

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 25 JULY AT 7.18 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: In the absence of Cllr Palmer, Cllr Walker took the Chair

Committee Members Present:

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| Cllr Bond | Cllr Digby |
| Cllr Harris | Cllr Kiff |
| Cllr Osben | |

There were two members of the public present.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Fellowes and Palmer

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Cllr Walker commended the draft Minutes of the Services Committees meeting held on 27 June 2016 for **APPROVAL** without amendment. The Minutes were duly signed.

3. Matters for Discussion – SCC, SCDC and Police

3.1 Museum Update

Cllr Walker invited Cllr Harris to give an update. He explained that the Museum Trustees had met on Friday 22 July. The HLF grant application is in the final stages of completion and is on track to be submitted by the end of August.

3.2 Tourist Information Centre

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the proposal from SCDC, which had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The proposal contained a request for ATC to take over a Tourist Information Point at The Moot Hall from the end of September, to be ‘manned’ by existing ATC personnel until at least Easter 2017. The intention behind this is for visitors to use a PC to source their own information, supported by leaflets and other literature about the area.

In terms of how tourist information is provide elsewhere in the country, there are a number of models that have emerged in recent years, although the landscape is constantly shifting and no one single model is seen as the preferred approach by VisitEngland. It is more a case of what is best for a particular resort/area/location. The traditional TIC is rapidly disappearing and is being replaced by a number of different approaches.

Councillors shared their thoughts and opinions, commenting on the continuous disruption for the Town Clerk’s office, their disappointment about the financial support offered, which was considered derisory and the Council’s need for the use of the Slaughden Room in The Moot Hall.

There was a lengthy discussion, which also considered potentially suitable alternate venues, as the Town Council is keen to retain a Tourist Information Service in the town, but after consideration, Aldeburgh Town Council does not support this particular proposal.

3.3 Police Resource

Cllr Walker invited the Town Clerk to give an update. She explained the current situation, with PCSO Kevin Mann, who will be retiring at the end of August and reported the alternative proposals that had been put to Suffolk Constabulary; all of which had been rejected. This means that at present there is a stark choice to pay more than double to retain a fully-funded PCSO, with effect from January 2017 or have no dedicated resource, but to rely on the personnel within the SNT for the area.

The Town Clerk had attended a meeting with other Clerks in the area last week with the new area Inspector. Woodbridge and Southwold have chosen to support a fully-funded PCSO, whilst Leiston and Felixstowe were not pursuing this option. Other Councils have yet to make this decision.

A considered discussion took place, during which Cllrs outlined their disappointment at the situation. However, in conclusion Councillors were not supportive of investing more than double the present amount for a dedicated resource, when the need was most acute for twelve to fifteen weeks of the year. The Police and Crime Commissioner is due to address the next meeting of the ABA in early September and the Town Clerk encouraged Cllrs to have a presence at this event.

4. Committee Finance Business

There was no new finance business to report this month.

5. New Services Committee Business

Cllr Walker had received comments from a fisherman regarding campervans parking overnight on the sea front.

The Town Clerk reported that Thorpe Road Car Park will be resurfaced in October and explained that SCDC wishes to engage with ATC regarding the building of additional toilet facilities on Thorpe Road, financed by the introduction of beach huts at a number of potential sites along the sea front.

Cllr Bond commented that as mains drainage will be required, she wondered whether an eco-friendly alternative could be sourced. There was little enthusiasm for this project amongst Cllrs, particularly concerning beach huts and the fact that ATC would probably not benefit from the revenue they generate. There was also strength of feeling about how their presence could irrevocably alter the seafront and numerous vistas in both a conservation area and an AONB.

The Town Clerk gave an update on the possible introduction of double yellow lines on Church Farm Road which has now entered a legal process and may be delayed by 12-18 months to progress the speed reduction along Leiston Road. She also provided another update regarding the building compound along the Terrace.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 8.11pm.