeared to be a difference of opinion between neighbouring Parish Councils. Cllr Walker stressed the need for a coherent ATC policy in respect of river and sea defences and called for more discussion at the June Committees meeting.

Cllr Bond complained that literature distributed by the AOEP was confusing and little more than a sales pitch for money. We need to know much more about choices, options and costs before decisions can be made about funding, she declared. Considerable sums of money need to be spent on river and sea defences, she added, with no guarantee the Government would foot the bill. If local authorities are to be asked for financial contributions they need information based on science, rather than literature which assumed we would all go along with anything the AEOP suggested, she added archly.

The Mayor suggested deferring further discussion until the Committees Meeting in June and Cllrs concurred.

9c. PLANNING

9ci) Report from Chairman of Planning

Cllr Worster asked Cllr Bond to brief the meeting on the Brickfield Inquiry.

Cllr Bond said that with Cllrs Fox and Kiff and the Town Clerk, she would be meeting with residents on June 21 to discuss the Inquiry and possible financial contributions from objectors to the development. The Town Clerk confirmed that within 10 days substantial information on the current position would appear on the ATC website.

Cllr Bond welcomed news that pre-development work on the old Police Station site would start in July, though Cllr Walker was less enthusiastic about the potential increase in vehicular activity during building work. He demanded a traffic management system that took into account the needs of local people.

Cllr Bond told the Meeting she would be further investigating plans to construct a coastal footpath in the Aldeburgh area.

9d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS

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

The chairman had nothing to report.

Cllr Fellowes drew attention to roadside signs spread over a large distance advertising the Music by the Sea event. She believed the organisers should have indicated on the posters that the event was ticket-only and expressed concern that people might be turned away at the gate if the concert was oversubscribed. She also wanted reassurance that the Jubilee Walk pathway would remain open to pedestrians.

Cllr Osben, ATC representative on the organising committee, said Jubilee Walk would remain open and that steps were in place to advise non-ticket holders that the event was oversubscribed when they arrived at the designated car parking zones.

Cllr Osben confirmed that 5,000 tickets would be issued, with 3,500 available to be downloaded online prior to the event. The remainder would be distributed on the gate on the day.

Two further meetings with the organisers had been arranged with a number of issues still to be resolved, added Cllr Osben.

9dii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE that ATC makes a donation of £100 to support Young Dementia UK was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Partel.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Representatives' Reports.

- Cllr Walker spoke glowingly of the work of Aldeburgh Library following a meeting of the Foundation. Excellent courses would soon be announced and a re-design of the Library was planned for 2019; he also represented ATC at the Dunkirk Little Ships event in Ipswich on May 27.
- Cllr Osben attended a meeting of the Music by the Sea event committee.
- Cllr Jones confirmed that a meeting of the Aldeburgh Society, at which she had been present, remained opposed to the Brickfield development and had unanimously agreed to provide financial support for the campaign; she attended two meetings of the AC&ST.
- Cllr Harris attended the May meeting of the Aldeburgh Museum Trust.
- Cllr Bond was present at meetings of the Aldeburgh Society and the AC&ST.
- Cllr Palmer reported on a meeting of the Alde and Ore Estuarine Partnership.

11. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk told Cllrs she had attended a quarterly Town Clerks' meeting at SCDC where the subject of garden waste bins had exercised minds. She revealed that more than 110,000 households

had opted to pay the disposal charge and extra staff had been recruited to deal with demand. However, a number of issues were reported - discrepancies on the information displayed on the stickers seemed to penalise those households which had paid early for the service, the collection of authorised bins was erratic, there was no logic in the allocation and delivery of new bins and there was little information about how to dispose of unwanted brown bins.

With some reluctance, she welcomed a slightly enhanced police presence in the town, which was principally targeted at traders' and shop employees' vehicles. She conceded that the police had limited resources but hoped for more significant parking enforcement measures.

Meetings were now regularly taking place in respect of The Brickfield Inquiry, she announced.

She confirmed the second part of the Internal Audit had been completed.

Referring to the sail banner which had been temporarily erected on the roundabout, The Town Clerk said that it appeared to have been placed there by organisers of a cycling event who wanted to draw competitors' attention to a refreshment stop at the Community Centre. ATC knew nothing of this event, she conceded, but pointed out that the banner was in place for no more than 24 hours.

Cllr Fellowes thought it was arrogant of the organisers to erect the banner, which could set a precedent for others. She felt it was a distraction for road users.

The Town Clerk agreed that banners on the roundabout should be discouraged but that signs advertising charitable events were acceptable for a finite period in the usual location. However, she did suggest that council resources might be better targeted on more important issues than flags and banners.

12a) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the Annual Governance Statement for the year Ended March 2018 was PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and SECONDED by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12a(ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the Annual Return for the Year Ended March 2018 was PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and SECONDED by Cllr Harris.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12a(iii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the recommendations of the Internal Auditor was PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and SECONDED by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Mayor's Notes.

The Mayor reported on the following engagements:

Sunday May 27 - Southwold Civic Service

Monday May 28 – Car rally, Moot Green, Aldeburgh

Thursday May 31 – Community Centre AGM

Friday June 1 – Meeting with Snape Maltings

Sunday June 9 – Stowmarket Civic Service

14. Correspondence

Letters of complaint had been received about the banner on the roundabout and trade waste litter in the town, reported the Town Clerk. She told Cllrs she was in discussion with SCDC on how the trade

waste collection service could be improved. Paradoxically, she said, a letter had been sent congratulating ATC's cleaning contractors, Norse, for keeping Aldeburgh beautiful.

15. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

Cllrs had nothing to declare this month.

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

All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**
PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

APPENDIX 1

Report by District Councillor T.J.Haworth-Culf

