

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 26 MARCH 2018 AT 7.00 pm**

Present: Cllr Jones took the chair

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Cox
Cllr Digby Cllr Harris
Cllr Kiff Cllr Osben
Cllr Partel

There were four members of the public in attendance.

Apologies: Cllr Worster.

Approval of previous Minutes

Cllr Jones commended the draft Minutes of the Property and Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 26 March 2018 which were **APPROVED** by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed.

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1. Sports

Cllr Jones reported that preparations for Sports Week were well in hand, with work about to start on the brochure. She asked Cllrs for their views on replacing plastic bottles of water which are normally supplied with reusable versions featuring the Sports Week branding. She assured Cllrs that costs would be met from the Sports Week budget but she believed this was a small price to pay to send a powerful environmental message to children and parents. Cllrs Kiff and Harris welcomed the idea, which won broad support from the Committee members.

She told the Committee that, under the auspices of the Rugby Football Union, Aldeburgh hosted a ladies' touch-rugby tournament with teams from Haverhill and Woodbridge. Food and drinks were served in the Community Centre.

3.2 Sport/Management/Maintenance of Council Property and Land

Electrical work on the new unit by the Tractor Shed would start this week, she said, with contractors being pressed to complete guttering and drainage work. Weather permitting, the fire-retardant coating and preservative would soon be applied to all agreed premises, she reported.

The Town Clerk told the Committee that work to refurbish the public facilities at King's Field would start within the next few days.

Cllr Jones confirmed that UK Power Networks had now completed work to clear trees from power lines at King's Field and the school triangle. She also reported that remedial work on the tennis courts was now underway.

She had previously circulated a paper to all Cllrs on the subject of memorial benches in the town. She asked whether ATC needed to adopt a policy to deal with the problem of wooden benches in need of repair and restoration.

Cllr Kiff said the Council could not simply dump old benches which belonged to someone else. It might be possible, he suggested, to locate the original donor and offer the bench back to them but he was opposed to arbitrary removal.

Describing this as a highly-sensitive subject, Cllr Fellowes spoke against the idea of retrospectively introducing limits on the length of time a bench could remain in situ. Such conditions could only be imposed on benches purchased in the future, she declared.

Cllr Cox said it was unfair to expect the Council to meet the cost of repairing and refurbishing old benches.

The Town Clerk suggested that in future, when a new wooden bench is purchased, a one-off maintenance charge should be imposed.

Cllr Fox thought that old wooden benches, particularly on Crag Path, could be moved to different sites in the town and then eventually replaced with durable benches made from recycled materials.

4. Committee Finance Business

Cllr Jones told the Committee that she and the Town Clerk were working on end of year accounts and preparing for the final internal audit. With Cllr Kiff she had reviewed insurance cover on Council assets and an amended schedule had been produced for discussions with the ATC insurer. Cllr Kiff had agreed to produce a photographic record of the Moot Hall and Council assets.

She confirmed that solicitors had now produced all documentation relating to the Sports England project and a lease for Mint Fitness.

5. New Property and Finance Business

There was no new Property and Finance Business

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 7.17 pm.