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

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

Present: Cllr Webster – The Mayor took the Chair.

Cllr Fellowes Cllr Blackbourn

Cllr Howard-Dobson Cllr Piers-Hall

Cllr Jones  Cllr Lewis

Cllr Lumpkin Cllr Osben

Cllr Palmer Cllr Smith

Cllr Daly representing ESC was in attendance at the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Fox, Cllr Digby and Cllr Haworth-Culf (SCC)

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

None to declare.

1. **To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th November 2021:**

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th November 2021 were approved unanimously by the Council members by a show of hands.

1. **SCC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr Haworth-Culf’s Report has been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. If there are any questions please direct them via email to Cllr Haworth-Culf.

1. **ESC Report and Correspondence:**

Cllr T Daly informed the meeting that the ESC monthly report is not quite ready but will be distributed in the next few days. Cllr Daly was voted in as a Green representative and talked about a new Green Report being sent to Cllrs soon. He reminded the committee that the East Suffolk Cycling and Walking Strategy consultation closes today which includes several proposals which could be positive for Aldeburgh and the surrounding area. Council Tax rates and Precept for 2022-23 has been decided. The Finance Bill for Sizewell C Power Station is currently being discussed in the House of Commons.

Cllr Fellowes asked if SEA-LINK will be covered in the ESC report. Cllr Daly replied to say that it will not be included this month. He plans to work in-depth on this and reported that landowners will initially be surveyed.

1. **Police Report:**

The Town Clerk reported that the Area Inspector who has been in post for the past 6 years is moving to a new role from the beginning of February. A replacement Area Inspector is due to take over from him shortly.

1. **Public Forum**

Cllr Webster suspended Standing Orders. As no members of the public were present, the Mayor then re-instated Standing Orders.

**8a) PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

See the report attached by Cllr Jones (appendix a).

Cllr Osben enquired about the damaged wall along Jubilee Walk from King’s Field. The current orange netting doesn’t seem enough to prevent the possibility of the wall collapsing. She asked who is liable in the event of an accident. Cllr Jones replied that SCC put up the barrier and they have responsibility for safety. The owner of the property with the damaged wall has been given 6 months to complete the work. Cllr Fellowes believed the path to be closed but Cllr Jones explained that there is a diversion and that only half the path has been closed. ATC requested the path remain open as it is such a well-used route.

Further to Cllr Jones report, the TC explained the problems with the boiler in the Moot Hall which is not working. Engineers believe that the flue is blocked. It cannot be accessed from the bottom. To access the flue from the top, contractors will need a cherry picker or scaffolding to reach the top of the outside chimney. Possible blockage could be guano or nesting materials. TC will talk our options through on Wednesday this week with engineer from Green Future visiting to provide a quote.

Cllr Osben suggested that green alternatives should be explored when replacing the gas boiler in the Moot Hall. A short discussion followed and it is not thought possible to do this currently because all the pipework and radiators in the building would need replacing which would be difficult in a Listed Building. Cllr Lumpkin indicated that it may prove difficult to replace a gas boiler quickly due to supply chain delays.

Cllr Fellowes asked if change of use has been applied for relating to the Tractor Shed on King’s Field. She would be opposed to retail or food preparation as would not be good options. Cllr Jones confirmed change of use has been sought for multi-use (Light Industrial, Office Accommodation and similar to current use).

8aii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the retention of the precept at the current level for the year 2022/23.

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

**In Favour 11**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

8aiii) **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the proposed budget for 2022/23

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

**In Favour 11**

**Against 0**

**Abstentions 0**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**8b) SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Palmer’s report had been circulated previously to all Cllrs and can be found attached (see Appendix b.)

In addition, the lamp post along Church Walk has been repaired. It had been removed and replaced by a developer. It has now been agreed that Highways are responsible for this.

Cllr Fellowes asked about progress with parking arrangements in the Fisherman’s car park. Cllr Palmer confirmed he and Cllrs Webster and Lewis have met on-site with Lewis Boudville (ESC). It is possible for ESC to police the car park and issue fines for non-permit holders. We await them to come back to us with a legal agreement. At that point the detail will be known; including, for example who receives any income from fines collected.

Cllrs Webster and Fellowes have received complaints about the current traffic arrangements at Choppings Hill. The TC confirmed that these arrangements will now stay in place until March. It was noted that some frustration has been due to road closure and no actual building work taking place.

Cllr Fellowes has noticed that the Bus Stop sign has disappeared from the Leiston/Linden Road bus stop. Cllr Palmer will follow this up.

**8c) PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Cllr Webster reported that planning applications have been slow over the Christmas period but are now being submitted. There will be an Agenda sent out this week for a Planning Meeting to take place on Monday 17th January at 10am. This will be held in the Moot Hall.

The TC informed the meeting that two breaches of licence conditions are being investigated which relate to a gin distillery.

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

The TC is preparing for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations this summer. Many organisations in the town have been in touch who are keen to celebrate this occasion and co-ordinate with ATC.

**9) Representatives’ Reports**

Cllr Fellowes had attended an Energy Projects meeting hosted by SALC. She will also be involved in a sub-group as some rural parishes have been let down by ES planning by receiving responses better suited to urban environments. Cllr Fellowes has received an offer of talking benches which will need to be discussed.

Cllr Lewis reported all progressing well with allotments and annual renewals.

Cllr Howard-Dobson was part of the team who organised the exhibition of past photos of Aldeburgh. This was opened in a High Street Gallery in December and proved to be extremely successful. Cllr Howard-Dobson was encouraged to see local people and has been asked by many to hold another exhibition.

Cllr Jones reported she attended an OGS Trust meeting on Weds 24th November and will attend the next meeting this Wednesday. The AGM will be held on 27th January 2022.

Cllr Jones attend the Park Road (Aldeburgh) Maintenance Ltd (PRAM) AGM on the 20th November. The annual frontage fee will remain the same. They have installed some new drains, have had the road swept and instructed a new contractor for verge cutting.

Cllr Jones was present at an Aldeburgh Society meeting on 22nd November 2021. They continue to follow energy projects and planning applications. They have agreed with the views of ATC regarding recent applications. The Aldeburgh Society has decided to make contact with Southwold as they feel the town has the same issues with second home owners.

**10) Report from the Town Clerk**

TC participated in a Town Clerk’s meeting hosted by Norse and supported by ESC to find out more about the change in the organisation. Out of 12 possible participants only herself and TC from Southwold took part via Zoom. This was beneficial as both clerks were able to gain information and the towns represented face many of the same issues. Simon Gilbert from ESC will be organising the annual pre-season walk in March and the TC hoped Cllr Palmer will be available.

The TC informed the meeting that no further guidance has been issued by the Government since Council Meetings were discouraged in December 2021 under Plan B. Since the power to pass resolutions by Zoom was revoked in May 2021, and has not been re-instated, ATC will continue to meet in person. For the foreseeable future Council and Committees meetings will take place in the Church Hall which is larger and can be ventilated. Another reason is because there is no heating in the Moot Hall.

The TC encourages all councillors to take up the opportunity of Councillor Training which you can enrol for on the SALC website. The training is extremely valuable in developing Cllr knowledge and all courses are currently held by Zoom.

During December the DTC ordered 6 memorial benches and 5 have already been sold and are in position.

TC outlined staffing of the Moot Hall. Due to the Government encouraging home working, both TC and DTC will be in the office each morning. In the afternoon they will work from home and contactable by email.

**11) Mayor’s Notes**

**11i)** Cllr Webster reported that he had attended:-

Football matches

OGS meetings

Carnival meetings

Environment meeting

Re-brand event of Ipswich Building Society (now Suffolk Building Society)

Remembrance Sunday

Fisherman’s Car Park meeting

Funeral of John Studd former Mayor and friend

Museum Volunteers Christmas Lunch

Fairfield Centre Christmas Lunch

Church Carol Service

Thanks to Cllr Lumpkin and his team of volunteers who cooked a fabulous Christmas Lunch at the Fairfield Centre for the elderly lunch club around 40 meals.

**12) Correspondence**

None to report.

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

None.

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 11**

**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 February 2022 at 7pm.**