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

**CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 11TH APRIL AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr Webster - Chair

 Cllr Fox Cllr Osben

 Cllr Howard-Dobson Cllr Palmer

 Cllr Jones  Cllr Lumpkin

 Cllr Smith Cllr Piers-Hall

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Dibgy, Fellowes and Lewis sent apologies. Apologies also received from Cllr Haworth-Culf (SCC) and Cllr Daley (ESC).

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

None

1. **Nominations of Office 2022/2023**

**3a) Appointment of the Deputy Mayor 2022/2023**

TC reported that nominations were invited from Cllrs at the Meeting held in March. TC had received 2 nominations for Deputy Mayor and therefore a vote was needed. No proxy voting is allowed. A ballot took place and votes were counted by TC.

Result:- Cllr Webster 6 votes, Cllr Lewis 3 votes. Cllr Webster was duly elected as Deputy Mayor 2022/2023 and this will be ratified at the next meeting in May.

1. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th March 2022:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th March 2022 were approved unanimously by the Council members by a show of hands.

1. **SCC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Haworth-Culf had circulated the SCC report to Cllrs prior to the meeting. If there are any questions, please contact her directly.

1. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**

The ESC report has not been received to date.

1. **Police Report:**

Cllr Palmer gave a report on the Police Engagement Meeting he attended in Leiston on 15th March 2022. This report has previously been circulated to Cllrs and a copy is attached to these minutes.

1. **Public Forum**

Cllr Webster 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**

**Property & Finance report**

Cllr Jones reported that RBS are working with TC on 20th April to complete the financial end of year accounts and we have started preparing.

Cllr Jones reported that the new bowls season started yesterday. When confirmation received that the last football game has been played Cllr Jones will arrange for the goal mouth to be turfed.

We have been exploring ways to fill the water bags which are in the process of being installed on the new trees at Kemp’s Field. Norse have responded to our enquiry for them to water the trees. They recommend watering every 3 weeks, as you can overwater and would charge £65 each visit. Assuming watering from April to September the cost would be £1690. The cost to supply water to an IBC would be £100 per fill and the bags would potentially require a full refill every water.

**RESOLUTION** **to** **APPROVE** proceeding with Norse watering the new trees at Kings Field from April to September 2022 at three weekly intervals.

**PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Piers-Hall and **SECONDED** by Cllr Lumpkin.

In Favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Cllr Jones gave an update about the Moot Hall heating. Contractors started the work last week, but they discovered what appeared to be asbestos. We have had an asbestos survey, but it can only identify asbestos if it can be seen but this was concealed. It is being analysed to check if the builders are correct and we will then identify the next steps.

Works are still progressing at the Kings Field toilets and should complete mid to end May.

The TC, Mayor and Cllr Jones met with Giles Bloomfield to discuss the pump on the marshes and the legislation impacting it. He has confirmed we will face the need to install an eel safe pump. The cost of these installations is in the order of £2.5-3.5m. He has assumed we would want to be included in an application to the Government for funding together with other pump replacements. He is hopeful that the project will be fully funded, if successful it would likely be installed in 2024/5. The Internal Drainage Board would then take over the ownership of the pump and therefore any ongoing costs and liabilities. There would only be one pump, the current second pump would no longer be required.

**RESOLUTION to** **APPROVE** being included in an application to the Government for funding together with other pump replacements with a view to installing an eel safe pump.

**PROPOSED FOR** **APPROVAL** by Cllr Palmer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In Favour 9

Against 0

Abstentions 0

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cllr Jones reported the verti draining and sand application commenced last week on Kings Field and they were onsite again today.

Cllr Jones reported that the approved works to Pet Perfection were completed last week. There was an additional part required in the Groundsman’s cottage which links to Pet Perfection which was circa £70 but we were not charged the labour.

Cllrs Jones and Lumpkin are to discuss a way forward having met UK Power networks at the Tractor Shed and received quotation for £2500. Still no response from water companies.

The trenches required for the electricity supply and for the water will require careful management to avoid services already in the area. Cllrs are possibly considering employing a builder to project manage and deliver the improvements.

**8b) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

**1. Services Working Group meeting**

Last meeting held Thursday 7th April, next meeting Thursday 5th May at 10 AM via ZOOM

**2. Drains**

There has been no action yet.

**3. Speed limits**

Given go ahead on basis of outline design. Cllr Palmer has found a suitable flashing speed sign to be proposed at the Committees Meeting. To be partly funded by SCC Cllr Haworth-Culf.

**4. Bus Shelter replacements**

Investigating various suppliers for provision and installation of the Linden/Leiston Road shelter.

Cllr Palmer has chased High Street Shelter with SCC but nothing has progressed in the interim since 03/2021.

**5. Leiston Road Parking Scheme**

Stakeholder meeting held and was very useful. Two possibilities realised with one more favoured than the other by the residents. Highways representative seemed happy with both options. Cllr Palmer has emailed Neil Godbold at the Fire Station to find out his views.

**6. Other items in Progress**

Cllr Palmer reported that the legal agreement has arrived from ESC with a view to them policing parking on our behalf at the Crag Path Fisherman’s Car Park. It is a lengthy document and Cllr Palmer is working through it.

Cllr Palmer is trying to progress the replacement of the Chopping Hill Railings via our SCC Cllr Haworth-Culf. SCC Highways are not accepting there is a need to replace.

**7. Large Infrastructure Group – DCOs**

**a) SPR hearings**

Now consented by secretary of state.

**b) Sizewell “C”**

With the Inspectorate and extended by 6 weeks. Decision due by 25th May.

**c) Sea Link Project**

Further webinars to happen.

**d) Nautilus interconnector**

In the pre-application stage.

**8c) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Deputation from Aldeburgh Golf Club presentation at Planning Meeting held 4th April 2022. Cllr Webster reported that they are proposing changes to holes and to create two further holes which is on their own land. This is still in the pre-planning stage and we will look at this application when it has been submitted to ESC.

Application for The White Lion Hotel deferred to the meeting on 21st April as in the early stages.

The next Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st April at 10am in the Moot Hall. The minutes of the previous meeting which took place on Monday 4th April have been circulated.

**9) GRANTS, REQUESTS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**9di)** Cllr Webster took the chair.

**9dii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** funding the cost of a commemorative Queen’s Platinum Jubilee coin for every pupil attending Aldeburgh Primary School.

**PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Lumpkin and **SECONDED** by Cllr Piers-Hall.

**In Favour 9**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED BY MAJORITY 9**

**8diii) RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the request to allow Aldeburgh Classic Theatre Group to use ATC land on Moot Green to provide a weekly professional children’s show at 4pm on six dates.

**PROPOSAL DEFERRED** more information will be requested from Cllr Fellowes before the next meeting.

**10) Representatives’ Reports**

Cllr Jones attended the Aldeburgh Society committee meeting on 28th March.

* There was discussion regarding a funding request for a potential judicial review by SEAS. They agreed to offer £500 funding conditional on the review going ahead.
* The society continue to review planning applications. They intended to recommend approval of the Thelluson Lodge application. For the application at 67 King St the society will comment on the removal of a chimney and will recommend refusal on the Toppers Garden application and 17 Linden Road.
* There was a discussion regarding the role and purpose of the Society and whether it was extending into areas beyond their remit. The debate would continue at the next meeting.

Cllr Jones chaired a Finance Meeting of the OGS and reported the first two months were positive. A new pool table has been ordered for delivery this month. Discussed rates of pay and minimum wage. Cllr Jones has asked for a schedule with costs for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Day. She will bring to the Committees Meeting for consideration.

Cllr Howard-Dobson reported on a recent Museum Meeting. There will be a new archaeological exhibit in the Moot Hall from next Wednesday. Also discussed at the meeting was the exhibition for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Palmer Thursday 07/04/2022 – Chaired SWG zoom meeting

Saturday 02/04/2022 – attended SCAR AGM

Thursday 24/03/2022 – attended AOCP zoom meeting

**11) Report from the Town Clerk**

TC reported that she is preparing finances for the Year End and the remote visit by Rialtas Business Solutions.

Invitations are now being sent for Mayors Sunday which is to take place on Sunday 15th May 2022.

TC reported that plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee are underway. Aldeburgh Primary School is also hosting an event at the Jubilee Hall.

There is a planning licence to be considered at the next Planning Meeting. Salter & King butchers have an application to sell alcohol 8am-9pm.

TC talked about the pre-season walk and service levels by Norse. She feels the business is in turmoil, that they have too few resources and there is a lack of organisation. The additional port-a-loos and bins are expected. TC will update Cllrs following the next zoom meeting with ESC.

TC reported on the Flagship meeting she had attended with Cllrs Fellowes and Webster. There were 5 main questions, one of which is why there are 7 properties empty in Aldeburgh. They could not answer this question at that point or when we chased up with them on 11th March.

Flagship empty properties in Aldeburgh are:

2 at Franklin Road

1 at Craig Royston

1 in Aldeburgh High Street

3 at The Plantation

Flagship have said they will sell any property which isn’t viable such as 278 High Street. This needs work to become a rentable standard. They have given us until the end of April for us to indicate if we can work with them and value the property at £345,000.

We must keep asking questions and to also find out the role of ESC in this issue. Also, what is the Governments view on empty houses when there are clearly people on the waiting list for the town.

Flagship own 33,000 properties across East Anglia of which they plan to sell 1,000 a year to be able to invest in new built homes.

Orford Council had a meeting with Flagship the following day to our meeting.

**12) Mayor’s Notes**

Cllr Webster has attended the following meetings / events:

Britten-Pears Arts zoom with TC

Planning Meeting

Football Meeting with Cllr Jones

Leiston Road Traffic Meeting

OGS Meeting

Community Land Trust Meeting

Social Housing Meeting

HR Meeting

Meeting with Giles Bloomfield, Cllr Jones and TC about the pump on the marshes

Meet and Greet the Practical Classics Car Club

Coffee Morning at the Church Hall which raised £1400 for Ukraine funds.

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Suffolk Justice Service Civic Event in Bury St Edmunds. They very much enjoyed the event.

**13) Correspondence**

Cllr Fellowes reported on the new Energy Statement.

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

None.

**15)** **Items to Pay**

No salary payments information has been circulated to Cllrs as this is to be discussed at the In-Camera Meeting to follow. At this point the TC and DTC will leave.

Details had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. All other payments were **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Webster.

 **In Favour 9**

 **Against 0**

 **Abstentions 0 CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**An In-Camera meeting followed.**

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

**9th May 2022 at 7pm**