

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 29 MAY 2018 AT 8.05 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Palmer took the chair.

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Cox
Cllr Digby Cllr Harris
Cllr Kiff Cllr Osben
Cllr Walker

There was one member of the public present.

1.Apologies: Cllrs Fox and Oxby. Cllr Fellowes was absent without apology.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the Services Committees meeting held on 23 April 2018 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands. The Minutes were duly signed.

3. Matters for Discussion-SCC, SCDC and Police

The Town Clerk said that following a recent incident in the High Street, the Police had promised an enhanced presence in the town, particularly at weekends.

3.1 Museum Update

Cllr Harris reported that Trustees were awaiting a grant application decision by the Heritage Lottery Fund which was due at the end of June.

3.2 Highways

Cllr Palmer told the Committee he had done extensive research into replacing the Vehicle Activated Speed sign on Saxmundham Road, which had recently been removed by SCC Highways department. If ATC were to replace the sign, he said, costs would range from approximately £3,000 to nearly £7,000, depending on electricity supply. Cllr Worster suggested this could be an item in the budget for 2019-20. Cllr Jones commented that it was a considerable sum of money for a sign that most motorists would probably ignore. She suggested further investigation into the efficacy of the idea. Cllr Bond thought that the Aldeburgh Society should share Cllr Palmer's research.

Cllr Palmer welcomed the idea of a meeting between Councillor Russ Rainger (SCC), Denise Mortimer from SCC Highways and representatives from ATC to discuss a number of topics including a speed limit on the A1094, replacement and maintenance of the handrails on Choppings Hill, pothole repairs and traffic calming measures on Victoria Road.

4. Committee Finance Business

There was no Committee Finance Business.

5. New Services Committee Business

Cllr Palmer confirmed that after a lengthy delay, the War Memorial Trust had approved a grant for conservation work on the War Memorial.

He told Cllrs he was organising a list of all the defibrillator sites in the town, following the installation of the latest two units. He felt more publicity was needed to raise public awareness of their whereabouts. This information would appear on the ATC website and on public noticeboards.

In the earlier Planning Committee, Cllr Walker had drawn attention to a campaign against funding sea and river defence expenditure through Enabling Development and asked for an explanation of this policy.

Cllr Palmer, who is the ATC representative on the Alde and Ore Estuarine Partnership, explained that the original purpose of the ED scheme was to persuade landowners, threatened by immersion, to donate parcels of land for commercial housebuilding. Profits from these developments would go towards repair and maintenance of the river walls and not to the landowners. The only benefit landowners would receive, commented Cllr Palmer, was the knowledge that their land would not be flooded.

However, he pointed out that the ED fund-raising scheme had been suspended, pending investigation into other methods of raising capital for river and sea defence costs.

One idea mooted by SCDC was the possibility of increasing the local precept and ring-fencing this revenue, commented Cllr Palmer. He pointed out that while it was the policy of the current government to part-fund flood defence costs, this money could not be counted on if the government was to change.

The bottom line, he asserted, was that the cost of repairing flood defences in this area was approximately £12 million, with landowners contributing £5 million. The shortfall, he said, had to come from somewhere and ED was simply one idea.

Cllr Walker thought it was a bit rich to talk about increasing the local precept when residents now had to pay £43 to have their garden waste bins emptied.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 8.25pm.

