

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

Present: Cllr Palmer took the Chair.

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Digby
Cllr Fellowes Cllr Harris
Cllr Kiff Cllr Osben
Cllr Oxby Cllr Walker

There were two members of the public present

1. Apologies: There were no apologies.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the Services Committees meeting held on Monday October 22 2018 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands.

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1 Museum Update

Mr Tony Bone, Chairman of the Museum Trustees, was invited to brief Cllrs on the latest development plans but, before doing so, he congratulated Cllr Bond and the Town Clerk for the enormous effort they had made to ensure the result of the Brickfields Public Inquiry had gone in the town's favour.

Mr Bone told Cllrs that the Museum Project was approximately three weeks behind schedule, resulting in a much tighter timeframe than envisaged. Delays in finding a suitable supplier of digital equipment were not easing the pressure, he admitted. However, he was confident that the Council Chamber would be available in May 2019 for Mayor's Sunday even if the Museum was still closed. He confirmed there would be an additional meeting of the Project Board later that week to discuss outstanding issues.

Trustees and the Project Manager would be meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund on November 28 to review progress, said Mr Bone. Work to decant objects was progressing well, with Trustees agreeing on a list of artefacts for disposal.

The Museum's first paid employee had been appointed and she had already taken up her post as the Volunteer Activity and Development Officer. New Trustees with specific skills were being sought, he declared.

Mr Bone outlined plans for new tables for the Council Chamber. The proposed design would consist of six tables, two with leaves which could be extended for civic events. All the tables would have natural wooden tops and wooden legs and, once a design concept had been agreed by ATC, a tendering process would start, he confirmed.

Cllrs Fox and Cox, both members of the Museum Project Board, commended the design of the tables, saying they would be easily manoeuvrable and could be configured flexibly to suit Council and civic purposes. Cllr Fox said the Council would, at some point, have to provide a detailed design brief for the tables involving the choice of hardwood, the finished colour and the leg type.

RESOLUTION to accept in principle, the design of six wooden tables, two with leaves, as per the specification circulated to all Cllrs was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Fox said that most Cllrs had now viewed examples of the proposed chairs and one design in particular seemed to have met with tacit approval. The preferred design was versatile, she commented, available with and without arms and a choice of upholstery - or no upholstery at all - and could be stacked.

She suggested that the majority of chairs should be upholstered in a dark blue faux leather, some with arms and some without. Chairs intended for the Public Gallery would not be upholstered because they would be in constant use, she believed. Cllr Walker suggested increasing the number of seats in the Public Gallery from six to eight.

Cllr Worster felt that all the chairs should be upholstered to preserve continuity of design throughout the Council Chamber, a view supported by Cllr Harris.

RESOLUTION to proceed in principle, with the purchase of up to 30 upholstered chairs some with arms, and subject to budget constraint was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fellowes.

In favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In response to a question by Cllr Fellowes, Cllr Fox said that screens projecting digital images of, for example, planning applications would be installed behind the chairman's seat. Cllr Oxby asked if a decision had been made about whether the dais was to be retained. Cllr Fox said that, despite months of negotiations, the Trustees had been told that the dais would have to be removed and not replaced because of health and safety and insurance implications. Building regulations simply did not allow for a step up to a dais in a public place, she told Cllrs.

This decision was not welcomed by Cllr Walker who suggested that hundreds of years of tradition would be lost when the dais was removed. He described that as a great shame. Cllr Harris suggested that if the present dais was deemed to contravene health and safety regulations, it should be disposed of immediately. Cllr Bond pointed out that the extensive nature of the redevelopment work in the Council Chamber would now require Building Regulation approval which would prevent the retention of the dais. It was essential, she said, that under these regulations, there was a step-free environment in the Council Chamber.

RESOLUTION to remove the dais from the Council Chamber forthwith was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 8

Against 1

Abstentions 0

CARRIED

Cllr Fox continued by briefing the Committee members on plans to digitise photographs of past Mayors, currently displayed in the Council Chamber. She explained that the present pictorial display was not able to tell the stories of the subjects and she believed a digital display screen would not only show a picture of Mayors past and present, but also provide an historically-important biography of each. She confessed to knowing little about many of the Mayors and said that a digital display of pictures and words would bring the subjects to life. It was vital, she said, the images were retained as an historical record but argued strongly for a digital presentation.

Her suggestion met with little approval from Cllrs.

Cllrs Walker and Digby objected strongly to the proposals, saying that the photographs represented an historical record of Aldeburgh Town Council and must be retained in their present form. Cllr Fellowes, while suggesting that an online representation of the photographs would be welcome, said she would be sorry if a huge part of the town's heritage was to be lost if the pictures were to be removed.

Cllrs Osben, Oxby, Bond and Worster also argued for the retention of the photographs, believing they represented an important link with the past.

Cllr Harris, a Museum Trustee, and Cllr Cox, a member of the Museum Project Board, both felt a digital solution was the only answer. More information on the individuals could be provided and in an up-to-date format, they believed.

The Town Clerk recognised this was a thorny issue and suggested further discussion, an idea supported by Cllr Kiff. The Town Clerk said the overall success of the project would not fall on the fate of the Mayors' photographs but she did urge Cllrs to embrace change and keep an open mind on contentious issues.

Cllr Fox picked up that theme, asking for suggestions on how best to present photographs of the Mayors and tell their individual stories. She also pointed out that one of the ambitions of the redeveloped Museum was to attract younger visitors who were more likely to glean information from digital sources rather than just photographs. She also told Cllrs that with each passing year another Mayor's photograph would be produced and soon, there would be little wall space to display them all. A digitised archive would have unlimited capacity, she commented.

Cllr Fox promised to bring alternative ideas for displaying the images of the Mayors before the January Committees meeting.

3.2 SCC - Highways

Cllr Palmer asked for Committee support to fund speed surveys on Saxmundham and Leiston Roads. It was essential, he said, that information about traffic speed and volume was gathered before the Council committed itself to expensive deterrents.

Cllr Fellowes suggested that this information could be useful when responding to future consultations concerning infrastructure projects. Cllrs Harris, Oxby, Walker and Worster all supported the idea.

RESOLUTION to fund surveys into traffic speed and volume on Saxmundham and Leiston Roads was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Palmer reported on a meeting between residents of Church Farm Road, Cllr Rainger, ATC Cllrs and a representative of SCC Highways to review the current parking restrictions.

Cllr Palmer said the scheme was working as intended and that any amendments to the current plan would be costly. Data from a recent survey had demonstrated that vehicles were not travelling at excessive speeds and that traffic volumes were low, he commented. Cllr Palmer said that the cost of providing additional parking areas for residents, together with other changes to the present scheme would require a new and expensive Traffic Management Order. This, he believed, at this stage was inappropriate.

Cllr Fellowes pointed out that in the first three months of 2019, two major consultations would be taking place - Sizewell C and Scottish Power plans for onshore developments. Both these projects could affect the town, she believed, and it was essential that the views of residents and businesses in Aldeburgh were fully represented. The responses would be major pieces of work which could involve the assistance of consultants. She urged more discussion on these topics was required.

4. Committee Finance Business

There was no Committee Finance Business.

5. New Services Business

There was no New Services Business which hadn't already been addressed earlier in the meeting.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 8.34 pm.

