

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY MAY 28th 2019 AT 7.55 PM IN THE MOOT HALL**

Present: Cllr Webster, the Deputy Mayor, took the chair.

Committee members present:

Cllr Blackburn	Cllr Fellowes
Cllr Fox	Cllr Harris
Cllr Howard-Dobson	Cllr Jones
Cllr Lewis	Cllr Osben
Cllr Palmer	Cllr Smith

There were two members of the public present.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Cox, Digby and Piers-Hall.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the Grants, Requests & Events Committee meeting held on Monday 25th February 2019 were approved by a show of hands and duly signed.

3. Grants & Requests

Cllr Webster invited the Committee to consider the following requests:

1. The Artistic Director of Jubilee Opera asked the Committee for a donation to help fund a newly-commissioned opera for children, The Casket Girl, to be performed in the Jubilee Hall in November. The cast would include children from Aldeburgh Primary School and other schools in the immediate area. Cllr Jones pointed out that ATC traditionally supported the work of Jubilee Opera.

RESOLUTION to donate £300 to Jubilee Opera to help fund a newly-commissioned opera for young children, including pupils from Aldeburgh Primary School, was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour **11**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. The East Anglia's Children's Hospices, who provide support for children suffering from life-threatening conditions, asked for a donation to enable the organisation to carry on its work in the region. In Suffolk, EACH is supporting more than 120 children and their families.

RESOLUTION to donate £350 to the East Anglia's Children's Hospices to enable it to carry out its vital work throughout the region was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

In favour 10

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

3. The manager of the Jubilee Hall asked the Committee to consider a donation towards the cost of installing a temporary, synthetic ice rink as part of the Christmas festivities in the town. She believed the ice rink would be an integral part of the planned Christmas Lights Festival. Organisers would offer either free or reduced-price tickets for children from Aldeburgh Primary School and accompanying adults. The Jubilee Hall could not commit to the project if there was a danger of a shortfall which, potentially, could be a five-figure sum.
- The Town Clerk counselled against a hasty decision, saying that this issue was not straightforward and required a lot more consideration. The biggest concern, she added, was creating a precedent for other organisations in the town who were also planning events to coincide with Christmas. She asked Cllrs to consider, at some point in the future, a one-off donation to the Aldeburgh Business Association (ABA) who could then dispense funds to organisers of all festive events.
- Cllr Jones agreed, saying that a coordinated approach to funding requests for Christmas was essential and that the ABA should play a significant role in the process.
- The Town Clerk pointed out that ATC already contributes a great deal to the Christmas lights in the town and more thought was needed before any increase in that expenditure. She remained positive, though, that Christmas 2019 would be a considerable improvement on 2018. She asked Cllrs to defer a decision on this request, pending further talks with all parties. **Agreed unanimously.**
4. Aldeburgh Summer Theatre, in conjunction with Incredible Oceans, asked for permission to utilise part of Moot Green to install a small fringe activity area to run in parallel with the Siren Festival event at the Jubilee Hall in August. The installation would consist of a small pop-up marquee and an inflatable whale, together with a display about ocean plastics.
- A number of Cllrs expressed concern about the apparent lack of space available for the installation. However, Cllr Fellowes, who declared a non-pecuniary interest in this request, assured the meeting that directors of Incredible Oceans had measured the area and deemed it suitable. She was very happy, though, for a site meeting to take place with Cllrs and Incredible Oceans to determine if the area was, indeed, suitable.
- Cllr Fox believed the ABA was very enthusiastic about the project, which was an excellent idea for the school holidays.
- In response to a question from Cllr Smith, Cllr Fellowes confirmed that the inflatable could not be climbed by small children and was safe. **Cllrs agreed in principle to the request, subject to a site meeting to determine the suitability of the area.**

The following requests were all approved by a show of hands:

- The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain asked permission to perform a free, pop-up concert of exceptional choral music on the Moot Green on August 13th between 12.00 - 12.30pm

- Under the auspices of the Aldeburgh Carnival Committee, organisers of a petanque competition asked for permission to use the petanque pistes opposite the White Lion for a Carnival fundraising event on August 17th. Additionally, permission was sought for the annual Moules and Boules event on July 20th, with a collection donated to the Aldeburgh United Charities. (Cllr Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest in this request).
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust asked for permission to hold a Wild Beach event close to the Moot Hall on July 26th. A small gazebo would be involved, together with marine-related activities for young people. A small charge would be levied.

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 8.25pm.