**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY JUNE 21st 2021 AT 7.00 pm**

           Present:     Cllr Webster – The Mayor took the Chair.

 Cllr Blackbourn Cllr Fox

Cllr Harris Cllr Howard-Dobson

Cllr Jones Cllr Lewis

Cllr Palmer Cllr Smith

**1.       Apologies:** Cllr Haworth-Culf (SCC), Cllr Cooper (ESC), Cllrs Digby, Fellowes, Osben and Piers-Hall (ATC)

**2.        Councillors’ Declaration of Interest:**

           There were no declarations of interest.

**3.        To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on May 4th 2021 were approved by the Council on June 21st 2021.

**4.**        **SCC report and Correspondence**:

Cllr Haworth-Culf’s report had previously been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Jones suggested a briefer report focussing on matters pertaining to Aldeburgh would be helpful.

**5.     ESC Report and Correspondence**:

A ward report had been submitted by Cllr Cooper, but several Cllrs expressed concern that it made no reference to the energy projects.

**6.**         **Police Report:**

There was no Police Report this month.

**7.**         **Public Forum:**

Cllr Webster suspended Standing Orders for the Public Forum.

One member of the public was in attendance, but in the absence of any questions, 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 the internal auditor had completed her visit and all Cllrs were in receipt of a copy of the report. Similarly, a copy of the end-of-year submissions had been circulated and will be submitted to the external auditor before the end of June.

Cllr Jones reported that progress on the refurbishment of the toilets at King’s Field has been slower than hoped. Asbestos and structural surveys were completed last week and the focus is now supplying outstanding information to enable tenders to be sought.

Cllr Blackbourn only had one attendee at Kemp’s Field last Saturday after overnight rain the day before. Despite the efforts of weed killers two weeks before, the bracken was growing again and it still needs to be rolled and crushed. With Cllr Blackbourn, another update for Pocket Parks is being prepared and the landscaper has been asked for a revised plan.

The project manager for the Sport England drainage project on King’s Field refused to sign-off on the works. He wants the contractor to rectify a problem on the far side of the pitch where water over the winter did not drain away.

An additional set of goalposts will be needed for the new pitch. On the Football Foundation web site, they advertise funding support to a maximum value of £1600, leaving a shortfall of £400 which the Council will need to meet. Cllr Jones asked for a resolution to cover this amount.

**8aii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the purchase of additional goal posts for King’s Field

using ATC funds and up to 75% funding from the Football Foundation was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Blackbourn.

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Tennis Courts have recently had their annual moss kill and pressure wash and Cllr Jones continues to press Peggs to produce a new honesty box. Similarly, Cllr Jones was becoming frustrated by the lack of contact with the preferred builder to carry out works on the Moot Hall.

The Bowls Club, who do a good job maintaining their greens, has attracted several new members. Giant hogweed plants along Jubilee Walk had been removed.

Cllr Jones had been approached by residents of PRAM with a view to sorting out drainage problems, in particular a large pool of water at the top near the tennis courts. They have had a quote for the job which requires a new track gully and a soakaway near the car park for the tennis club. The total amount for the work is just over £4000 and PRAM wondered whether ATC would help meet the bill. Cllrs were concerned that water from the top of the tennis courts could make its down to the bottom and flood the allotments.

**8aiii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** in principle to contribute towards the costs of the

proposed drainage works organised by PRAM to a maximum value of £2k was

**PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Blackbourn.

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Old Generator Station is now open on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday and has been doing exceptionally well. With Cllr Jones, Cllrs Fox, Webster and Piers-Hall have attended several Trust meetings leading up to the reopening of the King’s Bar. A programme of events is being worked on, including a funfair on King’s Field carpark on what would be the Saturday and Sunday of the postponed Aldeburgh Carnival. On the Saturday evening, the Old Generator Station would host live entertainment.

**8bi) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Palmer reported on two previous meetings of the Whole Town Parking Scheme. The group is currently working on a street-by-street guide, which would take into account Blue Badges and Disabled Bays. Cllr Palmer indicated that he would be seeking authorisation for one speed limit change and a speed survey, both previously mentioned at Council.

**8bii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the estimate received from SCC Highways for the

introduction of a 40-mph buffer zone on Saxmundham Road, which includes a gateway treatment was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Harris.

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8biii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** expenditure as indicated by SCC Highways

(approximately £1k) to undertake a speed survey along Thorpeness Road was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewis.

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The new bus shelter at Linden Road was going to be installed by a private contractor, reported Cllr Palmer. The shelter on the High Street will be carried out in the autumn as planned by SCC.

SCC’s safety team, who turned down the proposals to introduce yellow lines along part of Leiston Road have still not replied to ATC to discuss the merits of a revised scheme, particularly in the light of difficulties faced by the fire engine recently due to the inconsiderate parking in Leiston Road.

Crag Path signage is still waiting to be done, as is the Slaughden Road resurfacing. Five off-street signs are now with ESC and should be put up soon.

Hanging baskets are now installed, but the lights are going to have be checked for Christmas decorations. It will be an expensive job, but it will have to be done.

Cllr Palmer reminded the Council that the Thorpe Road car park had flooded once again, an issue picked up by Cllr Digby.

**NSIPs:**

**SPR:**

In a pre-prepared report (see attached) submitted by Cllr Fellowes, the Council was told there had been further changes to the proposals. The Applicant is facing further questions, with a deadline for responses on June 28th, the final deadline is on July 5th and the examination closes on July 6th. Significant flooding occurred in the area recently and an accident happened on Gypsy Lane, alongside Aldringham Road.

SEAS is attempting to raise money to commission a hydrological survey. It has pledged to raise £2500 for this survey. To commission further research into the impact these projects will have on the local tourist industry, air pollution and traffic forecasts will cost £8000.

**SIZEWELL:**

In her absence, Cllr Lewis delivered Cllr Fellowes’ report confirming that Open Floor hearings took place in May, with over 140 individuals, organisations and 21 Parish/Town councils making representation. PINS have issued 3000 questions to the Applicant and interested parties. A new consultation runs on these until July 12th.

A tour of the area, sometimes accompanied, sometimes not, was conducted between June 7th to the 10th and the Planning Inspectorate will go to Hinkley Point C on June 22nd.

Seven Specific Hearings are being conducted between the June 23rd and July 16th on various topics, including traffic, community issues, visual impact, coastal geomorphology and biodiversity.

ATC will request to speak at these, together with subjects not been allocated to Specific Hearings, such as cumulative impact, financing, noise, light and air which will be dealt with in writing.

More information on the proposed temporary and permanent beach landing facility is also sought.

**8c.      PLANNING:**

**8ci)**    **Report from Chairman of Planning**:

Cllr Webster reported that the consultation for the Historic Environment document had been formally approved by ESC. Remarks from ATC had been sent to the recipient.

A long list of Planning Applications was awaiting the next meeting of the ATC Planning tomorrow.

**8d.     GRANTS, REQUESTS & EVENTS:**

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

Cllr Webster asked for the following to be given some thought:

**8dii) Aldeburgh Primary School:** The Chair of Parent Teacher Friends Association has

written requesting funding for a hoody for 13 school leavers. The total cost of the order is £231.34. A further cost of coaches for the leavers was £140 and £180. Cllr Fox suggested providing the funds to enable one of the requests, believing the cost of the hoodies to be appropriate.

**RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the cost of 13 hoodies was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Fox and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8diii) Artist on Moot Green:** A local watercolour artistwrote to request a small tableau on

land close to the Moot Green to enable him to sell his work. He would be selling his

works between June and September on either a weekday or at weekends.

**Councillors agreed to this request by a show of hands.**

**8div) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee:** In anticipation of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee next year,

the Gardening Club would like to work with ATC on a tree planting scheme for Her Majesty. Cllr Blackbourn suggested that Kemp’s Field could be included in the planting plan.

**Councillors agreed to this request by a show of hands.**

**8dv) Car club visit:** The Figaro Car Club would like to visit Aldeburgh on the July 12th.

**Councillors agreed to this request by a show of hands.**

**9.      Representatives’ Reports:**

Cllr Jones attended a Zoom meeting of the Aldeburgh Society on May 21st. They

continue to be involved with energy projects and has submitted a statement opposing

Sizewell C. The AS is likely to approach ATC about the use of the noticeboard outside

Baggotts when they have finalised the plan for an illustrated heritage town map.

**10. Town Clerk’s Report:**

The Town Clerk will assume responsibility for submitting the documents (**10a,10b**and **10c**) to the External Auditor by the end of this week.The period of public rights which allows members of the public to examine Council finances commences tomorrow.

A change of use application in respect of Dial House Garden will be presented to ESC. It will change the use of the garden from residential to one of public space.

The ownership of Church Farm Open Space still needs to be transferred to ATC. With the closure of Fieldens, the land will pass onto ESC and then to ATC, together with a commuted sum for maintenance works.

**10a) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the Annual Governance Statement for the Year Ended

March 2021 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Palmer**.**

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10ai) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the Annual Return for the Year Ended March 2021 was

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

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**10aii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the recommendations of the Internal Auditor was

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

**In favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11.       Mayor’s Notes:**

Cllr Webster attended:

May 23 – A meet-and-greet with East Anglian Practical Classics Car Club; a retirement

party for Vaughn Thompson at the Old Generator Station.

May 28 – Flag raising ceremony at Aldeburgh Golf Club.

May 31 – A meet-and-greet with Hundred Friends car club.

June 6 – Watched the Service from Bury Cathedral.

**12.**   **Correspondence:**

Cllr Harris wrote a beautifully-composed letter to the Council explaining why he could not continue in his role as Town Cllr. He talked of many things, but said the time is right for him to leave this difficult role. His health problems were the main focus of his attention. Cllr Webster gave a formal vote of thanks, supported unanimously, with applause to Cllr Harris and to Roger Collier who was leaving ATC at the end of the month.

**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 Palmer.

**In Favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8.19pm.

**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 Church Hall on**

**Monday July 12th 2021 at 7.00 pm**