**MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE**

**CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr Palmer - took the Chair.

Cllr Fellowes Cllr Lewis

Cllr Howard-Dobson Cllr Osben

Cllr Jones  Cllr Lumpkin

Cllr Haworth-Culf representing SCC was in attendance.

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Webster, Fox, Digby, Smith, Blackbourn, Piers-Hall and

Cllr Rainger (ESC)

**2. To Receive Councillors’ Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Fellowes declared a pecuniary interest as she rents a garage from Flagship Housing but this in no way compromises her representing ATC at meeting planned for Friday 18th February.

1. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th January 2022:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th January 2022 were approved unanimously by the Council members by a show of hands.

1. **SCC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Haworth-Culf’s main report had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. She reported on her visit to see the interconnectors in Lincolnshire and has photos. She was horrified at the sheer scale, height of the project and noise. It is hard to imagine the size of 10 football pitches together but is an enormous area when you actually visit. Advises looking at the website and listening to video clip. Better still recommends a visit to Cllrs to help visualise.

Cllr Haworth-Culf reminds us to all to still be careful regarding covid as there are many children off school who have tested positive.

Cllr Haworth-Culf is making cabinet members aware of the situation re. speeding on the Leiston Road and Chopping’s Hill Railings. She has been able to show photos of Chopping’s Hill Railings to the leader of the Council, Matthew Hicks. Cllr Haworth-Culf will read through previous emails from Cllr Palmer and if she believes it to be necessary, she will call for a site meeting at Chopping’s Hill with all involved. The Leiston Road issues will be brought to the attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore requesting a police presence at the site visit.

Cllr Fellowes raised an energy question, has SCC yet had the SEA-LINK presentation? Cllr Haworth-Culf replied to say that it is planned for 28th February.

Cllr Fellowes talked about the government intervening to approve the Vattenfall wind farm in Norfolk despite the Planning Inspectorate refusing the application. Cllr Fellowes wants to ensure SCC comment extremely strongly with their decision on SZC Geotech trials if they wish to refuse. Cllr Haworth-Culf confirmed that she is certain the cabinet members know how strong their comments must be.

1. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Rainger had previously circulated the ESC report. Any questions please email Cllr Rainger.

1. **Police Report:**

Nothing to report.

1. **Public Forum**

Cllr Palmer suspended Standing Orders. As no members of the public were in attendance, he then re-instated Standing Orders.

**8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**8ai) Report from Chairman of Property & Finance Committee**

Cllr Jones invited any questions following the Income and Expenditure report and Variance report previously circulated.

Cllr Jones has met with two contractors for cleaning the tennis courts. This year is the final year in our 5-year fixed price agreement. Different cleaning options but have been looked at with the tennis club and the conclusion is ATC should continue with the current programme with moss kill and then a pressure spray. This has been requested to be completed late March, ready for Easter. The contractor said that overall, the courts are in very good condition and lasting well. They will need colour spraying in a couple of years and then will last another 5/6 before needing resurfacing.

Cllr Jones is looking to plan Sports Week for week commencing Monday 1st August to Friday 5th August. She requested the support of helpers to enable it to go ahead so please contact Cllr Jones if you can help or know of suitable volunteers.

Cllrs Jones and Blackbourn are planning a meeting with local residents to discuss Kemp’s Field. The date being considered is Saturday 19th March. The key issues for discussion include the path, watering the trees, plants for the raised beds, litter picking, rubbish, digging out the bracken at the edge, bird boxes and benches.

Water bags will be purchased and installed next month and Cllr Jones will investigate the possibility of a bowser on site.

Cllr Jones has written to the contractor for a date the roof insulation works can be carried out on the Groundsman’s Cottage.

Cllr Jones gave a Moot Hall heating update. The chimney needs to be inspected to identify why it is blocked. This requires scaffolding so that a camera survey can be undertaken and the existing flue liner removed. The work needs to be completed urgently as there is a need to restore heating and the scaffolding will need to be removed for the summer season. Once they have the survey the plumber and J Hoggs builder can assess what additional work is required and quote for a replacement boiler. Earmarked reserves specifically for the Moot Hall are available which will cover the costs. The Town Clerk talked about difficulties as the tender process was followed. After approaching three plumbers, one declined to quote and another company ceased trading. There is a need to appoint contractors who are able to work on a Grade 1 listed building. TC is confident that the third, Wildings, are appropriate and skilled for the job and they are also known to Hogg builders who is ATC’s preferred builder for the Moot Hall.

**RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the cost as quoted to erect scaffolding on the North side of the Moot Hall to enable a camera inspection of the chimney/flue to take place.

**PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

**In Favour 7**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

King’s Field toilets – Turners are on site and have begun the refurbishment works. The electrics keep tripping out and as these are supplied via access to the OGS building, they are meeting tomorrow to accelerate the installation of a separate fuse box in the service area of the toilets. Finishes for flooring and cubicles have been selected.

The Environment Agency has written to advise ATC needs to apply for an Abstraction licence for the pump on the marshes. The form is in three parts and complicated requiring a detailed knowledge of the subject matter. The TC is trying to see if Giles Bloomfield who offered to come to talk to us about the eel situation could help us with it.

Cllr Jones reported that a focus is on marketing the old Tractor shed. Cllrs Digby and Jones met with a planning consultant to progress the application for change of use. Cllr Lumpkin is going to lead on the remaining issues of obtaining the energy certificate, new power and water supplies. Further contact from Fenn Wright is awaited. They have been confirmed as agents.

The hedge has been cut back beside the tennis courts ahead of the bird nesting season. The contractor will also check whether the hedge on the path leading into Kemp’s field needs cutting. The saplings along Jubilee Walk near Dump Road have been cut down and the wood left on site as it will be a good wildlife habitat. The dead Elms on the path by the tennis courts have been cut down.

The tree survey has been booked with Haydens and they will be on site 1/3 March.

8aii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** obtaining a quote from Haydens to carry out a full Tree Survey.

**PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lewis.

**In Favour 7**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Jones reported she is attending a meeting on Friday 18th February with the TC, the Mayor, Cllr Fellowes and Newtide Homes to discuss their plans for affordable housing in the town preventing further erosion of housing stock.

**8b) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Palmer reported that he has been able to progress some of the following issues

with the help of Cllr Haworth-Culf (SCC).

**Services Working Group meeting**

Cllrs Palmer held the previous meeting on Thursday 3rd February. The next meeting is planned for Thursday 3rd March at 10 AM via ZOOM.

**Wentworth Road Parking**

SCC Highways has approved this and action is awaited.

**Drains**

Cllr Palmer reported that SCC has extra funds available for cleaning drains and confirmed that Aldeburgh is on their list.

**Speed limits**

The designs have gone forward for the Saxmundham and Slaughden road speed limit changes.

**Bus Shelter replacements**

Cllr Palmer updated that he is investigating various suppliers for provision and installation of the Linden/Leiston Road shelter.

The High Street Shelter has been chased up many times with SCC but nothing has progressed since 03/2021. The reason given is COVID!

**Leiston Road Parking Scheme**

Cllr Palmer is to organise a main stakeholder meeting for end February now that the police representative involvement has been clarified.

**Other Items in Progress**

ESC’s legal agreement to provide traffic wardens to monitor the Crag Path Fisherman’s Car Park. ATC will then decide upon a permit system.

Chopping Hill Railings replacements have been quoted at £26k. SCC Highways are still not accepting the need to replace. However, there is clearly a need and Cllr Haworth-Culf is in agreement and trying to progress this issue. Risk assessments were requested from SCC Highways which they have confirmed they do not have. Cllr Palmer will be working with our SCC ward member to progress this matter.

**Large Infrastructure Group – DCOs**

1. **SPR hearings** - with the Inspectorate - now extended by 6 weeks.
2. **Sizewell “C”** - with the Inspectorate - now extended by 6 weeks.
3. Friday 4th February 2022 - Declan Burke, Director of Nuclear Projects & Development at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Meeting held at Snape, hosted by AEPA (Anglian Energy Planning Alliance) and many issues raised and may be taken back BUT it is suspected that there will be no effect on our current NSIPs.

Cllr Palmer and Fellowes attended the above meeting at which 49 parish and town councils were represented. There will be a transcript of the meeting which will shortly be available. Cllr Fellowes has submitted her views which she will circulate. Would urge all to do the same as it may take just one politician to recognise the points we are raising.

**8c) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

The next Planning Meeting will be held on Monday 21st February at 10am in the Moot Hall. Agenda to be circulated shortly. Minutes of the previous meeting which took place on Monday 17th January have been circulated.

Cllr Fellowes outlined a planning application that has been submitted by EDF for Geotechnical Trials. Requests ATC finds out more and submits comments before the deadline. Recommends asking Cllr Rainger (ESC) if ATC can send representative to the final ESC Planning Decision Meeting. RSPB Minsmere has already submitted comments along with 90+ more.

Cllr Fellowes recommends that interested Cllrs able to participate should attend the presentation on SEA-LINK. It would be very beneficial.

**8d) GRANTS, REQUESTS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**8di)** TC gave an overview of plans for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. A list of events taking place over the four days handed out. 400 beacons are to be lit simultaneously on the evening of Thursday 2nd June. TC suggests fireworks on the beach to follow. It was suggested that music on the beach would be nice leading up to the lighting. The bookshop is launching a book of royal visits and have requested a banner at the roundabout.

**9) Representatives’ Reports**

Cllr Fellowes attended Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting on 4/2/22.

Cllr Lewis reported that all allotments are occupied, all tenants have paid for the year and there are names on the waiting list.

**Aldeburgh Society**

Cllr Jones attended their committee meeting on 31st January. They continue to engage in the energy projects and the Chair and Secretary attended the meeting on 4th Feb with the officials from the Business and Energy Dept. They are working with us on the Conservation Area review, where ESC’s consultants final report is awaited. The AS is looking to replace the town maps in the two car parks at either end of the Town with funds they received from a legacy.

**Tennis Club**

Cllr Jones attended their committee meeting on 26th January. They agreed dates for their annual tournaments. They raised some concerns about the last cleaning of the courts and whether the pressure washing method was lifting some of the surface. As a result, Cllr Jones has met with our existing and a potential contractor to discuss options, which has resulted in us retaining our existing contractor and method. They were involved in those meetings and are happy with the outcome, understanding better the process. They have made progress with investigating options for a small pavilion on the car park as raised at a previous meeting. Information to be shared will be available for the Committees meeting on 28 February, which will enable Cllrs to consider the request in more detail.

**Old Generator Station**

The AGM took place on Thursday 27th January. There were no members of the public in attendance. The next Trust meeting is on 23rd March.

**10) Report from the Town Clerk**

TC reported that she will attend a zoom meeting hosted by SALC tomorrow.

A meeting with Flagship to discuss social housing in the town has been planned for Friday 18th February. TC and Cllrs Fellowes, Webster and Jones will take part. She stressed the need to work with Flagship to ensure the future of social housing in Aldeburgh is secured.

Cllr Palmer and the TC will meet Chris Bradley who has requested the 50k coastal running race to finish in Aldeburgh. They will meet at the Moot Hall on 23rd February 2022.

TC attended a zoom meeting for Clerks hosted by ESC. Topics discussed included the Norse service to be transferred back to ESC in 2023. There is great optimism about this change.

TC confirmed she has given condolences to ESC on behalf of ATC for Lisa Chandler, the Planning Officer responsible for the NSIPs who sadly passed away very suddenly.

TC is currently preparing the standing orders and the annual review of the Asset Register.

**11) Mayor’s Notes**

**11i)** In the absence of the Mayor, no report was given.

**12) Correspondence**

TC has received a letter from Orford Town Council who are keen to share concerns about social housing provided by Flagship.

An Aldeburgh resident has shared letters published in the regional press by Orford Town Council on the subject of social housing.

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

Cllr Fellowes received soup and sandwich which was provided for those attending the AEPA hosted event on Friday 4th February.

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 7**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting ended at 8pm.

**The next meeting of Aldeburgh Town Council will be held in the Church Hall**

**on 14th March 2022 at 7pm**