

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL
GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd 2019 AT 7.08 PM IN THE AVOCET
ROOM, BRUDENELL HOTEL, ALDEBURGH**

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

Committee members present:

Cllr Blackburn Cllr Digby
Cllr Fox Cllr Harris
Cllr Howard-Dobson Cllr Lewis
Cllr Smith

There was one member of the public present.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Cox, Fellowes, Jones Osben, Palmer and Piers-Hall.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The draft Minutes of the Grants and Requests Committee meeting held on Tuesday August 27th 2019 were approved by a show of hands and duly signed.

3. Grants & Requests:

The Town Clerk told members she had been approached by the Suffolk Craft Society which would be celebrating the 50th anniversary of exhibiting in Aldeburgh next year. The Society believed that a hand-crafted wooden bench, placed in a strategic position in the town, would suitably mark the occasion. The SCS felt that a well-designed, bespoke bench would help combat loneliness and stimulate social well-being among the community - a place where residents and visitors could linger and converse and a place where the stresses and strains of modern life could be put into perspective. The SCS, working in partnership with the mental health charity MIND, was now seeking financial support for the project, the Town Clerk added. Costs for the bench would be between £5,000 and £10,000, depending on the design.

Cllr Digby expressed incredulity at the price of the bench, a view echoed by Cllrs Smith and Webster. Cllr Smith felt that any donation from ATC should not exceed £2,000 while Cllr Webster said it was far too much money. Cllrs felt they needed a lot more information before they could deliberate on this matter.

The Town Clerk pointed out that the cost of the bench was dependent on the design and that the SCS would like to work in partnership with ATC to ensure the project represented good value for money. She praised the thinking behind the idea but mused that most people who sit on a bench overlooking the sea enjoyed quiet contemplation and not necessarily company. She questioned whether a well-designed wooden bench would make people more talkative. She also drew attention to the cost of the benches supplied by ATC - £500 each for a durable, low maintenance piece of street furniture made from recycled materials.

Cllrs deferred a decision on this request for more information.

A request from the Aldeburgh Library Foundation for a donation to help pay for the refurbishment of the Library had been deferred from the previous meeting and Cllrs were now asked to deliberate on a donation. A number of members voiced some concern about the request but Cllr Webster invited the meeting to come to a decision.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** a donation of £1000 to the Aldeburgh Library Foundation to help fund renovation work at Aldeburgh Library was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Smith and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In favour 5

Against 0

Abstentions 3

CARRIED

Cllrs reported on preparations for the annual Bonfire and firework event to be held at King's Field on Sunday November 3.

Cllr Lewis confirmed that wood gathering arrangements were underway; Cllr Webster was organising a site visit from the firework organiser to ensure crowd safety; Cllr Blackburn had secured many prizes for the raffle, including the top prize of a £500 holiday voucher from Suffolk Secrets, and tickets would be sold by Cllrs working on a rota basis outside the High Street Co-op; Cllr Howard-Dobson reported that signs for the event would soon be produced by Leiston Press; Cllr Palmer, in his absence, had been volunteered to produce canes for the candlelit procession escorting the guy.

The Town Clerk urged caution in the wording of the raffle prize tickets. It was essential, she felt, the top prize should be non-transferable to avoid the voucher being offered for sale on social media.

Cllr Fox asked the Committee to consider a change of venue for Remembrance Day events this year. She explained that the traditional venue of the Moot Hall might not be suitable for the civic reception because it would only just be open following extensive refurbishment. At this stage, she commented, we have no firm idea of how much space will be available to accommodate guests to the Remembrance Day reception. She suggested that the Church Hall could be used, it was available. It would be convenient for worshippers leaving the church and could accommodate many more local organisations, she commented. She believed it was essential that the event was as inclusive as possible.

Cllr Harris approved idea but Cllr Digby expressed disappointment that the traditional venue of the Moot Hall could not be used.

The Town Clerk responded by saying that invitations to the event had to be issued shortly and uncertainties about the availability of the Moot Hall meant consideration had to be given to nominating an alternative venue. It would be embarrassing to invite guests to the Moot Hall if, at the last minute, the venue had to be changed, she explained.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** in principle the use of the Church Hall, subject to permission, to host the 2019 Remembrance Day reception was **APPROVED** by a show of hands.

In favour 7

Against 1

Abstentions 0

CARRIED

There was nothing further to discuss and the meeting ended at 7.37pm.

