

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON
MONDAY APRIL 12th 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 Osben
Cllr Palmer	Cllr Piers-Hall
Cllr Smith	

Before the Meeting, Cllr Kevin Webster, the Mayor of Aldeburgh, led Aldeburgh Town Council's tribute to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Howarth-Culf, Bond and Cooper (ESC) and Cllr Lewis (ATC).
2. **Councillors' Declaration of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 February 2021:**
The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 8th March 2021 were amended and **approved UNANIMOUSLY by a show of hands.**
4. **SCC report and Correspondence:**
Cllr Rainger is not standing for re-election,
Cllr Rainger's report can be seen at: <https://russtrainger.wordpress.com/>
5. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**
A Ward report had been submitted by Cllr Haworth-Culf had been seen by all Cllrs.
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) Cllr Jones reported that the end of year accounts was dealt with by the external auditor.

The car park at King's Field had been funded out of the current year's surplus and there has been an adjustment to the earmarked reserves to release money for the improvement to the King's Field toilets. The ATC Planning Committee had given approval for the toilets and a meeting was planned with the architects to discuss materials and contractors.

The slope by the tennis courts and bowls club has now been completed. The tennis club has asked for an additional club session on a Tuesday night between 5pm and 7pm. This would be in addition to Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. Membership of the tennis club has increased significantly, with not a lot paying via the honesty box. A trial period of six months for the third session was agreed informally by the Council.

Cllr Jones told the Council that football was being played, but only on a friendly basis. The whole league programme had been cancelled and matches could take place only if it could be arranged on friendly terms.

She was still waiting for a response to the Pocket Parks request, though this could be down to the bracken problem. It is still too early to assess the bracken because it is too cold at this time of the year.

The pitch maintenance programme involving two pitches on King's Field and one by the Rugby Club has had no work on them for two years. The preferred contractor took soil samples from each pitch with a view to organise a year-long programme of remedial work. The contractor is recommended by the firm which laid the additional pitch on King's Field.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** expenditure on a preferred contractor who will maintain and grass-cut the pitches on King's Field and Queen's Field was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Osben and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In Favour **12**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8bi) SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer reported on the Leiston Road parking scheme which was turned down by the Health and Safety representatives. The only substantive reason for refusing this request was the loss of three parking spaces along Leiston Road and the subsequent displacement parking. The problem for ATC is that things *do* happen, as opposed to the things that *might* happen. Cllr Palmer's report on this issue will be sent to various representatives after this meeting.

NSIPs

SIZEWELL: Cllr Fellowes reported on a meeting with the sub-group last week and from that two suggestions were made – a banner on the roundabout which will be

finalised after this Wednesday's Sizewell C DCO meeting and a potential trip to Hinkley Point C to see how it is operating. We would ask EDF to host it and there will be opportunities to speak to various councils.

At the meeting on Wednesday, part two of the preliminary discussion will learn of the request to delay the start of the examination stage. If the start is not delayed, it will run over the three-month Scottish Power Renewable phase which would be unfair.

SPR: Cllr Fellowes confirmed a three-month extension to SPR plans and, in a feeling of optimism, felt that she could use the delay in a positive way. She believed that SCC and ESC could be persuaded to act in more conciliatory way.

Over the last weekend, however, a large number of signs were deposited by the side of the road in Friston, Aldringham, Sizewell and Thorpeness indicating there were going to be temporary road junctions. The signs reduced road traffic to 30mph.

Late on Friday evening, interested parties received an email stating that off-shore work was due to start on Monday morning – for 30 days, seven days a week, digging the seabed. There were 10 locations, with three days of activity taking place on each. Cllr Fellowes tried to alert the fishing and Lifeboat crews. She assumed that if the SPR plan was formally adopted, it could start work immediately.

On Thursday this week, it is the deadline for the next round of SPR, but Cllr Fellowes was waiting to see if Sizewell C does agree to delay on Wednesday, before going back to SPR. A delay by Sizewell C would make things a little easier for SPR.

Cllr Rainger felt that the road signs represented a significant threat to the area, but they have been put up with the normal temporary traffic light process. The problem lies with SPR and the way they have handled this matter. The signs should contain the telephone number of the person who put them up, but this not a legal requirement.

8c. PLANNING:

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning:

Cllr Webster told the Council that from the list of planning applications his Committee had reviewed, there was one which required further thought - exterior tables in the alley way alongside Prezzo. Outside tables at the front of the restaurant are within the curtilage of Prezzo, but tables in the alley are not. The Town Clerk has written to ESC Planning saying that there was no objection, providing there was 1.5m of space left for people not using the restaurant. Highways own the alley and they have responded separately to this request.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS:

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

There was nothing to report this month.

9. Representatives' Reports:

- Cllr Jones took part in a Zoom call with the Aldeburgh Society, where among other things they were considering what to do with a legacy. An Aldeburgh town map might be the answer.
- Cllr Fellowes attended the local forum for the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, which discussed the energy crisis.
- Cllr Osben attended the sub-group of the Services Committee.
- Cllr Palmer attended an Alde and Ore Community Partnership meeting, which deliberated on the Environment Agency's response to a pile of clay. The longer the clay remains, the job is held up.
- Cllr Smith took part in an Aldeburgh Business Association meeting, where the energy crisis was discussed. Various arrangements were resolved.

10. **The Town Clerk:**

The Town Clerk spoke to Cllrs about Covid-related matters, in respect of the next two Council Meetings. The roadmap to recovery announced by the Government comes to an end on May 6th and Town Councils are expected to resume non-remote meetings. In Aldeburgh, it would seem remote if Cllrs went back to work in the Moot Hall just days after the deadline was passed. Consequently, after a discussion with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Town Clerk sought permission to move the dates of meetings. There would no Committees Meetings in April, May or June and Council Meetings would be held on May 4th (by remote) and June 21st in the Moot Hall. This would give the Council an opportunity to sign off the Annual Return to external auditors by June and a number of important initiatives.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** Aldeburgh Town Council meetings on May 4th (remote) and June 21st in the Moot Hall, together with no Committees Meetings in April, May and June was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In Favour		12
Against	0	
Abstentions	0	

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Following a successful external audit on Thursday, the Town Clerk looked forward to getting on with few things. Unfortunately, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, died and 68 messages of things pertaining to the Royal funeral appeared in no time. Flowers were restricted to the War Memorial and the half-mast Flag could remain up for no later than 8am on Sunday. An invitation for the Mayor of Aldeburgh to attend a Service at Bury Cathedral on Friday has just been received. A suggestion that pictures of the Duke of Edinburgh on his 1967 visit to Aldeburgh will be uploaded on to the website after a period of mourning.

There needs to be a firm statement on the Town Council's website in relation to people who want to set-up quick business opportunities. In the past few weeks, a range of items from swimwear to a bike hire business is among the goods the Town Clerk has said No too. It has been challenging and the only answer is a blanket refusal to accept any sort of reprise. A walk to raise money for the Air Ambulance is set go ahead and the

town's Triathlon is provisionally due to take place on September 12th, both subject to Government approval.

Work on the archway between 152 High Street and what was the Peter Pears Gallery has unearthed corroded steel and a well in the arch. However, the owners of the gallery have written to ask if they could remove the Town Council bulletin board from the archway. Cllr Harris agreed with plan, saying that it was an informal agreement between Aldeburgh Productions and ATC and should come down if necessary. The Town Clerk will write to the owners of the gallery.

Owners of the Mill Inn want to replace a wooden bench, which will sit on the Moot Green. Two benches survived the winter, but one has collapsed. The owners of the Mill want to replace it with two benches, because they do not have enough outdoor space and they concede that people not using the pub will have as much right to use them.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** the purchase by the owners of The Mill public house of two picnic benches was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Mayor's Notes:

Cllr Webster had nothing to report.

12. Correspondence:

The Town Clerk read a letter entitled "The dismal future of Aldeburgh." It paints an extremely gloomy view of the town, detailing many empty shops with greedy landlord's killing the goose that laid the golden egg. The letter has been sent to various members of ESC, together with the Town Council. Cllr Fellowes felt that Flagship could have something more to say about this and not sell off any housing. Cllr Blackbourn suggested that smaller shops could be reintroduced and Cllr Fox felt that the letter failed to recognise the role of the independent shops in the town. It is a very gloomy and unfair letter, she commented. The Town Clerk will respond to the letter.

Cllr Osben referred to serious anti-social behaviour in the town's Chinese takeaway. The family are so concerned that they have alerted the Police. The Town Clerk was aware of the situation and so were the Police.

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 Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In Favour 12

Against 0

Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.08pm.

An In-Camera meeting of the Town Council followed.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held remotely on
Tuesday May 4th 2021 at 7.00 pm**