

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY JULY 12TH 2021 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Cllr Webster – The Mayor took the Chair.
Cllr Blackbourn Cllr Fellowes
Cllr Howard-Dobson Cllr Jones
Cllr Palmer Cllr Lewis
Cllr Piers-Hall Cllr Smith

Apologies: Cllrs Digby, Osben, Fox

Cllr Webster welcomed Sam Phillips to ATC as the new Deputy Town Clerk. He also acknowledged Cllr Rainger as one of the successful candidates in the recent local election for ESC ward members. Also in attendance was Cllr Haworth-Culf (SCC) and one member of the public.

1. Councillors' Declaration of Interest:

Cllr Fellowes declared a pecuniary interest as she is requesting a grant in relation to her work with Aldeburgh Classic Theatre (see item 8d on the agenda) and will therefore not take part in the vote.

2. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 21st 2021:

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on June 21st 2021 were approved unanimously by the Council on July 12th 2021.

3. SCC Report and Correspondence:

Cllr Haworth-Culf (SCC) congratulated Cllr Rainger on his election to East Suffolk Council before reporting that ATC should have received an email about plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a request to nominate a champion to take the lead on celebrations in Aldeburgh. Cllr Haworth-Culf offered ATC up to £500 to go towards something for the town to celebrate this event. She thanked everyone regarding Scottish Power and all who took part in the numerous hearings. JLAG has been replaced by a monthly energy briefing and will contain all of the energy projects proposed in the region. As schools break up this Friday, she praised them for how they have been coping with the COVID pandemic and its restrictions. She recommended continued caution as there would be lots of visitors to the town and to continue to practise hands, face, space. Finally, she asked all Cllrs to encourage people to take up their vaccinations.

4. ESC Report and Correspondence:

Cllr Rainger will provide ATC with his new contact details and reported that he is very pleased to be able to represent Aldeburgh at ESC meetings.

5. Police Report:

There was no report this month. The DTC has been invited to a briefing on August 2nd 2021.

6. Public Forum:

A member of the public congratulated new Councillors on their appointment to ESC. He hoped they will represent people's views against Sizewell and Friston. He continued by thanking Cllr Fellowes for her considerable time spent and representing views relating to SPR and Sizewell C. Cllr Fellowes stated that she is putting forward the views of the town council and commented on the support she had received from her colleagues; Cllrs Lewis, Palmer and Osben.

8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee Cllr Jones

Cllr Jones had nothing to report on finances this month. A quarterly variance analysis will be produced as soon as the OMEGA system has been updated.

The latest progress on the toilets at King's Field is that building control has now been appointed so the next step will be to go out to tender for contractors. Final drawings are awaited for issue to prospective builders.

Kemp's Field - Cllrs Blackbourn and Jones are arranging a site meeting with the Landscape designer to agree a revised plan. The bracken was crushed a couple of weeks ago and it needs to be established how many more times the process needs to be repeated.

The Town Council is in contact with Norse regarding the grass cutting. A football game was cancelled on Saturday because the grass was too long and the pitch was covered in grass cuttings. Members of the football team were on site to rake off the cuttings but it was unplayable. Norse have not cut Queen's Field or Kemp's Field for some time and the grass there is very long. The Town Clerk is trying to establish why they are not cutting the area at the end of King's Field where the skate ramp used to be. Football starts shortly so there is a need to get them to cut on the weekly basis as they are contracted to and to mark out the pitch as promised.

Regarding the goal posts which ATC approved the 25% funding for last month, the online application was rejected as grassroots football does not apply to a Saturday team or the Sunday team which is non-league. Cllrs Webster and Jones have looked online at a number of suppliers and a set including nets, sockets can be purchased for a maximum cost of £1200 Cllr Jones requested approval to fund up to £1200 and confirmed she will also approach the new ESC Cllrs for a contribution from their enabling budget. **(See Resolution 8aii)**

The project manager appointed by Sport England is chasing the contractor to come to site to complete the works on the new pitch.

There is now a replacement honesty box at the tennis courts and it is clear where people should pay.

Cllr Jones has made contact with our preferred builder for the Moot Hall regarding pointing and decorating works to be completed.

There have been a couple of accidents in the play areas; one in the enclosed area on King's Field and the other on the zip wire on Kemp's Field. The regular inspection report was

received last week, after they had been on site to rectify the King's Field issue but it did not identify any problem with the zip wire. Cllr Jones has been in contact with the contractor to understand if something was missed or if it was an unpreventable accident not related to the equipment. Both incidents relate to the ground surface.

8a ii) **RESOLUTION to APPROVE** funding of up to £1200 to purchase a set of football nets to be used on Kings Field. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Smith and **SECONDED** by Cllr Piers-Hall.

In favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8bi) **SERVICES COMMITTEE**
Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer began by confirming details of the next Services Committee meeting scheduled for 5 August at 10am before reporting on the work of the sub-group in trying to address parking issues around the town. Together with the Mayor, Town Clerk and Cllr Lewis he attended a meeting with the Parking Services Manager from ESC Meeting on 07/07 who delivered a presentation on Civil Parking Enforcement. Cllr Palmer was pleased with the offer to support ATC in its work on a whole-town parking scheme which would assist with the implementation phase and save professional fees on consultants.

Minor changes to yellow lines on Wentworth Road are awaited following the outcome of a formal consultation.

SCC is apportioning additional funds for drainage because of the prospect of more flooding due to climate change. Crag Path has been mentioned on numerous occasions but action is required on The Terrace, Crabbe Street and High Street; all of which have drains which still need cleaning properly.

Work continues with SCC Highways to reduce the speed limits on the approach to Aldeburgh from Saxmundham Road and Slaughden Road. The Thorpeness Road traffic surveys are due to be actioned in September.

Suppliers need to be contacted to confirm quotes for a new bus shelter on Linden/Leiston Road corner.

Contact with SCC Highways on the matter of the introduction of yellow lines along a stretch of Leiston Road have been resumed following recent access difficulties faced by a Fire Appliance. Highways are aware of ATC's intent and a letter to Suffolk Police is being formulated to ask for them to re-assess their objection in the light of the recent fire appliance incident.

The Crag Path Signage has been chased and the last update from the supplier is that it is "in design". The Slaughden Road re-surfacing is now underway. Cllr Palmer reported that there was a delay due to sourcing "clean" road planings that would not contaminate the water table. A possible design for the replacement of Choppings Hill railings has been received, which is sympathetic to being sited within a Conservation Area and a quotation is awaited.

The SPR DCO examination is now closed and an outcome should be published within three months. Cllr Palmer reminded everyone that the PINS website carries a list of other projects likely to affect the Eastern area in the near future including other projects likely to terminate

at Friston.

Cllrs Fellowes and Osben recently visited Hinkley C. Whilst they were there, they took the opportunity to set up meetings with Storgursey Parish Council, Bridgwater Town Council and Sedgemoor District Council. Their experiences were similar despite being in different locations and of varying political opinion. Cllr Fellowes agreed to circulate a report of the visit and to provide additional feedback at a future meeting.

8c **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

8ci Report from Chairman of Planning Cllr Webster

Cllr Webster urged members to look on the East Suffolk portal for planning application to get a better feel as to when final dates for recommendations to be submitted so that none are overlooked. Over the last 3 months it appears like ESC are following ATC's recommendations. The Planning Committee meeting will take place on Monday July 19th at 10am in the Moot Hall. Agendas will be out by Wednesday this week.

8d **GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS**

8di Cllr Webster confirmed that the fireworks in November will go ahead this year. He would like to have a meeting with interested people on the Council who would like to join in and help in any way that they can. Please contact Cllr Webster if you would like to be involved.

There have been two car clubs who have gathered on the Moot Green, the Knuckle Busters and more recently the Nissan figaro owners club.

8dii Cllr Fellowes talked about the 'Aldeburgh Classic Theatre' shows which are at the Jubilee Hall from 19th July until 4th September. Posters are being displayed to promote the programme. She requests a donation of £480 towards providing years 9 and 10 high school students' admission tickets. It is hoped to encourage students to pursue jobs within the performing arts industry.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** the grant of £480 to pay for tickets for high school pupils to attend Aldeburgh Classic Theatre live shows at the Jubilee Hall.

PROPOSED by Cllr Blackburn and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith

In favour 8

Against 0

Abstentions 1

CARRIED

9i) **Representatives' Reports**

Cllr Jones confirmed she, along with other Trustees have an OGS meeting on 14 July. The funfair will only be at King's Field on Saturday 14th August as they already had a booking for the Sunday. The provision of alternate entertainment was being explored. Euro 2020 football tournament was a huge success for the Centre, takings were excellent and we were packed out.

Cllr Howard-Dobson reported that there is damp had returned to the Groundsman's Cottage.

10) **Town Clerk's Report**

Performances of Noye's Floode at The Jubilee Hall are not going ahead as a funding application submitted to the Arts Council had been unsuccessful. It is hoped to plan to deliver this in 2022.

The Town Clerk expressed concerns at the decline in service delivery from Norse. Grounds maintenance used to be a stable part of their business however there have been issues with them not cutting the football pitches at King's Field. Other jobs which would have been routinely addressed are not being carried out and communication in this area of their business has been poor. The refuse teams are in regular communication, so there is an awareness of difficulties. The matter has been referred to Cabinet members and senior officers within ESC.

Lapwings Parking - It appears that some residents from The Plantation have been parking there without any permission. The signs that have been displayed regarding car parking are to be removed and deemed not to be in keeping with the town. Discussions are continuing with Flagship to determine ownership of the shared area. Once this is definitively agreed, more appropriate signs will be produced.

The year-end submission was sent to the external auditors who have asked supplementary questions relating to payroll provision and HMRC. This information will be sent within the coming week.

11) **Mayor's Notes**

The Mayor is pleased to have been invited to attend an evening with the High Sheriff. There have been two car clubs who have gathered on the Moot Green, the Knuckle Busters and more recently the Nissan figaro owners club.

12) **Correspondence**

There was no additional correspondence for discussion.

13) **Gifts and/or Hospitality Received by Councillors**

Cllr Fellowes declared that ATC covered the cost of train tickets for herself and Cllr Osben for their visit to Hinkley C Power Station. They both met the cost themselves for their food and incidental expenses and EDF offered complimentary accommodation.

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 Lewis.

In Favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.56 pm.

There was a short meeting In-Camera to discuss commercially sensitive issues and HR matters.

The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held in The Moot Hall on Monday August 9th at 7pm