

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON
MONDAY 12th OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.00 pm**

Present: Cllr Fox – The Mayor took the Chair.

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

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Bond and Cooper (ESC); and Cllrs Digby and Palmer.
- 2. Councillors' Declaration of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 3. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 September 2020:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th September 2020 were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

- 4. SCC report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Rainger announced that SCC have £300,000 available for electric parking points around the County. He suggested the ATC Services Committee might look at exploring this funding to provide an extra green service for the town.

Cllr Rainger also pointed out that SCC is rolling out an adaptive street lighting programme across the County, which could prove useful in Aldeburgh. When the new, low-energy road lights are fitted they can contain additional fixtures, such as a gritting device which will tell when the road needs gritting.

Cllr Rainger also pointed out that SCC had again objected to the Sizewell C development, saying that there were far too many questions which still need answering. In respect of Scottish Power Renewables, he congratulated the efforts made by everybody in putting across to the Planning Inspector just how disruptive the plans were going to be.

He reminded the meeting that funds were still available through the Community Partnership arrangement and that Town and Parish Councils should become involved in submitting requests for funding. The Town Clerk agreed, saying that she understood Aldeburgh had not been represented at the last two meetings, but it was something she and Cllr Haworth-Culf had discussed as a matter of urgency.

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

5. ESC Report and Correspondence:

Cllr Haworth-Culf spoke of the two NSIP hearings and congratulated everybody who contributed to the evidence.

She reminded those people who have not filled in their voter registration form to complete it and she thanked Cllr Digby for his assistance in trying sort out the car parking arrangements at Thorpe Road. (See Appendix One for full report.)

6. Police Report:

There was no Police Report this month.

7. Public Forum:

Cllr Fox suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum.

No members of the public were in attendance and so the Mayor reinstated Standing Orders.

8. COMMITTEES REPORTS:

8a. PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee

Cllr Jones told the Council Meeting that somebody had been tampering with the temporary football net and it had been agreed to take it down. Cllr Lewis had written to both the allotment holders; whose plots are adjacent to the pitch to agree measures enabling footballs to be retrieved easily.

With Cllrs Digby and Pier-Hall, she had met with three contractors regarding the extension and resurfacing of the car park at King's Field. The car park is heavily used and further talks about the options and a cost-viable plan will be brought to the Council early next year.

Cllr Jones is also waiting for a contractor to supply a quotation for urgently needed work to the narrow path next to the tennis and bowls club. Two thousand bulbs have been ordered for the area and will be planted as a Community exercise on 24 October. Cllr Blackburn has produced a poster for the event and will be attending.

Cllr Jones is seeking further clarification in respect of the notices which had appeared on the river wall. She also assured Cllr Rainger that she was chasing the officer responsible for the third footbridge which is in a poor state of repair.

She also confirmed that she has contacted the preferred builder about repairs to water damage to the Moot Hall.

Cllr Jones told the meeting that the bracken at Kemp's Field had been rolled and the area was looking more satisfactory. Now would be the time to weed kill spray the area

to assess what work will start in the Spring.

The Town Clerk is working on the current year to date income and expenditure which will enable the preparation of an initial budget for the coming year. She emphasised the need for all budget items to be in place and called on the Council to submit ideas. This will be discussed in more detail at November's Committee meeting.

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE:

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Lewis reported that it had been agreed to hold a meeting of the Services working group to progress several projects, including parking and speed reduction. He invited Cllr Fellowes to update Cllrs on the current situation relating to the various energy projects.

NSIPs

SPR

At the Preliminary Meeting hearings (PM) of the DCO (part 1 on the 16th September and part 2 on 7th October) the Panel heard from individuals, organisations (representatives from SASES and SEAS and local Councils (Suffolk County, East Suffolk District and Aldeburgh Town Council) about the process and timetable of the Examination phase of the DCO. Despite requests to delay the Examination start, until after a review which is currently going on with BEIS (the Government department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) or due to Covid-19 restrictions and the additional pressures and constraints this has put on individuals and organisations/ Councils - the Panel decided to start the six-month Examination on 8th October.

As well as sending in Relevant Representations people and organisations could request to speak and the first stage of the Examination which is called Open Floor Hearings (OPH). Over three days (8th to 10th October) 50 individuals, representatives of organisations and local councils - out of 140 who had asked to speak were selected to do so. Everyone made excellent presentations and were of the same view that the harm of these projects outweighs the benefits. There were also several new specific points that were expressed which the Panel said was very helpful. Due to Covid-19 restrictions all these Hearings were held 'virtually' and as well as being able to watch these live streamed at the time - you can watch a recording of these Hearings though a link on the PINS website.

Cllr Fellowes then provided a summary of the next steps in the process;

1. The Examining Authority Panel invited anyone to send in responses to the written Relevant Representations on their website and the Open Floor Hearings.
2. The Panel also asked that everyone sends in suggestions of where they should visit during their Site Inspections so details of the views, paths, roads and junctions etc to

illustrate concerns, what is valued and what residents want to protect. This could also include photographs.

3. You can also request to speak at further OFHs in January 2020. The Inspectors said they would also make additional provision for individuals who were unable to take part due to digital exclusion or difficulties using the virtual format if they are asked to do so. (This cannot be just if you prefer not to speak virtually, but if you do not have the IT or a stable internet connection, or anything that prevents you from contributing virtually). This is crucially important as it will be the last time the Inspectorate can hear verbally from individuals or organisations. So please request this now, even if again you use your time (5mins) to agree with others or add weight to what has previously been said. There is time between now and then to plan or get assistance with your verbal presentation, or if you are a representative of an organisation to gain their support to do so officially.

4. You can also request to speak at the Issue Specific Hearings during week of 30th November. They will discuss and examine the specific issues of harm which have been identified through the written Relevant Representations and virtual verbal Hearings so far. The Inspectors confirmed that National Grid has been invited to attend these which is the first time they have engaged visibly with these matters although it is their offer to SPR to connect to the Grid at Friston which is driving this, and it is NG who want to create a huge industrialised energy hub here.

Cllr Fellowes commented that this process would be repeated for the Sizewell C application.

Cllr Jones suggested that because of the huge agenda on the Services Committee, it would be logical to incorporate priorities into the broader Project Plan. This has been updated recently and it would be useful for everybody to recognise ATC's areas of focus during the next year. The Town Clerk agreed, explaining that she had written to Cllrs Palmer and Lewis asking them to confirm strategic priorities that could be shared before the next Committee's meeting.

RESOLUTION to approve the purchase of a new weather-resistant cabinet for the defibrillator outside the Brudenell Hotel was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster.

In favour **11**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8c. PLANNING:

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning:

Cllr Webster reported that there were only three applications which had not yet been seen by the Committee – a tree pollarding, a listed building consent and a new application. These will be circulated shortly for a decision by the Committee.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS:

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

Cllr Webster thanked Cllr Palmer and the Town Clerk for their efforts surrounding Remembrance Sunday preparations. A diagram of the area, accompanied by a risk assessment had been produced and advice had been sought from ESC's Safety Advisory Group. Commemorations this year will be focussed on activity at the War Memorial due to the necessary COVID – 19 restrictions.

Cllr Fellowes wondered if the Parish Church would video its performance for use by the many parishioners who could not attend, which the Town Clerk agree to follow-up with the Vicar.

9. Representatives' Reports:

- Cllr Lewis updated Cllrs about the allotments and, with the exception of one, they seem satisfactory.
- Cllr Jones chaired a meeting at the Community Centre where the new working arrangements due to COVID – 19 legislation was discussed. She was pleased to report that the centre was proving popular with customers; partly due to the introduction of a new projector, the return of football to King's Field and a new agreement with Greene King offering a revised product range.
- Cllr Fellowes participated remotely in a range of NSIP meetings; including the SPR preliminary hearings; the High Court Appeal where the judge ruled in favour of the relocation of Sizewell B infrastructure which meant that the demolition of Coronation Wood could begin. She also attended a remote SALC meeting which dealt with, among other things, changes to the planning regulations.
- Cllr Harris reported on his work with Aldeburgh United Charities, where the recently collected funds had come from all over the UK.
- Cllr Howard-Dobson had received an update about the use of the Jubilee Hall at Christmas and New Year. The organisers were keen to keep it open to boost funds, so long as activities were not impeded by COVID – 19 restrictions.
- Cllr Webster attended the meeting at the Community Centre.
- Cllr Piers-Hall attended the meeting at the Community Centre and was working with Cllr Lewis to address issues on the allotments.

10. The Town Clerk:

The Town Clerk was being encouraged to hold low-key Remembrance Sunday commemorations, urging members of the public to 'remember at home.' EHOs at East Suffolk Council and the SCC will keep close eye on these events and may well stop them if the county figures are too high. Cllr Palmer did an excellent job in compiling the risk assessment and these factors will be considered by ESC's SAG and the police. The Town Clerk contacted The Rev Mark Lowther and after a long conversation, a short service at the War Memorial has been agreed. The Officer Commanding 653 Squadron will be in attendance. The Moot Green area will be barricaded off and there will marshals in place to direct people. The Town Clerk

hoped there would be room for all members of Council but apologised for asking spouses/partners to not attend this year. Streaming of the Service was an option and the Town Clerk was examining ways this could work. In reply to a question from Cllr Fellowes, barricades might be borrowed from Aldeburgh Carnival and the stewards will probably come from Ipswich Town football club.

At the next meeting of the Council, the Town Clerk reminded Cllrs that a new Mayor would be elected. Nominations for both Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be submitted in advance of the next meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she was now finalising the details of a six-month income and expenditure report as part of the budget preparations. She explained that she had now received the report from the external auditor relating to the accounts for 2019/20. The findings should be signed off at the next Council Meeting.

ESC is pursuing the Smart Town's project with Aldeburgh, which will receive a free wi-fi service in the town next year.

The Town Clerk is keen to register with the Quiet Lanes project which she believes could play an important role in Aldeburgh.

11. Mayor's Notes:

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk will meet with Lady Howes, DL, representatives from the Rugby Club and Trustees of the Playing School Field for a short informal ceremony unveiling the name change of the land to Queen's Field.

12. Correspondence:

A letter had been received from a resident concerned about the lack of social distancing from pedestrians using Crag Path. The Council noted its response.

13. Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors:

There was nothing to report.

14. Items to Pay:

Details had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. All payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In Favour **11**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.40pm.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held remotely on
Monday November 9th 2020 at 7.00 pm**

