

**MINUTES OF THE ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 JUNE 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 Osben	Cllr Palmer
Cllr Piers-Hall	Cllr Smith
Cllr Webster	

Cllrs T.J.Haworth-Culf and Bond (ESC) were present.

Two members of the public were also in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Russ Rainger (SCC), Cllr Cooper (ESC) and Cllrs Jones and Lewis (ATC).
  
2. **Councillors' Declaration of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest.
  
3. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 13 May 2019.**  
The draft minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 were approved unanimously by a show of hands.
  
4. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 28 May 2019.**  
The draft minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 were approved unanimously by a show of hands.
  
5. **SCC report and Correspondence**  
Cllr Rainger's report in full can be found at <https://russrainger.wordpress.com/>
  
6. **ESC Report and Correspondence**  
Cllr Howarth-Culf told the meeting that the planning arrangements for the Aldeburgh and Leiston ward had substantially changed following the inception of East Suffolk Council. Previously, she said, planning applications for the Aldeburgh area were considered by officers based at Melton but now, they would be overseen by officers in the North of the County, based in Lowestoft. Cllr Howarth-Culf felt there was concern that planning applications for the Aldeburgh and Leiston ward would be considered by officers and District Councillors with very little background knowledge of the area. It was valuable, she believed, that Cllr Bond, one of the three newly-elected District Councillors for the Aldeburgh area, was a member of the Planning Committee. Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects would be unaffected by this change, she commented.

Cllr Howarth-Culf announced that Phase One of the Leiston Leisure Centre refurbishment project would be complete by June 17 when the poolside zone would be open to the public. She congratulated Aldeburgh on, yet again, featuring in the Best Seaside Towns Award, an accolade warmly welcomed by Cllr Digby.

The Enabling Communities Budget had now been set for 2019-20 and she encouraged all organisations to apply for funds for community-based projects.

Cllr Fellowes expressed deep unease about the new planning arrangements, believing that Aldeburgh should remain within the southern sector. It was symptomatic of the re-organised planning authorities that ATC had not received an invitation to the important World of Planning event, she commented. Cllr Palmer agreed, questioning the local knowledge of planning officers unfamiliar with the town.

Full ESC report: **See Appendix 1**

**7. Police Report**

There was no police report.

**8. 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.**

**9 COMMITTEES REPORTS:**

**9a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**9ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee**

In the absence of Cllr Jones, Cllr Cox told the committee that yet more remedial work had just been carried out to repair potholes on the approach road to King's Field, outside the Community Centre. He now believed it was time for a fundamental reappraisal of this problem. He invited Cllrs to consider a bold plan to resurface the roadway, extend the King's Field car park and then mark it out with clearly-defined bays. He pointed out that large vehicles from East Suffolk Council and Anglian Water regularly use the car park and should be invited to share the cost of the project. Cllr Cox suggested using land behind the Groundsman's Cottage as an overflow car park during the summer months to relieve pressure at King's Field.

Cllrs agreed that the parking situation at King's Field was, at times, chaotic and needed to be improved. Cllr Digby pointed out that more and more people were using the area, attracted by Mint Fitness, the children's playground and the Rugby Club. He agreed with Cllr Cox that, at the moment, ATC was wasting money filling in potholes. We now need to do the job properly, he commented. Cllr Howard-Dobson commented on the parking habits of a few Mint Fitness clients, who regularly blocked the access to the Museum office in the Groundsman's Cottage.

Cllr Cox, with Cllr Jones, had met with Total Turf Solutions to finalise arrangements for the proposed drainage work at King's Field. The project, funded by a grant from Sport England, was due to start in late-Summer after the Carnival celebrations.

**9aii) RESOLUTION** to undertake necessary works enabling the Rugby Field (formerly known as the School Field) to be renamed as Queen's Field was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

**In favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9aiii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the installation of fencing to improve security and access around the Rugby Field was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Cox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

**In favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9b. SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**9bi) Report from Chairman of Services**

Cllr Palmer told the Meeting that following speed surveys on Leiston and Saxmundham roads, data had emerged which revealed there was a significant speeding problem on both roads. Vehicles entering and leaving the town were exceeding the speed limit on a regular basis. This was an issue which would be discussed by the Services Working Group, but he warned that a few measures might have to be taken to resolve the problem and these were bound to be costly.

The quarterly meeting with representatives from Suffolk Highways would take place on July 4, Cllr Palmer announced. He regarded these meetings as very valuable and fruitful.

A question about drop-kerb access to a parking bay for the disabled close to the Plantation was referred to Flagship Housing.

Cllr Palmer believed it was now time to organise a street scene survey to enable the compilation of a database of the street furniture and its condition. He reminded Cllrs that one or two metal signs had fallen down because of corrosion which, he felt, posed a potential risk to the public. Cllr Smith pointed out that the Aldeburgh Society had already completed a survey.

**9c. PLANNING**

**9ci) Report from Chairman of Planning**

Cllrs considered two planning applications (DC/19/20888/FUL and DC/19/1448/FUL) and were invited by the Town Clerk to respond to her with any observations.

She asked the meeting to ratify a response to DC/19/1637/FUL, relating to the proposed relocation of some facilities at Sizewell B, which had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. The meeting supported the response which will be submitted to ESC by the Town Clerk.

She also confirmed that retrospective planning permission for a swimming pool at the Sundial had been granted.

**9d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS**

**9di) Report from Chairman of Grants, Requests and Events Committee**

The chairman had nothing to report.

**9dii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE** a donation of £300 to Jubilee Opera in respect of a newly-commissioned work involving Aldeburgh children was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

**In favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**9diii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE** a donation of £350 to the East Anglia's Children's Hospices to support their work in the region was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Webster and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

**In favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10. Representatives' Reports.**

- Cllr Palmer attended a meeting of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership; and a meeting of the Sizewell Stakeholders Group which discussed the plan by EDF Energy to relocate facilities at

Sizewell B to make room for the proposed development of Sizewell C. There was much opposition to this idea, commented Cllr Palmer.

- Cllr Fellowes reported on a meeting of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils at which planning training proposals for the whole of East Suffolk were discussed. The recent merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils had materially altered the planning structure across east Suffolk and it was now deemed important for all town and parish councils to agree on common themes, she said.
- Cllr Howard-Dobson, curator of Aldeburgh Museum, reported on meetings with graphic and audio-visual specialists and the furniture designer relating to the Museum Redevelopment Project.
- Cllr Cox attended a meeting of the Museum Project Board.
- Cllr Harris met with other members of the Aldeburgh Museum Trustees and chaired a meeting of the Aldeburgh United Charities, who had agreed to appoint a new treasurer to succeed Jan Cox.

## 11. Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the progress of the Museum Redevelopment Project at the Moot Hall. Work had stalled because a meeting between the architect and the Conservation Officer had been delayed. The main contractor had been reluctant to proceed with too much work until the required confirmation had been received from the architect. She told Cllrs that contractors tasked with removing asbestos from the Town Clerk's office had also removed all means of communication between staff, Cllrs and members of the public. Telephone and broadband lines had been inadvertently unplugged for the duration of the 48-hour operation. Telephone lines had now been diverted but Cllrs were advised to use emails to contact the Town Clerk and her staff for the foreseeable future.

She outlined a schedule of museum-related activities which would occupy a lot of her time in the forthcoming week – the mayoral regalia was being photographed in 3D to enable replicas to be fashioned. She would be attending the rearranged meeting with the architect and the Conservation Officer, floors in the Council Chamber were due to be sanded and contractors would be producing samples of flooring for other areas. She appeared underwhelmed by the suggested colour scheme for the walls, which seemed, she said, to be fifty shades of magnolia.

She did advise Cllrs that disruption to the normal smooth working of her office could extend over a period of several weeks and asked for patience and understanding.

She praised her staff for fully-embracing the opportunity of working within the community at ATC's temporary home in the Library on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

She told Cllrs she had received briefing notes from a World of Planning symposium attended by Cllr Osben, but expressed frustration that ATC had not been officially invited to the event. ATC was alerted to the conference by Cllr Fellowes, who had attended a meeting of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC). This was an unsatisfactory situation, declared the Town Clerk.

She completed her report by advising Cllrs that the Bandstand on the Beach was now providing lunchtime entertainment during the Aldeburgh Festival; that a response would need to be submitted soon in respect of the Church Farm Holiday Park planning appeal; that further work to improve the road surfaces in the King Street area would start imminently and that she would be meeting with the new Chief Executive Officer of SALC who, the Town Clerk believed, wanted to engage more with the larger towns in Suffolk.

**11a) RESOLUTION to APPROVE** the Annual Governance Statement for the year Ended March 2019 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

**In favour 12**  
**Against 0**  
**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11a) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the Annual Return for the Year Ended March 2019 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cox.

**In favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11a) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of the Internal Auditor was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

**In favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**12. Mayor's Notes.**

Cllr Fox, a Museum Trustee and member of the Museum redevelopment Project Board, explained that much of her time and energy was being devoted to the museum restoration work. It was essential, she believed, that a close eye was kept on the project as it progressed.

She praised the support she had been receiving from the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Webster, who was attending functions on her behalf for the time being.

**13. Correspondence**

Aldeburgh WI wrote to request that information about its meetings could appear on the ATC website. The Town Clerk said this would be done as soon as practicable.

**14. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors**

Cllr Digby accepted hospitality at the Hospital Sensory Garden party, the launch of the HighTide theatre programme and the Aldeburgh Cinema 100 party.

A number of Cllrs attended the HighTide launch party and Cllr Fellowes, in a private capacity, was present at the Aldeburgh Cinema 100 celebration. All Cllrs present at the Annual Meeting on May 13 2019 attended a small reception at the Wentworth Hotel.

**15. Items to pay – details had been previously circulated to Cllrs.**

All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**  
**PROPOSED** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

**In Favour 12**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.03pm.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.00 pm. Venue to be announced.**