

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MAY 14 2018 IN THE MOOT HALL AT 7.00 PM**

Present In the Chair: Cllr Bond, Mayor of Aldeburgh

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

There were eight members of the public in attendance.

Also present was Cllr T.J. Haworth-Culf – SCDC.

Cllr Bond gave a warm welcome to all those present before the business of the evening commenced.

1. Election of Mayor for 2018/19

The Town Clerk explained that one nomination had been received for Cllr Digby and asked if there were any further nominations. There being no other nominations, Cllr Worster **PROPOSED** that Cllr John Digby be appointed to the office of Mayor of Aldeburgh for the year 2018/19. **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Ratification of Appointment of Deputy Mayor for 2018/19

Cllr Fox **PROPOSED** that Cllr Bond be appointed to the role of Deputy Mayor for the term of office 2018/19. **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Mayor, Cllr John Digby took the Chair.

3. Declarations of Acceptance of Mayor/Deputy Mayor Office

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor read and signed their respective Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

4. Apologies

Cllr Rainger – SCC, Cllr Maureen Jones – SCDC, Cllrs Cox and Fellowes - ATC and Charles Walker, the Town Council Mace Bearer.

5. Rev. Mark Lowther led the Council in Prayer

Rev Lowther, priest in charge of The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Aldeburgh offered prayers for the Town Council and the town.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council May 15 2017

A **RESOLUTION** to approve the signing of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council May 15 2017 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bond

In Favour 12
Against 0
Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Minutes were duly signed

7. Approval of Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council on April 9 2018

A **RESOLUTION** to approve the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council on April 9 2018 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In Favour 12
Against 0
Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The minutes were duly signed.

8. Persons Authorised to sign Council cheques for 2017/18

The Town Clerk explained that Cllrs Digby, Fox and Jones were currently authorised to sign cheques on behalf of ATC. She asked for a resolution to ratify this arrangement for 2018-19. A **RESOLUTION** to approve that Cllrs Digby, Fox and Jones be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of ATC was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Worster and **SECONDED BY** Cllr Palmer.

In Favour 12
Against 0
Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Retiring Mayor's Report – Cllr Jocelyn Bond

(see Appendix One).

10. Vote of Thanks for the Retiring Mayor – Cllr Worster

Cllr Worster praised the contribution made by Cllr Bond during her term of office. He said she had brought elegance, wit and intelligence to the role of Mayor. Cllr Worster commended the hard work done by Cllr Bond on responding to big projects affecting the town and welcomed her election as Deputy Mayor. He felt it was vital for the future of the town that Cllr Bond's expertise was fully utilised. He presented her with flowers from the Town Council.

Cllr Worster also thanked The Town Clerk, Ruth Proctor, and her staff for the support they had given Councillors throughout the year.

11. Mayor's Address – Cllr John Digby

(See Appendix 2)

12. Suffolk County Council Annual Report

In the absence of Cllr Rainger, the Town Clerk said she would be circulating his report to all Councillors. In his bulletin, Cllr Rainger, with other representatives from SCC and SCDC had visited the Hinkley Point C development to assess its impact locally. It was clear, reported Cllr Rainger, that development of this scale needed to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. He also said a joint SCC/SCDC letter had been sent to Greg Clark, Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and James Brokenshire, Secretary of State, Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking that the impact of Scottish Power Renewables windfarms, Sizewell C and the National Grid interconnector developments be reviewed as one energy package rather than individual planning applications.

Cllr Rainger had joined the Aldeburgh Lifeboat crew recently to witness a routine launch exercise and discuss proposals to update the existing lifeboat with a state of the art unit and an associated new boathouse.

He issued a reminder that SCC is backing the Suffolk Day initiative launched by Suffolk Radio and the associated celebration of all things Suffolk. Any Suffolk Day events can be shared on the website <https://suffolkday.co.uk>

In response to recent questions previously raised by Cllr Palmer, Cllr Rainger reported on a number of Highways issues

- The repairs to the defective lamp on West Lane Steps had been approved by SCDC and a new unit was to be fitted.
- The handrails on Chopping's Hill may qualify for a donation from Cllr Rainger's Local Highways Budget and Cllr Palmer is to review design options and costs.
- The track to the Martello tower is down for dressing with materials from other works.
- The defective VAS near Linden Rd has been removed and Cllr Palmer is looking at replacement options. A small LHB donation might be possible.
- To protect pedestrians crossing from the Thorpe Road car park to Church Farm, Highways have suggested that the *Beware Pedestrians* triangular signs are probably the lowest cost option.
- Cllr Rainger suggested that a meeting between Denise Mortimer of the Highways Department and ATC Services Committee should be convened to discuss outstanding highways issues.

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

13. **Suffolk Coastal District Council Annual Report**

Cllr Haworth-Culf delivered the report on behalf of herself and Cllr Jones.

She thanked the outgoing Mayor and wished the new Mayor a successful and productive year. She also thanked the volunteers, groups and individuals that make Aldeburgh a wonderful community in which to live.

(See Appendix Three for full report).

14. **Police Annual Report**

There was no Police Report.

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the next item.

15. **Public Questions & Comments**

A resident suggested that the speed sensor sign on Saxmundham Road should be re-positioned when it has been repaired. She believed the sign should be installed further back along the road to encourage motorists to slow down much sooner than they do at present. Cllr Palmer promised to consider the idea.

A second resident complained about road resurfacing work on The Terrace which he believed was unnecessary.

There were no further questions from the Public Gallery and the Mayor restored Standing Orders.

16. **PROPERTY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

16i) Report by the Chairman of the Property and Finance Committee

Cllr Jones confirmed that work on year-end accounts would be finalised this week, prior to the annual audit on May 16. The majority of approved work on the Tractor Shed had been carried out, she said, with the rest due for completion within a matter of days. Renovation work on the tennis courts was complete, she added.

17. SERVICES COMMITTEE

- 17i) Report by the Chairman of the Services Committee.

Cllr Palmer told the meeting he was optimistic that a grant application for conservation work on the town's War Memorial would soon be approved by the War Memorial Trust. He also thanked Cllr Rainger for his help and support in attempting to resolve the Highways issues referred to in the County Councillor's annual report. Cllr Palmer drew attention to suggestions that parish and town councils might take responsibility for some highway repairs. This, he said, had possible budget implications and should be addressed at a future meeting of the ATC Services Committee.

- 17ii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** expenditure of up to £5,000 to purchase eight new litter bins was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Walker.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 17iii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the installation of a double-sided nature board in the vicinity of Moot Green was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

- 17iv) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** that Aldeburgh is added to the list of locations across East Suffolk where the use of motorised or non-motorised rickshaws or tuk-tuks will not be considered was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS COMMITTEE

- 18i) The Chairman of the Grants, Requests and Events Committee had nothing to report.

19. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 19i) Report by the Chairman of the Planning Committee

Cllr Worster invited the Town Clerk to update the Council on developments involving the Brickfields Public Inquiry.

At this point, Cllr Bond, who lives close to the Brickfield development, declared a pecuniary interest and left the room.

The Town Clerk told the meeting that the Public Inquiry was provisionally scheduled for September 11, but warned that this date had not yet been confirmed. She reminded Cllrs that ATC remained robustly opposed to the proposed development of 43 houses at the site and she felt it was important that, in partnership with the Aldeburgh Society, the Council exercised its right to be a Rule 6 participant in the Inquiry.

She explained that SCDC would be continuing its opposition to the plan on parallel but different lines to ATC, which would maintain its view that the development represents a threat to the AONB and would create a precedent at this site leading to a lack of distinction between Aldeburgh and neighbouring communities.

The Town Clerk explained that a meeting with ATC's planning consultant and the Aldeburgh Society was needed so that future costs could be identified. It was vital, she felt, that the Council was made aware of all legal implications involved in the Inquiry.

She praised the support and goodwill of residents who had provided invaluable advice and suggested that some residents had indicated their willingness to contribute to any future costs incurred by ATC.

19ii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** that ATC, working with the Aldeburgh Society, exercises its right, subject to financial constraints, as a Rule 6 participant in the forthcoming Public Inquiry relating to the Brickfields site was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Worster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In Favour **12**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

20. Items to Pay – details had previously been circulated to all Cllrs.

Cllr Kiff queried the cost of installing two defibrillators at the Church Hall and the Brudenell Hotel. He was assured the budget for the work had been previously approved and not exceeded. Cllr Fox suggested the defibrillator sites in the town should be better publicised.

All payments were **PROPOSED for APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In Favour **12**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

21. The Mayor formally closed the Annual Meeting of the Town Council at 7.55pm.

**The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on Monday 11 June 2018
at 7.00 pm in The Moot Hall**

APPENDIX ONE

Retiring Mayor's Report – Cllr Jocelyn Bond

Good evening everyone.

I really have tried to keep this short and to the point, my apologies in advance if this isn't particularly so.

I would like to start off by saying what a tremendous honour it has been representing Aldeburgh over the past year. I've enjoyed it hugely and I wouldn't have missed this opportunity for anything.

This is the perfect occasion to say Thank You – to all those people who have supported me over the past 12 months. While I'm trying very hard not to mention absolutely everybody, I am grateful to so many.

I'll start with home first ... where Adrian and Rosa have shown great patience with my absences on civic and council duties.

The job of Mayor is made much easier when the town council you lead has excellent councillors and Aldeburgh is very well-served. I'd like to particularly thank Cllrs Digby, Worster and Jones and especially Cllr Palmer, whose unruffled and detailed work has revitalised the Services Committee. Our Mace Bearer, Charlie Walker, who unfortunately cannot be with us tonight, has been a tower of strength, manfully and with great dignity accepting all challenges to make the town appear both memorable and enviable - and I know I won't ever forget the Long Walk involved in the Woodbridge Civic event!

One of the joys of being Mayor is that you get to meet so many charitable bodies who do such a fantastic job in the town and County – the Carnival Committee, Save the Children, Aldeburgh United Charities, the NSPCC, Fresh Start New Beginnings to name but a few. 653 Squadron deserve a special mention – they serve the town well and appear to enjoy themselves when they're here!

We've had plenty of cause for celebration this year...the installation of the award-nominated children's play area at King's Field and the reopening, by Lucy Smith, against apparently insurmountable odds, of the pre-school playgroup for example. Well done to all concerned. We've celebrated the 75th Aldeburgh Carnival, the Men's Cycle Tour and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson centenary events. Sports Week was a flurry of organised activity and we saw the most successful-ever Bonfire and Fireworks party, brilliantly organised by Cllrs Partel and Jones. The recognition of some decades long-serving crew on the Lifeboat was a real and positive landmark, and the town's unsung heroes got to meet the previous High Sheriff at an informal lunch, held at the Moot Hall to honour organisations like the Lifeboat and the Fire Service and other members of the community.

It may appear I have developed a fixation on ensuring ATC responds to the numerous consultations we have been invited to participate in – Sizewell C, offshore wind farms and their associated on-shore developments, the proposed coastal footpath, the Local Plan, Economic Growth Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework and, of course, the Brickdock planning appeal.

In all cases, I firmly believe that Aldeburgh's voice needs to be heard. The town has opinions and they need to be expressed. It would be very easy to get bogged down with the weight of Government-inspired schemes, but we have no intention of allowing this to happen.

I believe that the town has, in the past, suffered from a lack of planning enforcement, with some curious application approvals and recommendations. I am now very optimistic that this has come to an end; and, we do get good news - the recent refusal of an application in respect of Church Farm Holiday Park and a successful application by Flagship for the Old Police Station site. I am sure we are all anxious to contribute as a Council to the continued success of the Museum's Lottery Bid.

Importantly too, many thanks for all their hard work to our Ward Members, Cllrs Haworth-Culf and Jones, and also to Russ Rainger of Suffolk County.

Special thanks must go to Ruth and the office team, Lori and Roger who are always ready to deal creatively, frequently multi-tasking in a highly advanced fashion, with whatever the day throws at

them. Ruth's above and beyond guidance and skilful determination ensures that ATC does what it should, in a dignified and intelligent manner, and she has provided the town with truly great guidance. Her knowledge of the town is second-to-none which is vital to the smooth running of the town council.

Finally, I send my very best wishes to Cllr Digby and Jenny for John's third term as Mayor and thank you all for inviting me to be your Deputy Mayor.

APPENDIX TWO

Mayor's Address - Cllr John Digby

Good Evening Councillors..... and Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council.

And, yes, it's me again! This is the third time you have kindly elected me Mayor and I think I can say with some certainty.....I'm finally getting the hang of it!

It really is a case of deja vu all over again....and again...and again.

I recognised the importance of this wonderful office when I was first elected Mayor in 2005 and my second term underlined the responsibilities and duties attached to this role. Quite simply, it's a huge honour to represent this beautiful, historic town.

But before I talk about the forthcoming year, I would like to pay a special tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Bond who has kindly agreed to be my deputy in 2018-19.

We work well as a team...I'm the shy, retiring type and Jocelyn is definitely more outgoing!

One reason I asked Cllr Bond to become my deputy was because of the challenges facing the town over the next 12 months - in particular, the potential Brickdock Public Inquiry. She has already made a massive contribution to the Council's case against this development and I felt it was vital her authoritative voice on this and other matters continued to be heard.

I feel sure other issues will have to be confronted over the next 12 months and I think this Council will benefit from the continuity Cllr Bond, as Deputy Mayor, will provide.

As cuts in expenditure continue at County and District level, more and more work is being passed down to Town Councils like Aldeburgh. But we are in a very fortunate position to deal with an additional workload.

I have been on this council for many years and I can say that the 14 members we have now is our best-ever team. With a blend of youth, experience, expertise and energy, they serve our community well.

When I was first elected Mayor in 2005, I felt that one of the issues facing the town was to try and ensure there were affordable homes for local people. I believe work on the Old Police Station site will start soon to make this dream a reality, if only for a few. We are a community-based town and the sons and daughters of our permanent residents deserve a chance to live here.

Aldeburgh Museum will find out in June if they have won their bid for Lottery funding. If they are successful, the Museum and the Council Chamber will undergo a huge redevelopment programme, involving a lot of technological innovation. A Museum, so we are told, designed for the 21st Century.

One of the highlights of the Mayor's Sunday parade has been the involvement of 653 Squadron from Wattisham. This year, unfortunately, military commitments mean they cannot attend in full force. Wherever they are serving, I'm sure the Town Council would like to send its very best wishes for their safe return and to assure them they will always receive a warm welcome in Aldeburgh.

Now, in amongst the serious stuff, there are one or two opportunities for the town to enjoy itself:

Music-by-the-Sea in June. Not strictly by the sea, but on King's Field - a venue we all hope is better suited to the event.

Our hugely-successful Sports Week at the end of July, organised, as usual, by Cllr Jones.

Carnival in August - or perhaps I should say "our award-winning carnival" which last year beat off rivals such as the Suffolk Show to win a prestigious tourism award.

Aldeburgh Festival, the Summer Theatre and the return of the HighTide Theatre group.

And the hugely successful Aldeburgh Triathlon in September.

Bonfire Night - a great family night out.

I'll finish by thanking one or two people.

My wife, Jenny, who has been by my side on many civic occasions. The role of Mayor wouldn't be half as much fun without her support, advice and humour.

And I would like to single out our Town Clerk Ruth and her staff for special praise. They do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes and this Council should be grateful for their efforts.

The only disappointing note is that given my special relationship with The Queen, I was rather hoping for an invitation to the Royal Wedding. Having impressed Her Majesty with my regalia in 2016, I thought I might be flashing the bling again at Windsor. I suppose there's still time.....

