

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL  
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 26 MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Worster took the Chair

**Committee Members Present:**

Cllr Bond      Cllr Cox  
Cllr Digby    Cllr Fox  
Cllr Jones     Cllr Kiff  
Cllr Oxby     Cllr Palmer  
Cllr Partel

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**1. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**2. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Cllr Worster commended the draft Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 26 February 2018 for **APPROVAL** without amendment. **APPROVED** by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed.

**3. Matters for Discussion**

**Standing Orders were suspended for the following item.**

**3.1 Presentation by ScottishPower Renewables**

Representatives of ScottishPower Renewables gave Cllrs a lengthy briefing on plans to build two windfarms off the coast of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness and associated onshore developments. The meeting was told that consultants had conducted extensive surveys into the impact wind turbines would have on coastal views, tourism and onshore sites. Turbine blade tips would be no more than 300m above sea level and only visible from the shore in good weather conditions. Three onshore substations were planned and all had to be adjacent to the overhead power lines running from Sizewell. The representatives said that seven potential sites had been identified, with consultations taking place shortly to determine their final locations.

Cllr Worster asked if the visual impact survey had taken into account the view from Aldeburgh's elevated streets and roads from which more of the turbines would be visible. He was also concerned at the length of the onshore construction process which would, in his view, inevitably lead to an increase in contractors' vehicles. He asked if the new turbines would be closer to shore than the existing Greater Gabbard field.

The SPR representative assured him that the new field was approximately 33kms offshore, a comparable distance to the existing turbines. The new turbines would be larger, he said, to maximise efficiency and were scheduled to produce electricity by 2024-25. Onshore construction work would take two years and offshore a further two years, though some of this work would run concurrently. The new turbines would feature low-level navigation lights and upward-facing aviation lights to minimise light pollution from the shore.

Cllr Palmer asked why under present plans, the larger turbines were going to be sited closest to the shoreline and smaller ones further away. He also queried output calculations.

Cllr Bond drew attention to previous construction methods involving blasting on the seabed which had seen fish stocks off Lowestoft badly depleted. She wondered whether lessons had been learned from that experience.

The SPR representative confirmed that the construction of the new turbines would involve piling, though this method could change with improvements in techniques. Fishermen's groups along the coast were constantly being consulted on the SPR plans. The greater problem, he said, was the quantity of unexploded wartime ordnance on the seabed.

Cllr Bond pointed out that a combination of SPR onshore development and the possible construction of Sizewell C would result in years of construction work close to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### **Standing Orders were reinstated**

#### **3.2 Brickfields Appeal**

Cllr Bond reported on a recent meeting with Cllr Digby, the ATC planning consultant Neil Ward and Phillip Rowson from SCDC. The purpose of the meeting, said Cllr Bond, was to ensure there no overlapping issues between ATC and SCDC and that all parties were unanimous and consistent in their approach to the Public Inquiry. She believed this was the case and would be circulating notes from the meeting to all Cllrs. Further funds might be needed for the ATC consultant, though this would depend on the Inquiry process, she told Cllrs. She also pointed out that although a nominal date for Inquiry had been announced, it was not certain that it would take place on that date. A provisional booking had been made at the Community Centre, though this could change.

Cllr Harris suggested that the cost of hiring the Centre should be borne by SCDC, as they had done in the past for a previous public inquiry.

#### **3.3 Local Plan Review**

There was nothing to report this month

#### **4. New Planning Business**

Cllr Worster commended the work of Cllr Oxby in producing a record of planning applications and adjudications. All Cllrs would be circulated with this information, he promised.

**There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 7.55 pm.**