

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2019
AT 7:00 PM IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Present: Cllr Digby- The Mayor, took the Chair

Cllr Bond	Cllr Cox
Cllr Fox	Cllr Harris
Cllr Jones	Cllr Osben
Cllr Oxby	Cllr Palmer
Cllr Worster	

Also present: Cllr Russ Rainger – SCC.

Two members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs T.J. Haworth-Culf and Maureen Jones – ESC and Cllrs Fellowes, Kiff, Partel and Walker - ATC.

2. **Councillors' Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **To approve the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 March 2019**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 March 2019 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands and duly signed.

4. **SCC report and Correspondence**

Cllr Rainger told the meeting that he had received considerable correspondence from residents relating to the EDF Energy and Scottish Power consultations. A familiar theme ran through all the letters which were now being processed and would form part of an SCC action plan, he confirmed.

Discussions were taking place with Flagship Housing over problems relating to the provision of parking bays for the disabled on Leiston Road, he added, and, in response to emailed questions from Cllr Jones, he promised to investigate the poor state of the footpath on the marshes.

Cllr Rainger's report can be read in full at: <https://russrainger.wordpress.com/>

5. **ESC Report and Correspondence**

In the absence of Cllrs T.J. Haworth-Culf and Maureen Jones, no report had been submitted.

Cllr Worster expressed concern that ESC contractors Norse had lowered headstones in the Lawn Cemetery area of the Churchyard without first seeking permission from relatives of the deceased. He accepted that the work needed to be done but was

angered by the failure of Norse to communicate with local families before work commenced.

Cllr Jones drew attention to problems with the online system for ordering green recycling bins. She had been unable to complete her request for a new bin because of a system failure.

6. Police Report

No Police report had been submitted.

7. Public Forum

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum.

There were no questions from members of the public.

The Mayor reinstated Standing Orders.

8. COMMITTEES REPORTS:

8a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones confirmed that the annual financial audit would take place on April 9 to complete the end of year accounts and the annual return.

She told the meeting that most of the ditch clearance operations behind the allotments as far as Dump Road was now complete, with some tasks having to wait until the Autumn. Approved work to rectify damp problems at the Groundsman's Cottage was due to start imminently.

Cllr Jones asked the Council to approve work to remove asbestos from a small area of the Town Council offices in the Moot Hall. She explained this was part of the Museum Redevelopment project and there would be no cost to ATC. **Approved by a show of hands.**

She reported on nuisance activity at the Rugby pitch with minor vandalism to the floodlights, which had been reported to the Police. With Cllr Cox, she had met with a representative of the Rugby Club and quotes were now being sought to replace chestnut fencing to prevent access to the field other than via the locked gate. At the end of the season, Norse will be invited to carry out a pitch maintenance programme.

Cllr Jones updated the meeting on a number of matters: a provisional date had been agreed to carry out approved pothole repairs on the approach to Kings field; the rusted manhole cover on Kings field was to be replaced; goal posts currently stored behind the Groundsman's Cottage would be dismantled, repainted and then stored; a date was still awaited for repairs to the lower tennis courts and the annual pressure washing.

She said she had been liaising with Cllr Rainger regarding the accessibility of the popular footpath across the marshes. An area at the bottom of the steps had become extremely muddy and impassable for much of the winter.

Cllr Jones confirmed that Sport England had finally got the information they required regarding work on King's Field and had given instruction to the turf suppliers to proceed, probably in the autumn.

She invited Cllr Cox to brief the meeting on allotments. Norse had cleared a number,

said Cllr Cox, and there were now five vacancies. Applications had been received from five people and he would be meeting soon to discuss allocation.

Cllr Jones congratulated the Bowls Club grounds team on the condition of the green, in time for the opening of the new season on Saturday April 13th.

She added that the Sports Week activity programme was complete, with new activities added this year. Reusable water bottles and T-shirts had been ordered. Cllr Jones confirmed her intention to apply to EDF Energy for funds for Sports Week now that the Sizewell C consultation had ended.

Cllr Oxby expressed concern at the removal of a tree on Jubilee Walk close to the Dump Road junction. She believed it was important that residents fully understood why trees had to be felled to avoid the perception that it was for cosmetic rather than arboricultural reasons. It was wrong for trees to be removed indiscriminately. Cllr Jones pointed out that the tree which had been removed was diseased and could represent a threat to pedestrians. Cllr Worster said it was vital that trees were managed properly and not felled because they blocked someone's view.

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer confirmed that SCC Highways would be conducting speed surveys over Easter on Saxmundham and Leiston Roads and that Highways had started work on repairing some potholes in side streets.

He thanked fellow members of the ATC Working Group - Cllrs Fellowes, Osben and Oxby - and Town Clerk staff for the preparation of the responses to Sizewell C and Scottish Power. After a great deal of hard work by all concerned, both consultation responses had now been submitted, said Cllr Palmer.

8c. PLANNING

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning

Cllr Worster had nothing to report.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS

8di) Report from Chairman of Grants, Requests and Events Committee

In the absence of the Chairman, there was nothing to report.

9. Representatives' Reports.

- Cllr Jones attended an Aldeburgh Society committee meeting on March 18, where the Sizewell C and Scottish Power consultations were fully discussed. The AS had agreed to assemble a portfolio of photos identifying the areas of most concern; at the AGM of The Aldeburgh Good Neighbours Scheme on March 26, Cllr Jones learned that the 29 volunteers handled 156 calls in 2018, of which 135 related to transport needs. AGNES also helps with the 3-day Holiday at Home event at the Fairfield Centre. Funding from ATC just about covers outgoings. With Cllrs Partel and Osben, ongoing discussions would take place to address problems relating to loneliness in the town.
- Cllr Oxby, with others, attended a number of meetings relating to Sizewell C and SPR consultations.

- Cllr Harris attended a meeting of the Aldeburgh Museum Trustees.
- Cllr Bond, with Cllr Digby, attended the Carnival Committee AGM.
- Following a meeting of the Museum Redevelopment Project Board, Cllr Fox, a Museum Trustee and ATC Museum representative, showed Cllrs a proposed design for the new Council Chamber table. She explained that instead of having one large table, there would be a total of six tables hewn from solid English oak, with two having extendable leaves. Each table would have the Town Crest inlaid in wooden marquetry and would be finished with a maintenance-free, hard wax oiled surface. She also distributed photographs of a table at the Wattisham Army Air Corps base which had been made by the same local manufacturer to demonstrate the quality of the workmanship. Cllrs approved of the design but reservations were expressed by Cllr Worster about the durability of the mechanism for extending the tables, believing the engineering and design was unsuited to the task. Cllr Cox, a member of the Museum Project Board, agreed and said he would be suggesting improvements to the table manufacturer. Cllr Digby expressed delight at the introduction of the Town Crest into each table and, responding to a question from Cllr Palmer, Cllr Fox confirmed that the crest would be an inlaid marquetry feature consisting of different woods. Cllr Fox asked the meeting to approve the awarding of the contract to the suggested manufacturer, subject to further discussions, to enable the project to move forward.

RESOLUTION to award in principle the manufacture of the Council Chamber table to the suggested manufacturer, subject to further discussions and amendments, was **PROPOSED** by Cllr COX and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In Favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported on a recent meeting of East Suffolk Council Town Clerks, the first across the whole of East Suffolk following the merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. The northern-most part of the new authority had contributed via video link, she explained. A number of issues were raised with Norse directors, particularly concerning service provision and an apparent breakdown in communication involving operations management. The Town Clerk cited the case of public facilities at West Lane steps in Aldeburgh which had been closed for more than a week without any explanation. In common with other towns in East Suffolk, Aldeburgh needed a dedicated resource to deal with ongoing issues, she believed. The present situation was depressingly familiar, she added, with a whole litany of unfinished work from ditch clearance to grass cutting awaiting completion. She drew attention to a small army of traffic cones which had mysteriously appeared on Leiston Road. She thought it might be the work of a resident who had grown tired of traffic congestion. She promised to investigate.

The Town Clerk told the meeting that the defibrillator based at the Brudenell Hotel had been used to assist a casualty on the pavement by the chip shop and the White Hart public house. The operations manager at the hotel and the landlord of the White

Hart and his partner had all combined to resuscitate the patient, who was now recovering in hospital.

The Town Clerk thanked all those involved in the submission of the two infrastructure project consultation responses. A colossal amount of work had been done by Cllrs Palmer, Fellowes, Osben and Oxby, she said, with support from the Town Clerk's office. The meeting showed its appreciation with a round of applause.

She confirmed that there would be an election to determine the make-up of the Town Council after elections on May 2, where fifteen candidates had been nominated for 14 seats. At District Council level, a total of 12 candidates had been nominated for three seats in the newly-defined ward of Aldeburgh and Leiston.

She thanked retiring ATC Cllrs Bond, Kiff, Partel, Walker and Worster for almost 50 years of combined service for the town. She expressed a wish that, in the future, she might work with them again.

In turn, Cllr Worster thanked the Town Clerk, on behalf of the retiring Cllrs, for the work she had done. He also revealed that, as a token of thanks, he was to present the Council with a new pendant of green amber and silver to be worn by the Deputy Mayor. He hoped to be able to present the pendant in the redeveloped Council Chamber.

11. Mayor's Notes

Cllr Digby attended the following events:

March 12 - Chaired Carnival Committees AGM.

March 15 - SCDC Reception at Snape Maltings; presented certificate to gardening team at Aldeburgh hospital.

March 22 - attended Chairman's reception at Leiston.

April 1 - attended Cragg Sisters 70th Birthday Party.

April 3 - Chaired Carnival Committee Meeting.

April 7 - East Anglian Practical Classics Car Club – Cragg Path.

12. Correspondence

The Town Clerk told the meeting there had been a tremendous response from residents and organisations in the town to the two consultations – Sizewell C and SPR. The consultation period was now closed but letters of objection were still being received.

She read a letter from Cllr Kiff who announced he was standing down at the forthcoming elections. Cllr

13. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

There were no gifts or hospitality declared by Cllrs other than those declared by Cllr Digby (See 11 - Mayor's Notes)

14. Items to pay – details had been previously circulated to Cllrs.

All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

PROPOSED by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In Favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 7.46pm.

**The Annual Meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on Monday
May 13th 2019 at 7.00 pm in The Public Library.**