

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2019
AT 7:00 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Digby- The Mayor, took the Chair

Cllr Bond	Cllr Cox
Cllr Fellowes	Cllr Harris
Cllr Jones	Cllr Kiff
Cllr Osben	Cllr Oxby
Cllr Walker	Cllr Worster

Also present: Cllr Maureen Jones – SCDC.

Three members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Rainger - SCC, Cllr T.J.Haworth-Culf - SCDC, Cllrs Fox, Palmer and Partel - 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 February 2019**
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 February 2019 were **APPROVED** by a show of hands and duly signed.
4. **SCC report and Correspondence**
In the absence of Cllr Rainger, there was nothing to report.
Cllr Rainger can be followed at: <https://russrainger.wordpress.com/>
5. **SCDC Report and Correspondence**

Cllr M.Jones told the meeting that SCDC, in partnership with SCC, were continuing to raise serious concerns about Scottish Power Renewables proposals for East Suffolk. She drew attention to a joint report by SCDC and SCC which had identified more than 100 issues which still needed to be addressed. She encouraged everyone to respond to both the SPR consultation and EDF Energy's proposals for Sizewell C.

She reported that refurbishment work at Leiston Leisure Centre was on track, though plans to reopen the swimming pool and other facilities had been put back to June because of minor problems.

Cllr S.Jones asked if this year's Enabling Communities Fund was now closed, a fact which Cllr M.Jones confirmed, saying that a new fund would be launched after the council elections in early-May.

In response to a question by Cllr Fellowes, Cllr Jones told her that the District Council was continuing to fund the Citizens Advice Bureau with the customary level of payments. District Council funds to the CAB had not been reduced, she declared.

Full SCDC report: **See Appendix 1**
6. **Police Report**
No Police report had been submitted, but the Town Clerk reminded the meeting that Pc Simon Green, the Community Engagement Officer, had attended the Annual Town Meeting on March 6th 2019 where he had delivered his report.

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 reported to Cllrs that the internal audit report was satisfactory, with all council processes and paperwork in good order. She thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for their efforts in achieving a good outcome.

Ditch clearance operations were now underway, she added, and work to repaint the interior of the bowls club was complete. Preparations for Sports Week were well advanced, including the provision, as last year, of refillable water bottles.

Cllr Jones told the meeting that following a review of quotations for treating damp problems at the Groundsman's Cottage, she and Cllr Cox had identified a suitable contractor. The work would include a 20-year guarantee for the damp course, she added, and asked Cllrs to approve the cost of emergency work to be met out of general reserves.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** expenditure from general reserves to carry out emergency work to resolve damp problems at the Groundsman's Cottage was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

In favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

8aii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the recommendations from the internal auditor (LCPAS) was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8aiii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the existing Financial Risk Assessment was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8aiv) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the existing Risk Assessments was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Oxby asked if all the furniture in the Moot Hall had been included in the Asset Register and was assured by the Town Clerk that the list was of items required for the purposes of the audit was comprehensive. There were no plans to dispose of any furniture, added the Town Clerk.

8av) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the Asset Register 2018/19 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

In the absence of the Chairman, there was no report from the Services Committee. However, the Town Clerk invited Cllrs to approve, in principle and subject to minor amendments, the following resolutions:

8bii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE, in principle and subject to minor amendments, ATC's submission to the Sizewell C Stage Three consultation was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

The following Cllrs declared a pecuniary interest in resolution **8biii)** because they own property adjacent to routes Scottish Power Renewables propose to utilise: Cllrs Bond, Cox, Osben and Walker.

8biii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE, in principle and subject to minor amendments, ATC's submission to the Scottish Power Renewables Phase Four consultation was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bond.

In favour 11

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8c. PLANNING

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning

The Chairman of the Planning Committee had nothing to report.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS

8di) In the absence of the Chairman, there was no report from the Grants, Requests and Events Committee

8dii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £300 to Aldeburgh Parish Church for small gifts for ecumenical services involving young people throughout 2019 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Cox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Worster.

In favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

8diii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £480 to the HighTide Theatre Festival in respect of the Summer Connect project for young people at the Community Centre was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fellowes.

In favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

8div) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £500 to the Fairfield Centre new roof appeal was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Osben and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

In favour 10
Against 1
Abstentions 0
CARRIED

8dv) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a £260 refund to the Fairfield Centre in respect of the cancellation of dementia sessions run by AGE UK was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Walker.

In favour 11
Against 0
Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8dvi) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £500 to Slaughden Sailing Club for buoyancy aids and boots for use during Sports Week was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Kiff.

In favour 10
Against 0
Abstentions 1
CARRIED

Cllr Oxby declared a non-pecuniary interest in resolution **8dvii) :**

8dvii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £500 to Aldeburgh Primary School for new IT equipment was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Walker and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 10
Against 0
Abstentions 1
CARRIED

The Town Clerk said that she had received an email confirming the new structure of the Summer Theatre in Aldeburgh and also requesting a donation to support the reintroduction of children's activities during the Summer Theatre season.

At which point, Cllr Fellowes declared a pecuniary interest in this matter.

Responding to a question from Cllr Walker, the Town Clerk explained that Cllr Fellowes, in a private capacity, was involved in the restructuring of the Summer Theatre and there could be a potential conflict of interest if the theatre requested funds from ATC.

Cllr Jones said that as the Council had just approved a donation of £480 to the HighTide theatre company for activities involving young people, it would be inconsistent if ATC members did not approve a similar sum.

Cllr Walker pointed that the Summer Theatre was a commercial enterprise that had to make its way. Other organisations were struggling financially, he commented.

Cllr Worster asked Cllrs to consider that this project would benefit the wider community in Aldeburgh and would attract tourists. He supported Cllr Jones' idea.

RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £480 to support children's activities during the Aldeburgh Summer Theatre season was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Worster.

In favour 10
Against 0
Abstentions 1
CARRIED

9. Representatives' Reports

- Cllr Worster attended a meeting of church volunteers to discuss Christmas events in the town this year.
- Cllr Osben, with Cllrs Fellowes and Oxby, met as the ATC Working Group to coordinate responses to EDF Energy and SPR plans and, with other members of the Working Group, had consultations with organisations in the town.
- Cllr Cox attended a Museum Project Board Meeting.
- Cllr Kiff reported on a meeting with the Aldeburgh Business Association where topics included Sizewell C, SPR and Christmas events.
- Cllr Jones said she would be attending a meeting of the Aldeburgh Society on March 18.
- Cllr Harris attended a meeting of the Aldeburgh Museum Trustees.
- Cllr Bond was present at the SCDC Planning Committee meeting at Melton which considered an application in respect of Bank House, Aldeburgh.

10. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk told Cllrs that the draft consultation documents prepared by ATC responding to Sizewell C and SPR would be published on the Town Council website within 24 hours. She said that a lot more work had to be done on the documents and that a community engagement campaign was being undertaken to encourage residents and organisations to participate in the consultation process.

She acknowledged that some Cllrs had recently been unable to open electronic documents. A change of computer system in the office had caused problems for some users but this issue was being investigated, she said.

A contractor for the main bulk of the Museum Redevelopment Project had been identified, with work hoping to start in early-April, she told the meeting. All the Council furniture would be moved into storage within the next few days and Moot Hall staff should be working from alternative premises from the first week in April. Thanks to Cllr Osben, said the Town Clerk, the April Council Meeting and all subsequent meetings would be held in the Library until work in the Council Chamber was complete.

She pointed out that District and Town Council elections would be held on May 2 and that residents were being encouraged to stand for election. It was vital that fresh faces with fresh ideas had the opportunity of joining ATC for the benefit of the community as a whole, she commented. The Town Council website had full details of the work of a councillor and she urged anyone interested to contact her.

The Town Clerk said that because of the pre-election moratorium on Council business, there would be no Committees Meetings in March and April. Urgent business could be addressed at the customary Council meetings, which would be held as usual, though in a temporary venue.

11. Mayor's Notes

Cllr Digby attended the following events:

February 18: Scottish Power Renewables Public Information Session.

March 5: Save the Children Fund AGM.

March 6: Annual Town Meeting, Aldeburgh.

12. Correspondence

The Town Clerk said the only correspondence of note related to the Sizewell C and SPR consultations. Members of the public were responding in large numbers, she told the meeting.

13. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

There were no gifts or hospitality declared by Cllrs.

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 Kiff.

In Favour **11**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 7.39pm.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on Monday
April 8th 2019 at 7.00 pm in The Public Library.**

PLEASE NOTE: the change of venue for the next Council Meeting