

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

Present: Cllr Fox - The Mayor, took the Chair

Cllr Blackburn	Cllr Cox
Cllr Digby	Cllr Fellowes
Cllr Harris	Cllr Howard-Dobson
Cllr Jones	Cllr Lewis
Cllr Osben	Cllr Palmer
Cllr Piers-Hall	Cllr Smith
Cllr Webster	

Cllrs Russ Rainger (SCC) and J. Bond (ESC) were present.

Four members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Apologies: Cllrs T.J.Howarth-Culf and Cooper (ESC)

2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 10th 2019.

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 10th 2019 were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

4. SCC report and Correspondence

Cllr Rainger spoke of two infrastructure projects causing concern to residents of the immediate area. He encouraged the Town Council to participate in the new Stage Four consultation launched by EDF Energy and reported on a recent public meeting organised by Therese Coffey MP to discuss issues relating to Scottish Power Renewables plans for Thorpeness and Friston. He also drew attention to a drop-in session hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner on July 18 where concerns about local policing could be raised. He invited applicants for the Suffolk County Council Skills for the Future initiative and reported on an SCC access strategy for public rights of way. He praised the work of the ATC Services Committee Working Group, saying that a fruitful relationship was now developing between the Town Council and SCC Highways.

Cllr Palmer, Chair of ATC Services Committee, quizzed Cllr Rainger about the number of corroding signs throughout the town, an issue also highlighted by Cllr Cox. Cllr Rainger assured members that Highways would investigate.

The Town Clerk reported that following a perambulatory reconnaissance with a representative of Norse, she believed progress was being made on a care and maintenance programme for Crag Path.

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

5. ESC Report and Correspondence

In the absence of Cllrs T.J.Howarth-Culf and Cooper, Cllr Bond briefed the meeting on a number of issues:

- The East Suffolk Business and Community Awards entries were now open.
- The swimming pool at Leiston Leisure Centre had re-opened on June 17 with work to complete Phase Two well under way.
- The Suffolk Community Award scheme had been launched.
- A national initiative to encourage participating businesses to refill water bottles to avoid unnecessary plastic waste was now up and running in Suffolk.

In an additional report, Cllr Bond confirmed that three potential routes had been identified for an Ipswich Northern Route to relieve traffic congestion in Ipswich and the surrounding area. Consultations run to September 13, she said.

She also updated the Meeting on developments involving EDF Energy and Scottish Power Renewables (SPR).

East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council would be jointly hosting an engagement event for local councils to discuss EDF Energy's recently-announced Stage 4 Consultation, she announced. SPR had circulated a video detailing some changes to its plans for EA1N and EA2, she told the meeting. She believed the changes were minimal and that the project was still inappropriate in its present form

(See Appendix 1 for Additional Report)

6. Police Report

There was no police report, but the Town Clerk reminded Cllrs of the Police and Crime Commissioner's drop-in session on July 18 at Leiston Community Centre.

7. Public Forum

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum.

A resident gave an impassioned address on the effects of climate change on Aldeburgh and called for local measures to minimise its impact. In a wide-ranging and lengthy declamation, he spoke of the need to reduce litter on the streets of his town, including the removal of open-topped rubbish bins to deter seagulls. He denounced recently-erected anti-litter signs, which he described as tacky. He also demanded the introduction of recycling bins on his High Street and called for a cessation of verge-cutting operations to encourage wildlife. A community response was needed, he believed, to compel holiday letting companies to adopt green policies and suggested action should be taken to reduce the speed of traffic in his town to reduce pollution. It was essential, he felt, the town had sound green credentials and asked what steps ATC would take to address these concerns.

Responding, Cllr Fox assured the resident there was a high level of communication between the Town Council and those local authorities responsible for maintaining the appearance of the town. She commended the work of Cllr Palmer, who had been assiduous in the task of introducing seagull-proof rubbish bins. She believed the problem, in this case, was being created by shop workers who were mixing organic and non-organic waste in rubbish bags which were then left outside premises all night. Further attempts were being made to address collection times, she added. She refuted local criticism of the Town Council for allowing grass verges to be cut. ATC was not responsible for verge-cutting operations on land it did not own, she declared. If residents in the town felt strongly about this issue, they should contact the appropriate authorities - Suffolk County Council Highways and East Suffolk Council. It was the responsibility of all residents of Aldeburgh to help ATC by tackling those bodies charged with grass-cutting duties. She pointed out that road safety issues played a part in some verge-cutting but did, however, agree that some cutting operations appeared to be indiscriminate.

Cllr Fellowes encouraged fellow Cllrs to be more environmentally- conscious when adopting new policies and awarding contracts and Cllr Osben suggested a map should be drawn-up with the relevant authorities to indicate which grass verges should be cut and when.

Cllr Palmer believed the tardiness of Norse had exacerbated the problem this year. In an attempt to save money, verge-cutting had been delayed until the grass was inordinately long. He rejected the

suggestion of recycling bins on the High Street, pointing out that ATC had embarked on an expensive programme to replace all the open-topped bins in the town with seagull-proof receptacles.

The resident interceded to suggest that if the problem of trade waste litter was being created by shop workers, the owners of the retail premises concerned should be liable for fines for not properly disposing of rubbish.

Cllr Smith invited the resident to suggest solutions to the problems he had highlighted.

The resident believed it was important to identify those people responsible for actions which would impact on the town. Everything needed to be agreed at a local level, with a strict schedule of work, he felt. He did, however, praise the planting at the War Memorial - work undertaken regularly by Norse.

The resident, with others, then swiftly left the meeting.

The Mayor reinstated Standing Orders.

8 COMMITTEES REPORTS:

8a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones advised the meeting there was a revised specification relating to the planned drainage works at King's Field. A better understanding of the water table level had resulted in this reappraisal, she commented, but assured Cllrs that the project was still within budget. Sports Aid England had approved the revised specification and its nominated contractor, Total Turf Care, would start work on August 21st 2019. The contractors would be responsible for maintenance for 12 months following completion of the project.

Cllr Jones gave notice that she would be asking the next meeting of the Property and Finance Committee to approve expenditure to extend fencing close to the children's play area at King's Field to address the concerns of a local resident.

She reported that registration forms for the ATC Sports Week had been deposited at the Primary School and the Library, the completed document to be returned to either venue. She again called for volunteers to help out during the week-long activities.

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer told the meeting that EDF Energy had announced a Stage 4 consultation in respect of transport, ecological and environmental issues relating to the development of Sizewell C. The consultation would run from July 18 to September 27.

Cllr Fellowes believed the ATC Working Group on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects should be reconvened to consider the Town Council's response to this important matter. She regretted the timing of the consultation period, over much of the summer holidays, but thought this could provide an opportunity for the opinions of holidaymakers to be sought. She was disappointed that EDF Energy's programme of public exhibitions did not include Aldeburgh but noted that Planning Aid England were available to guide ATC's response.

The Town Clerk urged all Cllrs to attend at least one of the EDF Energy's exhibitions to enable them to have an informed dialogue with members of the local community.

Cllr Bond drew attention to an event organised jointly by SCC and ESC on Friday July 26 to which local councils, statutory consultees and key technical officers would be invited to discuss the latest EDF Energy proposals.

Cllr Bond commented on an update from Scottish Power Renewables highlighting minor changes to its proposals for the EA1N and EA2 projects. She observed that SPR now seemed to have reduced its reliance of the roundabout in Aldeburgh as a means of accessing Thorpeness by utilising a haul road. The Town Clerk remained sceptical about this proposal and further clarification was required from SPR.

Cllr Palmer reported on the quarterly meeting of the Services Committee Working Group and SCC Highways which had discussed speeding, parking, grass cutting, street lighting, flooding at King

Street and pothole repairs. He added that he would be discussing with Norse the supply of the next tranche of new litter bins and also operational issues relating to the collection of trade waste on the High Street.

8c. PLANNING

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning

Cllr Webster reported on planning applications at Church Farm Rise and Bittern Close. He confirmed that ATC had submitted a response to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of 48 High Street, an application not supported by the Town Council and rejected by ESC.

8cii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE that ATC Planning Committee continues to meet as customary during the daytime on a regular basis and to review this arrangement in six months time was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In favour 12
Against 2
Abstentions 0
CARRIED

8ciii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE that all Cllrs will receive planning application details for discussion and comment prior to Council or Committee meetings was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour 14
Against 0
Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8civ) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the appointment of Cllr Webster as Chair of the Planning Committee was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 12
Against 0
Abstentions 2
CARRIED

8cv) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the appointment of Cllr Jones as Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

In favour 12
Against 0
Abstentions 2
CARRIED

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS

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

Interim chairman Cllr Webster, reported that the Incredible Oceans organisation had asked for permission to install an inflatable whale on the grassed area close to the yacht pond at Moot Green. Also involved in the exposition would be a horse box, used as a mobile exhibition, and a small gazebo. With a Town Council officer, Cllr Webster had met the organiser of the event at the location and was now happy to assure Cllrs that the area concerned was large enough to safely accommodate all the exhibits.

8dii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE a donation of £150 to meet author expenses incurred in the Summer Reading Challenge at the Library was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster.

In favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Cllr Osben, manager of Aldeburgh Library, declared a non-pecuniary interest in Resolution 8dii)

9. Representatives' Reports.

- Cllr Palmer attended meetings of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership; with Therese Coffey MP to discuss SPR proposals and a Sizewell C Community Forum, which focused on the EDF Energy Stage 4 Consultation running from July 18 to September 27.
- Cllr Howard-Dobson attended meetings of the Museum Trustees and the Museum Project Board and a conference call with the architect of the Museum Redevelopment project.
- Cllr Blackburn reported on the AGM of the Sandlings Cycling, where concern was expressed about speeding vehicles between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.
- Cllr Smith attended a recent Aldeburgh Business Association (ABA) meeting and reported that the ABA had adopted a new logo and would be relaunching its website on July 28.
- Cllr Cox was pleased to announce that the ABA was now stepping up activity relating to Christmas celebrations in the town, scheduled for December 7. With the Town Clerk, he would be attending the quarterly Police meeting in Leiston on July 19 and invited council members to contact him if they had issues that needed to be raised.
- Cllr Jones attended a committee meeting of the Aldeburgh Society, where there had been considerable discussion about Sizewell and Scottish Power proposals. The AS had been present at the meeting with Therese Coffey and would be in contact with campaign groups. Representatives of the AS would be attending the September Council Meeting to present a report following their town survey.
- Cllr Harris attended a meeting of the Museum Trustees.

10. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk told the meeting that paperwork relating to the External Audit had been submitted, with a final report due at the end of September.

She lamented the lack of an old-fashioned clerk of works to oversee the redevelopment of the Moot Hall. With considerable assistance from Cllrs Fox and Cox, she had, with some reluctance, assumed a supervisory role in matters pertaining to plumbing, carpentry and decoration. She expected more challenges lay ahead.

She advised Cllrs that she would be updating them on all legal matters, including lease revisions, as soon as the information was available.

The Town Clerk drew attention to an item on BBC News, featuring Joan Girling, a veteran campaigner against developments at the Sizewell nuclear site. A link to the feature would be circulated to all Cllrs. The Town Clerk expressed disappointment that the resident who had bemoaned the town's lack of green credentials had left the meeting earlier and would, therefore, be unaware of her thoughts on his observations. Addressing the problem of trade waste littering the High Street, she explained that, since Easter, Norse had twice written to all businesses appealing for their help in keeping the town tidy. She supported Cllr Palmer's view that staff in retail premises were poorly-trained where environmental matters were concerned and believed more education was required to discourage shop workers from mixing organic and non-organic waste. She also pointed out the difficulties involved in identifying the correct grass-cutting contractors. Some grassed areas in the town were the responsibility of SCC, she explained, and some came under the auspices of ESC, via Norse. Confusion arose when SCC Highways contracted out some of their work to Norse. A layman would have little chance of finding accurate information about those responsible for grass-cutting, she commented. All cutting was done by rote, she added, and it would take an enormous effort to change the mentality and culture of the relevant authorities.

11. Mayor's Notes.

Cllr Fox represented ATC at the Eye Civic Service where she met with other Mayors. It was an excellent occasion, she commented, an opportunity to meet at grass root level representatives from surrounding towns. She explained that Cllr Webster had attended the Felixstowe Civic Service and the British Armed Forces Day in Ipswich on her behalf. She thanked Cllr Webster for his continuing support.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors

There was nothing to report

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

All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**, including an additional item totalling £180 in respect of junior tennis expenses

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

In Favour 14

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on Monday August 2019 at 7.00 pm. Venue to be announced.

Appendix 1 - ESC Additional report

EDF – Sizewell C brief update taken from the newsletter 5th July, on behalf of the Sizewell C Joint Local Authorities Group, sent on behalf of Cllr Richard Smith MVO and Cllr Craig Rivett, a copy of which your Clerk will have received.

As you will be aware, EDF Energy announced a further round of consultation on specific matters. This Stage 4 consultation will currently take place from 18 July to 27 September 2019. Details on the public events to be held by EDF Energy are available at www.sizewellc.co.uk.

East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council will be holding an invitation only engagement event with Town and Parish Councils; this one, on the morning of Friday 26 July 2019 (venue to be announced). It will be open for up to two members of each Town or Parish Council to attend along with statutory consultees, local councillors and key technical officers.

The two Councils are keen to engage throughout the Stage 4 public consultation and would ask that you copy us into any consultation responses / correspondence you send to EDF Energy via our project email address sizewellc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk . Up to date information and web-links will be found on our web pages at

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/sizewell-nuclear-power-station.

The Sizewell C Community Forum held on Wednesday 3rd July at the Sizewell Sports & Social Club was also well attended, EDF stressed that they were not compelled to hold this 4th stage of consultation.

SPR has provided an update on the very minor changes they are proposing to the EA1N and EA2 projects. They have set out the amendments on their website [Developing our Plans](#) and provided a video. The website details some changes which includes the following:

- Updating outline mitigation plan in relation to Friston
- Removal of the access point to the landfall of Thorpeness Road (B1353), all traffic will now access the landfall via the haul from and access off Sizewell Gap Road. This reduces the traffic using the roundabout in Aldeburgh
- Refinement of the cable corridor and reduction in size on construction compounds
- Slight reduction in the offshore spread of EA.

These alterations do not change East Suffolk's view that the project is entirely inappropriate on 28th June at the Sizewell Sports & Social Club was as I'm sure you have heard, well attended; below is a summary of what has happened since the Phase 4 Consultation in March:

SCOTTISH POWER RENEWABLES – EA1N AND EA2 ACTIONS SINCE STAGE 4 CONSULTATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Our Position at Stage 4

The last SPR consultation finished in March. The Cabinets of both SCC and SCDC considered the proposals and agreed a joint set of resolutions. These included:

Continued to support the principle of offshore wind. However, in this case:

- Objected to the significant effects of EA2 on seascape, coastal landscape and the character and qualities of the AONB. Also concern about EA1N;
- Objected to the impact of the onshore sub-stations on the village and environs of Friston;
- Sought further information on a wide range of other potential impacts of the schemes;
- Pushed for careful consideration of the cumulative impact of these schemes with the others taking place in the area;
- As a statutory consultee, agreed to work with SPR to mitigate or compensate for the impact of the schemes in the event that they do go ahead;
- Lobby Government to develop a more strategic view on future offshore windfarm projects and interconnectors and raise concern about the whole way that National Grid identifies its connection points

Actions since Stage 4

We have been pursuing SPR on the key issues we raised at Stage 4, in particular the question of the objections we have made in respect of the offshore wind impact and the impact on Friston;

- We have been testing and pressurising SPR on their further work to seek to mitigate
- the impacts of their schemes, such as the transport routes, and the landscaping proposals around the sub-stations;
- We have been negotiating with SPR on the compensation that they should make available where direct mitigation is not possible, using examples in Dorset and North Wales;
- We have proposed to SPR that they should provide a community benefit package to acknowledge the impact that they have on communities and the environment;
- We have been seeking further information from NG about why they agreed to the Leiston/Sizewell area for a connection point in the light of the clear environmental consequences – little success with original contacts, letter to chairman prompted invitation to meet now being pursued
- We have been lobbying central Government (BEIS) to seek to ensure that there is a joined-up approach to any new connections to the Grid, thereby reducing both cost and environmental impact; recent letter from Claire Perry's office inviting contact with specific officers to consider ideas raised
- We have pulled together other potential energy project developers in this area to ensure that the cumulative impacts are properly understood;
- We have been liaising with other consultees to make common cause, where we can;
- Through our councillors we have continued to keep in touch with local communities to seek to understand their concerns.

Next Steps

We will continue all of the actions above, both before the submission of the Development Consent Order and through any examination.

SPR intends to submit its draft Development Consent Orders to the Planning Inspectorate in October 2019. These will cover the offshore turbines, the cable route, including landfall and route overland, and the sub-stations (their own and National Grid's).

There follows a period (a month) where the Planning Inspectorate checks that it has all of the appropriate data. After this, there will then be a statutory consultation where all parties,

including local authorities and residents, can submit representations on the proposals. PINS will then receive all of these representations.

The examination process starts with the appointment of a Panel (“the Examining Authority”) and the holding of a Preliminary Meeting. The Panel will look at all of the representations it has received and will consider what issues need to be tested further, so it holds hearings where it addresses key issues.

The Panel has six months from the date of the Preliminary Meeting in which to undertake the examination. It then has three months to write its report with recommendations to the Secretary of State (in this case for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy), who himself has three months to take a final decision. So this will be around winter 2020/2021.

This though is not the end of the story. If the Development Consent Order is granted, a lot of the material will still be in outline form and the detail will subsequently have to be signed off by the planning authority (in this case East Suffolk Council). There may therefore be the potential to influence some specific details of the projects further, post consent. **SCC/ESC**

June 2019

A reminder of the events organised regarding the **management of the coastline at Thorpeness**. Community drop-in meetings are arranged for the 9th and 10th August at the Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club, the current potential options and a questionnaire to complete are available at www.coasteast.org.uk. The opportunity to be involved runs between 31st July and 30th September.

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