

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON
MONDAY FEBRUARY 8th 2021 AT 7.00 pm**

Present: Cllr Webster – The Mayor took the Chair.

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

1. Apologies: Cllr 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 11 January 2021:

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 11 January 2021 were **approved UNANIMOUSLY by a show of hands.**

4. SCC report and Correspondence:

Cllr Rainger congratulated the Suffolk County Fire and Rescue service for the way it has dealt with Covid regulations. It is one of few Fire services in the country which is organised by the County and it delivers an effective use of its time and resources.

The key stages in the Network Operations Assessment involving the National Grid should be noted, particularly the pages relating to NG sites involving Suffolk.

County Council elections will take place on 6 May 2021, with a period of purdah beginning on 25 March. More details will follow shortly.

Cllr Osben wanted to know how a speeding snow gritter could be tracked and was told by Cllr Rainger there was almost certainly a way to stop the driver.

Cllr Fellowes wondered whether the officers of Suffolk County would be involved in the pre-election purdah or whether it was just elected members. Cllr Rainger implied that it was possible for some elected councillors to continue their involvement in the energy schemes, particularly as ESC were not involved with local elections this year.

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

5. ESC Report and Correspondence:

Cllr Haworth-Culf had submitted a full report to Cllrs, but she highlighted several points:

- The Covid vaccination stations will be closed tomorrow because of snow.
- The bins will be emptied as soon as possible following the snowfall.

- ESC has frozen the Council Tax for the next financial year.
- The Housing Needs Survey needs to be responded to quickly and she and Cllr Bond will contribute funds if ATC commits to undertaking this work during 2021.
- If any child needs a laptop, please get in touch. ESC has several spares.
- The Coastal Footpath consultation hosted by Natural England needs completing, especially as it appears to contain some local peculiarities.

Cllr Fellowes asked if Cllr Cooper would now take a lead on energy projects, so he can be sent all the material from Aldeburgh. If he is going to be the point of contact for all energy information, perhaps he would spare time in understanding Aldeburgh's needs. Cllr Haworth-Culf agreed that Cllr Cooper was the nominated councillor for energy matters and he would be happy to talk to her about it.

Cllr Bond referred to questions that Cllr Cooper should know about, especially that which moved ESC from a negative position to a neutral position. A second question was about the level of any financial mitigation spent by SPR and whether it would remain in the immediate locality.

6. Police Report:

There was no Police Report this month.

7. Public Forum:

Cllr Webster 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 reported that preparations were underway for the end of year accounts.

Cllrs will have received drawings from the architect in charge of the renovation of the public facilities at King's Field. The next stage would be to agree with the specification to enable quotes from builders and to obtain planning permission for the separate door for the disabled toilet. Cllr Blackburn was concerned that in the male facility, the baby changing unit was too close to the urinal.

Cllr Jones was still waiting for a start date for the car park extension and to works along the pathway between the tennis courts and the bowls club.

Ditches on the allotment side will be dug out by the tenant farmer and the ditch across the conservation ground will be dug out by a lighter machine, but both of these operations will depend on drier weather.

The MCHLG, who are funding the works on Kemp's Field had confirmed that all

works on the site should be completed by October 2021. Cllr Jones suggested that an extension might be needed, dependent upon how the bracken problem is managed.

8b. SERVICES COMMITTEE:

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer spoke of the delays in moving forward during the Covid pandemic, with delays to obtaining quotes for bus shelters and Crag Path signage. ATC continues to await feedback from the informal consultation stage of the Leiston Road parking scheme and speed limits, potholes, drains, yellow lines were all discussed at the recent Services Working Group on 4 February.

Cllr Palmer welcomed the supply of replacement lamp standards and confirmed that in relation to the Quiet Lanes scheme, Aldeburgh had none to offer.

Cllr Palmer expressed concern about the mitigation funds associated with SPR. Cllr Fellowes pointed out that ESC did not consult with town councils about mitigation money. The AEPA, supported by ATC has asked for a meeting with ESC to discuss this matter. Cllr Palmer took part in a Zoom meeting with the representatives of the Aldeburgh Business Association and a second meeting is planned with the Aldeburgh Society and the ABA to discuss the impact of SPR's proposals on the town.

Cllr Fellowes looked forward to a busy SPR week, with meetings being held every day. On Monday is the deadline for the examining authority to receive information from SPR and then from Tuesday onwards there is one meeting which she will observe and Zoom calls on biodiversity and habitat, seascape and the DCO in its total, with particular interest on noise and light.

The date of a remote meeting with Nautilus Interconnectors (National Grid Ventures) was awaiting confirmation. It appears that the offer only extends to elected representatives, rather than being extended to other residents at this stage.

On Sizewell C, Cllr Fellowes reiterated Cllr Rainger's remark about planning for an election purdah. The relocation of Sizewell B infrastructure was confirmed by ESC a couple of weeks ago and, as Chair of the SSG, she has accepted an offer to speak to NDA on matters relating to property.

8bii) RESOLUTION to approve estimated expenditure by SCC Highways for replacement road traffic signs on the entrance to Crag Path was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In favour **13**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8biii) RESOLUTION to approve budgeted expenditure on replacement bus shelters for the

High Street and Linden Road was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewis.

In favour **13**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8c. PLANNING:

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning:

Cllr Webster confirmed that Aldeburgh's comments in response to the Historic Environment consultation have been submitted.

The date of the meeting of the ESC Planning department has moved to February 22nd 2021, where it will discuss a plan to build a new house at the back of 185 Saxmundham Road.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS:

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

Cllr Webster had nothing to report.

8dii) RESOLUTION to approve a donation of £400 towards the work of the Suffolk Disability Service was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In favour **13**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Representatives' Reports:

- Cllr Jones attended a Zoom meeting of the Aldeburgh Society. Among the items
- discussed were energy matters and the ESC Planning meeting now moved to February 22.
- Cllr Harris attended an online meeting with the RNLI; in touch with Aldeburgh United Charities trustees.
- Cllr Palmer shared a Zoom meeting with the Alde and Ore Community Partnership.
- Cllr Lewis, with the Town Clerk, has been pursuing non-payers of allotments.
- Cllr Webster attended a Zoom meeting of the Community Centre Trust.

10. The Town Clerk:

The Town Clerk announced that a small grant scheme run by the Community Partnership has received a request for £1000 to help with the weekly food parcel deliveries. In addition, an East Bag will be provided courtesy of East Suffolk Council. It was agreed that deliveries this week will take place on Thursday because of the heavy snowfall.

The Housing Needs Survey, which Cllr Haworth-Culf referred to earlier, is becoming an urgent priority. The last HNS took place in 2009 and it cannot be used as sound evidence to reflect today's housing needs in the town. The District Councillors have offered some funding to support this activity. It is hoped to utilise the services of Community Action Suffolk. Cllr Jones and Cllr Blackbourn will take the lead on this project, with support from Cllr Fellowes.

The temporary barriers in the High Street will remain in situ, until such time that government data enable their safe removal. SCC Highways has now replaced the barriers which were removed.

The Town Clerk referred to the COVID vaccination briefing which Cllr Haworth-Culf and Bond attended. ATC had prepared three questions, which were asked on behalf of the town. The answers were disappointing, especially the question about the prevention of residents leaving the Peninsula Practice to join Leiston Surgery, something which ATC is anxious to avoid, to ensure the sustainability of service in the town. However, the CCG' response was keen to let people make up their own mind about which practice they preferred.

Cllr Fox thought it would a good PR initiative for the surgery to remove the sign 'Aldeburgh Branch Site.' Many people have objected to it because it does not contain the word 'Surgery', commented Cllr Fox.

Aldeburgh Carnival for 2021 has been cancelled and the Vicar of Aldeburgh, the Rev. Mark Lowther will be retiring on August 27th 2021. He is leaving to spend some time in France.

The Town Clerk drew attention to the Coastal Footpath consultation, which appeared to vary from the anticipated proposed route. The closing date for the consultation is March 31st and there are documents which will be sent out to Cllrs prior to a full discussion taking place at the Committees Meeting on February 22nd 2021.

11. Mayor's Notes:

Cllr Webster had nothing to report.

12. Correspondence:

There was nothing to report.

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 Piers-Hall.

In Favour

13

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

The Town Clerk adjourned the In-Camera meeting until the next Council meeting to enable a response from solicitors.

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 March 8th 2021 at 7.00 pm