

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY JANUARY 28 2019 AT 8.00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Palmer took the Chair.

Committee Members Present:

Cllr Bond Cllr Fellowes

Cllr Harris Cllr Kiff

Cllr Osben

There was one member of the public present.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Digby, Oxby and Walker.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the Services Committees meeting held on Monday November 26 2018 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands.

3. Matters for Discussion

3.1 Sizewell C Consultation Stage 3

Cllr Palmer briefed Committee members on the progress of the ATC Sizewell C Working Party. With Cllrs Fellowes, Osben and Oxby, he had inaugurated the first meeting which had identified the need for prompt responses. Cllr Palmer said the deadline for the ATC response was very tight and asked Cllrs for their input as quickly as possible.

Cllr Bond suggested that previous responses needed to be updated to ensure that they were relevant to the current situation. Cllr Palmer told her that, in his opinion, the ATC response to the Stage 2 consultation needed completely re-addressing because of changes to EDF plans.

Cllr Fellowes reiterated advice from Planning Aid England, appointed by EDF as independent advisors to the Stage 3 consultation, which suggested that Cllrs could reintroduce previously submitted material providing it was updated. New material cannot be introduced after this consultation closes, she added, so it was vital that any observations were made now. Cllrs were free, for example, to air their views on the construction process and the cumulative effect of the projects on the surrounding area.

Cllr Palmer highlighted a number of issues discussed at the first meeting of the Working Party. The group would be pressing for a poster campaign in the town encouraging everyone to participate in the consultation process. The tight response deadline ruled out a public meeting, he said, but it was important to learn the views of the whole town and posters would bring this matter to everyone's attention. Local organisations would be circulated with the ATC response, but it was suggested that they should make their own submissions.

The Town Clerk confirmed that PAE advisors would be available on an exclusive basis to talk to members of the working party on two dates, February 8 and 20.

Cllr Fellowes called for a balanced response to the Stage 3 consultation, saying it was important that minority and majority views were reflected in the final document.

Cllr Kiff asked if the Annual Town Meeting could play a role in raising public awareness of the Sizewell C consultation. The Town Clerk confirmed there would be literature available for both Sizewell and Scottish Power, but that the ATC response to both consultations would already be in draft form to be signed off at the March Council Meeting. Town residents and organisations would have until March 29 to formulate their responses, she added.

Cllr Worster commended a map demonstrating the impact on Aldeburgh and the surrounding area of both the Sizewell C and SPR proposals.

Cllr Bond queried whether the Council believed it was financially-prepared to respond to both consultations, a view echoed by Cllr Worster who asked if there was professional help ATC could call upon.

Cllr Osben asked Cllr Bond if she believed ATC should be fighting the EDF proposals, to which Cllr Bond responded by saying that it was not a matter of opposing or defending - the town had to get as much out of this situation as it possibly could.

Cllr Fellowes commended the role of the PAE, explaining that the independent organisation would be able to advise on many matters, including mitigation and legacy. It was essential, she believed, that ATC listened to their ideas which could benefit the town as a whole. Cllr Bond expressed concern at the impact of the construction work on Aldeburgh's tourist trade. Roadworks would extend across a wide area for many years, threatening the town's dependency on tourists and visitors. It would be practically impossible to get into Aldeburgh during the construction process, she asserted, and this would deter many people. Perception was everything and people would simply not bother to visit Aldeburgh if they thought their journey would be difficult. She considered professional help was required to counter the bad publicity created by endless roadworks and traffic delays. Aldeburgh should not be in competition with other communities at this time, she stated. Aldeburgh is not an island and the bigger picture needs consideration.

The Town Clerk believed it was essential the views of Suffolk Coastal's Destination Management Organisation were sought during the consultation process. They would help identify the potential impact of the infrastructure projects on the tourist economy of the area.

3.2 Scottish Power Renewables Phase 4

The Town Clerk confirmed that the consultation process for this project would open on February 11, concluding on March 26. The ATC response to this consultation and Sizewell C would have to be ratified at the Council Meeting on March 11 to avoid the period of purdah leading up to local elections, she declared. A public exhibition by SPR would be held in the Church Hall, Aldeburgh on February 18. She expressed frustration that two major

infrastructure projects, which could have a significant impact on the town, were running concurrently, pointing out that there is a vast amount of paperwork to be analysed and considered.

3.3 SCC - Highways

Cllr Palmer briefed the Committee on discussions with SCC Highways about speed surveys on Leiston and Saxmundham Roads. The cost of providing a two-week survey to determine numbers, direction and speed on both roads would be approximately £340 plus VAT, announced Cllr Palmer and asked for approval for the project.

RESOLUTION to approve expenditure, as quoted on two traffic surveys on Leiston and Saxmundham Roads, subject to agreement on location, was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bond.

In favour 6

Against 0

Abstentions 0

Cllr Osben asked if speeding data obtained by the police could be accessed during this process. The Town Clerk responded by saying that a Police representative would be attending the February Council meeting and the Annual Town Meeting and that question could be broached then.

Cllr Palmer said a number of issues were still being discussed with SCC Highways, including pothole repairs, the handrail at Choppings Hill, surface water flooding in King Street and corroded sign poles.

4. Committee Finance Business

There was no Committee Finance Business.

5. New Services Business

Cllr Palmer told the meeting that new costings for flood defences had been announced by the Alde and Ore Association which showed an increase from £12m to £16m, a figure which he believed was more realistic than the original sum announced 10 years ago. The Town Clerk announced that representatives from the Alde and Ore, the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board would be addressing the Committees Meeting in February to outline future plans.

The Town Clerk reported on an ATC response sent to SCC concerning funding cuts to the county's Citizens Advice Bureau. She described the reply by Cllr Richard Smith, the SCC's Cabinet Member for Finances, as disappointing. She was also critical of the online response mechanism which she felt was inappropriate. Cllr Worster observed that cuts to the CAB budget were dreadful and demonstrated that, despite assertions to the contrary, austerity was not over.

The Town Clerk gave notice that the Suffolk Parking Guidance recommendations would be brought before the February Council meeting for adoption by ATC. The SPG

recommendations cover a broad swathe of parking-related issues, including the number of car park spaces suggested for new planning applications.

She also drew attention to the Local Draft Plan consultation which had to be completed online by February 25.

Cllr Osben asked if it was possible to replace some dog bins in the town with larger versions to prevent unsightly overflowing. The Town Clerk said that talks were required with Norse to establish a definitive bin-emptying schedule. Problems arose, she conceded, when the regular driver was not on duty and some bins were missed.

Cllr Harris pointed out that the replacement of a street light at Fort Green with one of a modern design was correct, despite some local criticism. The Victorian lamp standards were only intended for the seafront and the High Street. Cllr Worster asked if some consideration could be given to illuminating a dark area in the Lee and Park Road area. Residents had offered to pay for the light.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 8.45 pm.