

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON
MONDAY MARCH 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

Cllr Rainger (SCC) and Cllr Cooper (ESC) were both in attendance.

1. Apologies: Cllrs Howarth-Culf and Bond (ESC).

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 February 2021 were subject to several amendments and were subsequently **approved UNANIMOUSLY by a show of hands.**

4. SCC report and Correspondence:

Cllr Rainger reported that the Covid vaccination programme was working well across the county, with additional walk-in centres for lateral flow tests being introduced.

Cllr Rainger assured Cllr Palmer that as many loose ends as possible in relation to SCC Highways issues would be finalised before the election moratorium began on March 25th.

Cllr Rainger also drew attention to his latest email in which he had decided to step down from SCC for health reasons. He praised Aldeburgh TC for its performance and wished the town well. Cllr Webster thanked Cllr Rainger for his work and he wished him health and happiness for the future.

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

5. ESC Report and Correspondence:

A written report had been submitted by Cllr Haworth-Culf had been seen by all Cllrs.

Cllr Cooper, as Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, ensures that the two Ward Members for Aldeburgh receive a written summary of the meetings with Cllr Revett (ESC) after they take place. All three Ward Councillors are ready to act with anything to do with energy. In terms of reports, Cllr Cooper has submitted ESC responses to deadlines Seven and Five.

Cllr Lewis wondered where the meaning of the word 'neutral' fitted in, to be assured

by Cllr Cooper that it was the usual word for this occasion. ESC is still talking to the applicant and matters will not change until they have got something to say to us.

Cllr Fellowes believed that what SPR is offering Friston, which ESC has agreed, is very small. There has been no negotiation with other local authorities over what they need, especially as ESC has agreed the monetary level of mitigation and the use for the mitigation. Cllr Cooper replied that it was just one pot of mitigation, others will follow when they had been negotiated.

Cllr Cooper told the Council that there was another round of talks lined up for March 25th, assuming that Aldeburgh had been invited. Cllr Fellowes knew nothing of this meeting and the Town Clerk will investigate.

Cllr Fellowes felt that SCC were still speaking to the applicant, but they are taking a stronger stance. If SCC were still in talks, what have they achieved, asked Cllr Cooper. Cllr Rainger confirmed that talks were still ongoing regarding the development, but a slightly tougher line was being taken. SCC was looking at the DCO arrangements, whereas ESC was looking at the compensation and mitigation scheme.

Cllr Osben was critical of the Ward Members for Aldeburgh who had failed to support the large number of people who were against SPR's plans. Cllr Cooper offered to provide his email address so that townspeople could talk to him.

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 was continuing to focus on getting accounts ready in preparation for the year-end with RBS online in early-April.

Work on the car park at King's Field was due to be started next week, with alternate provision for car parking being made behind the Community Centre. Cllr Jones has received final drawings of the public facilities at King's Field and the architect is applying for planning permission for the door to the disabled toilet.

Work to repair the slope by the tennis courts and the bowls club was not done last week and the contractor is being chased up.

More details for the grant attached to Kemp's Field was received this week and further talks with the landscape contractor are planned. The biggest problem continues to be managing the bracken growth,

Cllr Jones is still waiting for the second quote for the maintenance of the three pitches at King's and Queen's Field. The outside decoration of the Groundsman's Cottage and Pet Perfection is planned for this year, with quotes expected to be sent out soon.

8a ii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the existing NALC model (2018) Standing Order, with agreed amendments for ATC were **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr

Smith.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8a iii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the existing NALC model (2018) Financial Regulations, with agreed amendments for ATC was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8a iv) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the existing Financial Risk Assessment 2020-2021 was

PROPOSED by Cllr Harris and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8a v) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the existing Risk Assessments Register was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewis and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8a vi) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the Asset Register 2020-2021 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr

Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Digby.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8a vii) RESOLUTION to APPROVE the continued appointment of SALC as the internal auditor was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Smith and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8bi) SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer was continuing to press for the outcome of the Leiston Road parking scheme, but, so far, he had no response.

Following a successful Services Working Group meeting last week, he told the Council of the 40mph speed limit on Saxmundham Road which had been agreed. Now, he needed to start the conversation moving about what needs to be implemented.

The speed surveys on three roads in Aldeburgh will need to be brought before the Committees for approval.

The Crag Path signage should be installed before Easter and quotes for the two bus shelters in the High Street and Linden Road are not yet in.

Cllr Palmer expressed frustration that the Slaughden Road is still full of holes, a situation that has been going on for long enough.

The sub-section of the SWG had met recently to consider a parking scheme for the town. Members of the Committee felt they had to do something which could represent a plan for the future should money allow.

The outside cabinet for the Brudenell defibrillator has just arrived and it will be put up soon.

NSIPs:

SPR: There are a number of hearings being dealt with next week, including health and well-being, flood risk, noise and traffic. Events for the week after will be published tomorrow and the examination finishes on April 6th. The Norfolk Vanguard was refused by the High Court, in part, due to cumulative impact.

Cllr Fellowes, with Cllrs Lewis, Osben and Palmer and others sat through the National Grid Interconnectors webinar to talk about Nautilus and Eurolink. It needs to connect up to existing lines, but, unfortunately, they need more. Even if EA1N and EA2 are not approved, they will apply for two more lines, becoming operational in 2028 and 2029. Cllr Fellowes suggested the new Nautilus link would provide Friston – and the surrounding areas including Aldeburgh – with the problem of what to do with additional sub-stations within five kilometres of Friston.

SIZEWELL: Cllr Fellowes states that the Preliminary Meeting will be held on March 23th, with ATC joining by March 10th – subject to approval by the Town Council. The aim is to ask for examination periods and hearings to commence after election purdah. Cllr Fellowes explained that SZC is not a done-deal. The power station at Anglesey was refused planning permission due to the effect of rare species and habitats. It will take 30 years of generation at Sizewell C to redeem CO2 levels and we are a long way from that. The true cost of Hinkley Point is when locals feel they are at a disadvantage at not being able to hire environmental experts. Many people underestimated the size of the project until it got under way.

Cllr Fellowes met with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Magnox, office of the Nuclear Regulation and local authority groups. It was confirmed that the site at Sizewell B would only be used if Sizewell C got the go-ahead. There will be an opportunity to lease land but there had to be some input into the discussion process.

8c. PLANNING:

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning:

Cllr Webster reported on two Planning Committee meetings. A house on Saxmundham Road had gone to the ESC Planning Committee which had been given permission to commence, despite the efforts of Cllr Fox who attended the hearing. The two Ward Councillors were also thanked. A second house on Linden Close will also be dealt with by ESC planners. Cllr Smith enquired about a detached house just opposite the Golf Club because work on it has stopped for some months. She was happy to learn from Cllr Fox that work had recently restarted.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS:

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

With the exception of one resolution, Cllr Webster had little to report upon.

Cllr Digby announced a counter proposal towards the work of the Alde and Blyth Community Radio. He **PROPOSED** that £500 was given to the radio station in line with Leiston and Cllr Webster **SECONDED**.

In favour	5
Against	7
Abstention	0

NOT CARRIED

8dii) RESOLUTION to approve a donation of £1000 towards the work of Alde & Blyth Community Radio was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

In favour	7
Against	5
Abstentions	0

CARRIED

9. Representatives' Reports:

- Cllr Harris attended via Zoom a meeting of the RNLI and the National Grid presentation for Nautilus.
- Cllr Smith reported on private work which is taking place at the Peter Pears Gallery and the garage along the High Street.
- Cllr Fellowes will be present at a Zoom meeting of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils on March 25th.

- Cllrs Palmer, Osben, Lewis, Webster and Fellowes all attended the NG presentation.
- Cllr Lewis dealt with the allotments.
- Cllr Webster attended a Parish and Town Council Planning Forum.

10. The Town Clerk:

The Town Clerk assured members that she had been busy with statutory requirements in addition to preparation for the financial year-end.

The state of Slaughden Road was discussed at a site meeting on Tuesday March 2nd, with various officials from ESC. The poor-quality road surface was discussed, together with plans to prevent people from parking in areas that ESC does not own. Cllr Haworth-Culf and Cllr Rainger had discussed further measures to improve the road surface.

The Town Clerk received some correspondence from a resident who lives on Brudenell Street complaining about anti-social behaviour at Fort Green. She has spoken to Inspector Jackson of Suffolk Police who has immediately organised an increased Police presence in the town.

11. Mayor's Notes:

Cllr Webster had nothing to report.

12. Correspondence:

All correspondence had been dealt with prior to the meeting.

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 Digby and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer.

In Favour 13

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

An In-Camera meeting of the Town Council followed.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held remotely on
Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.00 pm**

