

**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON
TUESDAY MAY 4th 2021 AT 7.00 pm**

Present: Cllr Webster – The Mayor took the Chair.

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Rainger (SCC due to purdah,) Haworth-Culf, Bond and 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 12 April 2021:**
The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on April 12th 2021 were deferred for approval until the next meeting of the Council on June 21st 2021.
4. **SCC report and Correspondence:**
Due to the forthcoming election, there was no report this month from SCC.
5. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**
A Ward report had been submitted by Cllr Haworth-Culf which had been circulated to 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) **Report from the Chairman of Property and Finance Committee**

Cllr Jones told the Council that following advice from our solicitors, issues previously raised at an in-camera meeting were being progressed and Cllrs would be updated at the next meeting.

Progress with the refurbishment of the WCs on King's Field was slow. The architect had been due to report this week but, as yet, nothing had been received.

The Council was asked to approve the exterior painting of the Groundsman's Cottage and Pet Perfection buildings. Three quotes had been sent out, but only one replied.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** agreed expenditure on the exterior painting of the Groundsman's Cottage and Pet Perfection was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Blackbourn and **SECONDED** by Cllr Smith.

In favour **13**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Jones, with Cllr Blackbourn, met at Kemp's Field to begin clearing the bracken. They were joined by several residents who were happy to volunteer clearing this area for the next few weekends. ATC is still waiting for a government decision on whether to extend the deadline on this scheme, but, sadly, the bracken has started to come through again.

Grass cutting in all areas of town has been sporadic and intermittent and Cllr Jones has asked the Town Clerk to speak to the contractors to understand why the regular programme of works doesn't appear to be being followed.

On King's Field, the chestnut fencing by the old skateboard park has been replaced and the broken fence post by the car park has been repaired.

SCC Rights of Way team have replaced three bridges on the allotment walk, filling in either side of the bridges with deep sand.

In reply to a question from Cllr Smith relating to a former Flagship property at the far end of the High Street, the Town Clerk indicated that she was aware of the issue of access and the matter had been referred to Flagship who were taking legal advice against the new occupier.

8bi) SERVICES COMMITTEE

8bi) Report from Chairman of Services

Cllr Palmer reported that representatives from various organisations in Aldeburgh will look at plans for a joint parking scheme for the town. There will be an inaugural meeting next week.

Cllr Palmer described the bus shelter replacement scheme on Linden Road as a ‘nightmare.’ Previously, ATC thought they were replacing just one, but now two would be required. If you have one bus shelter, you now need to add a second one on the opposite side of the road. This has forced the price of a single bus shelter up to twice the agreed amount – which Cllrs considered an unreasonable figure. The Town Clerk questioned this guidance from SCC. Bus shelters are available from elsewhere. There was a reluctance to give SCC funds to carry out this work, particularly as signs for the Fisherman’s car park are still not in situ despite ATC paying for them upfront to guarantee a quicker service. Cllr Lewis described the situation as chaotic and Cllr Digby has already looked at bus shelters from a private source. They would do a comparable job at a similar price, he replied.

The time has come to replace railings at Chopping’s Hill, with stainless steel the preferred option of SCC Highways. Unfortunately, stainless steel does not react well to maritime conditions and a second option is being sought, bearing in mind that the location is within a Conservation Area.

Due to the replacement of certain lampposts, the hanging basket capacity in the town has been reduced by eight. The Town Clerk spoke to an SCC engineer this week and was told there was no licencing in place yet for baskets this year. He has been advised that hanging baskets for Aldeburgh had already been ordered for this year.

NSIPs

SIZEWELL: Cllr Fellowes reminded Cllrs that by 12 May ATC needs to register to request to speak at the Open Floor hearings, and the Issue Specific hearings, once we know the topics to be addressed. A list needs to be compiled where Cllrs think the Planning Inspectorate should visit to understand the impacts and opportunities for residents, businesses and visitors. Cllr Fellowes requested that Cllrs send her their thoughts in order that she may compile a combined list. Examples were given of road junctions to observe volumes of traffic or quiet lanes to observe the undisturbed nature as well as where visual impact may be changed and to understand coastal processes.

Cllr Palmer told the Council that the request to delay the hearings so that they did not overlap with SPR was refused. He also commented on the recent consultation by EDF which looked at a number of proposals. Unfortunately, the Planning Inspectorate will only take representations on three, plan numbers 11, 12 and 13.

8c. PLANNING:

8ci) Report from Chairman of Planning:

ESC has decided that it is not going to proceed with Garrett Era conservation area. Cllr Webster regretted this move, but Cllr Osben believed it related to local opposition to the conservation plan. Cllr Jones attended a meeting with the Aldeburgh Society who were livid about the abandonment of the scheme. They objected to the way it had been communicated. ESC had considered a relatively small sample of responses from residents and from that, despite assuring ATC they wanted to ‘work in partnership’ deduced they would not go ahead. Cllr Jones stated that the boundaries on the map were

wrong and this was why it was stopped. Cllr Fellowes broadly felt that if negative remarks would change a planning application, why then are they not used more often? ATC spends plenty of time looking at applications which could be cancelled because of public opinion.

The Town Clerk detailed a planning application from Thellusson Lodge which, having been considered by member of ATC's Planning Committee, was approved and the Minutes sent off to ESC. However, a representative of a resident in a neighbouring property wished to add further comments, which was still within the limits of discussion. The Town Clerk retracted the original Minutes sent to ESC and the matter will be revisited.

8d. GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS:

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

Cllr Jones raised the question of the firework display in November and the Town Clerk agreed to progress this, assuming that COVID restrictions had been lifted.

The Town Clerk also reminded Cllrs that there were to be two car clubs coming to Aldeburgh, one on May 23rd and another on May 31st. All precautions have been adhered to.

9. Representatives' Reports:

- Cllr Jones met with the Aldeburgh Society to discuss the abandonment of the Garrett Era proposal; with Cllrs Fox, Piers-Hall she has been spending a lot of time getting the Old Generator Station ready for reopening in mid-May.
- Cllr Fox and Piers-Hall reporting working on the OGS reopening.
- Cllr Osben attended a variety of energy project meetings.
- Cllr Fellowes attended energy meetings; she was present at the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, where she delivered a short talk on energy projects. SALC will upgrading its website and offering to assist with council's planning problems.

10. The Town Clerk:

Cllr Palmer sent out an email last week asking for views on temporary barriers along the High Street, reported the Town Clerk. The replies seemed to indicate that the barriers should be removed. SCC Highways suggested that the matter would be reviewed after the June 21st deadline. Cllr Palmer noticed that the barriers were constantly being moved and that there was little point in keeping them, a view that was shared by other Cllrs. Cllr Fox suggested that the decision to remove them should come after May 17th. The Town Clerk agreed, arguing that the removal of the fences should come as soon as possible after May 17th, subject to support from SCC Highways and the Environmental Health team at ESC.

An email was received from ESC saying that that if Prezzo restaurant failed to remove planters from land outside its curtilage, action would be taken. A month ago, the restaurant promised to fit a new rope barrier, but nothing has happened yet.

The Town Clerk is attending a meeting of other town clerks next Monday, where one of the items on the agenda raises a lack of communication between ESC and town councils. An example of that, she reminded Cllrs, was the resurfacing of Slaughden Road, where the work was promised to begin before Easter but, as yet, nothing has happened. Parking was another matter which it felt, was largely being ignored by ESC.

Cllr Fox and the Town Clerk took part in a Zoom meeting with representatives of the ESC Economic Development team to look at ways the High Street could be regenerated. The ABA was present at the meeting. From that conversation, the Clerk learned of another potential shortfall in Aldeburgh – relating to the drop in volunteer numbers. The number of stewards has dwindled quite considerably and ESC is trying engage more younger people to become involved.

The Town Clerk attended a Police meeting where 60 were invited. In total, five turned up. From that, the Town Clerk has been invited to join a multi-agency Anti -Social Behaviour monthly meeting where reports of Aldeburgh ASB will be heard.

There is going to be a community housing briefing set up by ESC towards the end of May. It is designed for councils who may want to know more about social housing.

The traffic enforcement officers operating in Aldeburgh High Street have recently chosen to ticket several delivery vehicles. This resulted in complaints being made to ESC. Cllr Haworth-Culf is progressing this issue.

The advert for the Deputy Town Clerk has produced a dozen replies and a shortlist will be drawn up in due course.

11. Mayor's Notes:

Cllr Webster attended the Moot Hall for a photo opportunity involving the Aldeburgh Museum, who were awarded a commendation in the Quality of Place awards.

He also attended the Memorial Service in Bury St. Edmunds to honour the life of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

He attended the Community Centre and Sports Trust meeting.

12. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

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 Digby.

In Favour **13**

Against **0**

Abstentions **0**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.15pm.

The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held in the Moot Hall* on Monday June 21st 2021 at 7.00 pm

* now revised to the Church Hall