



ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

MOOT HALL, MARKET CROSS PLACE
ALDEBURGH, SUFFOLK, IP15 5DS

Tel: 01728 452158 Email: townclerk@aldeburghtowncouncil.co.uk

MINUTES OF ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE MOOT HALL ON MONDAY 8th January 2024 AT 7PM

Present: Cllr Fellowes, Cllr Fox, Cllr Haworth, Cllr Haworth-Culf, Cllr Howard-Dobson, Cllr Lumpkin, Cllr Webster, Cllr Jones, Cllr Langley.

In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and 1 member of the public.

52. Apologies: Cllr Bond and Cllr Whitelock (East Suffolk Council)

53. To Receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lumpkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Fairfield Centre Agenda Item 61.1

Cllr Fox declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Fairfield Centre Agenda Item 61.1

Cllr Haworth and Cllr Haworth-Culf declared an interest regarding any LionLink and Sealink issues to be discussed. Cllr Haworth-Culf has a dispensation at Suffolk County Council for related discussions.

Cllr Haworth-Culf declared a non-pecuniary interest as member of The National Trust regarding the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm.

54. Suffolk County Council (SCC) Report and Correspondence:

Further to Cllr Haworth-Culf's report that had been circulated, she highlighted the budget pressures and the difficult decisions SCC are having to make.

Funding is becoming available for councils and schools to claim "Suffolk Safe Place" grant between £4,000 and £15,000. This will be from 24th April 2024.

The charity 'Break' has been chosen to deliver two specialised centres for children in the Bury and Lowestoft areas. This will mean children with extra needs will be able to access the support needed.

Cllr Fellowes asked if it is true that Suffolk receives a smaller percentage of funding than other areas in the UK? If so, she believes we should campaign and address the issue. Cllr Haworth-Culf will find out if this is correct.

55. ESC Report and Correspondence:

Cllr Whitelock's monthly report had been circulated.

There was no mention of NSIPs in the report.

ACTION: Town Clerk to request Cllr Whitelock to note in future reports that no further updates are available, if that is the case.

56. Public Forum

Cllr Webster suspended Standing Orders.

A resident addressed the council and asked if Aldeburgh Town Council were planning to mark the 50th anniversary of Aldeburgh Town Council regrettably losing terms of its charter. Cllr Webster will look into this.

The member of the public expressed his dismay about Marriotts Fishing Hut 5 and how it has been slow progress taking two years for section 25 to be served. Cllr Webster confirmed that Mr Marriott now has until March 31st to reply to the notice. Cllr Fellowes would like reassurance from ESC that due process is followed when vacant and to avoid any future transfer issues.

ACTION: Town Clerk to email ESC.

Cllr Webster re-instated Standing Orders.

57. To Approve the Draft Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2023:

The draft minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th December 2023 were approved unanimously by a show of hands. Cllr Webster signed and dated the minutes.

58. Property and Finance Committee:

58.1 Report from the Chair of the Property and Finance Committee

Finance:

RESOLUTION to APPROVE the proposed budget and EMR for 2024/25 and increasing the Precept by £10,000 to £225,000. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In Favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

RESOLUTION to APPROVE using the CIL monies of £9,681 that need to be spent in 2024 to pay for the Ecobond project. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Haworth.

In Favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

RESOLUTION to APPROVE the updating of the signatories for the Suffolk Building Society (formerly Ipswich Building Society). To remove former councillors Cox and Digby and add Cllr Webster as a signatory on the mandate.

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

In Favour 8
Against 0
Abstentions 0

Town Clerk and Cllr Jones will begin to work through the 2023 Internal Audit recommendations.

ACTION: Cllr Jones is investigating investment options.

ACTION: The Town Clerk is looking at financial system options with a view to bringing a recommendation to Council in February.

RESOLUTION to APPROVE the documented BACS process and future ongoing use of BACS for payment of invoices and payroll. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Jones and **SECONDED** by Cllr Haworth-Culf.

In Favour 8
Against 0
Abstentions 0

Sports:

Cllrs Fox, Haworth-Culf and Jones have met with members of the Rugby Club and three architects to obtain quotes for drawings for bringing the changing facilities in the Rugby Pavilion up to the required standard.

Property:

Tractor shed. Cllr Jones is waiting for the plan regarding the trenches.

The Town Clerk has contacted Fenn Wright Estate Agents to say we are nearly ready to start marketing the building for rental.

Allotments. The Deputy Town Clerk is busy processing renewal payments. A few allotments have not been renewed, so we will offer to those on the waiting list. There is some rubbish needing clearance. This will be dealt with at the end of the month when it will be clearer how much there is to clear.

Groundsman’s Cottage. Cllr Jones has re-contacted Skales to request that they make contact with Ian Culf who can explain what work is necessary regarding insulation.

Bowls Pavilion. There is a leak in the roof which appears irregularly when the wind is in a certain direction. A contractor is looking into this.

Tennis Courts. We still await a date for the tennis courts contractor to inspect the bottom courts to recommend what is required to rectify the cracks.

Kings field. The Property and Finance Committee sought the council’s view

on the possibility of creating an enclosed dog area on Kings Field. There is an area where the skatepark used to be although this can be very wet. The idea may be a way of helping with the problem of dog fouling. A discussion about whether dogs should be on the lead on Kings Field followed but this cannot be enforced without a byelaw. Council agreed for the idea to be investigated further.

ACTION: Town Clerk offered to investigate a similar dog area that has been built in the Ipswich area and will report back.

Hoggs builders have been contacted again to request their report of recommended maintenance work for the Moot Hall, with no response.

58.2 **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the Income list for December 2023 and the Payments list for January 2024. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones.

In Favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

The Town Clerk and Mayor signed the Payments List for January 2024.

59. Services Committee

59.1 Report from the Chair of the Services Committee

Energy Projects

The SeaLink response on behalf of the Council has been submitted.

SZC have invited one person from each council to the first meeting since the DCO had been triggered. Brian Stuart is the Chair and he has been appointed by EDF and they set the agenda. Cllr Haworth-Culf confirmed she will be attending as SCC councillor.

Discussion was had to agree the content of the Levelling Up Funding grant application. The deadline for this to be submitted to East Suffolk Council is 27th January. The funding will be released mid-March.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** the Grant for Levelling Up Funding application version which included a feasibility study to improve access across the town, updating advanced directional signs, procurement and installation of a Town Board to be located at the Fort Green end of town and funding to facilitate the repair and painting of gates and heritage fences in Aldeburgh town. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes. This motion was not seconded.

RESOLUTION to **APPROVE** the Grant for Levelling Up Funding application version which included updating advanced directional signs, procurement and

installation of a Town Board to be located at the Fort Green end of town and funding to facilitate the repair and painting of gates and heritage fences across the town. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Fellowes. This motion was not seconded.

RESOLUTION to APPROVE the Grant for Levelling Up Funding application which included updated advanced directional signs, procurement and installation of a Town Board to be located at the Fort Green end of town and funding to facilitate the repair and painting of gates and heritage fences across the town, subject to the agreed minor amendments being made prior to submission. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Howard-Dobson and **SECONDED** by Cllr Fox.

In Favour	7
Against	1
Abstentions	0

The bus shelter in the High Street has been completed. The Leiston Road parking scheme is on-going and currently with SCC lawyers. A timeline will be requested. The speed sign will be put up on Leiston Road this month.

ACTION: Town Clerk to find out the cost of purchasing a smaller sign to be used on Saxmundham Road.

60. Planning Committee

60.1 Report from the Chair of the Planning Committee

Since the original Planning Committee response had been submitted in relation to Tofts on Saxmundham Road, many residents and local organisations had objected regarding the jetty. As a result the Planning Committee had reconsidered the application earlier today and an updated decision will be submitted.

The Planning Committee will support the views of ESC Tree Officer regarding a request to fell 2 trees located on Victoria Road / Church Farm Road. As these trees were planted by pupils at Aldeburgh Primary School for the troops returning from the first world war, the Planning Committee have requested trees suitable for the space be re-planted.

The application for Peach House has been refused twice in the past. The Planning Committee stance has not changed since the previous application as the current application is largely the same.

ACTION: Cllr Webster will investigate the bin store on King Street as no more has been heard from the enforcement team.

Member of the public left the meeting at 8.14pm.

60.2 **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** Aldeburgh Town Council statement re. ‘Draft Healthy environments’ and ‘Draft Rural Development Supplementary Planning’ documents. (Approve in principle subject to minor amendment to be made by Cllr Bond). **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

In Favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

61. Grants and Requests Committee

6.1. **RESOLUTION** to **APPROVE** the donation of £500 to the Fairfield Centre towards the cost of transport in 2024. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Haworth.

In Favour	6
Against	1
Abstentions	1

62. Reports from Members appointed to Outside Bodies

Cllr Fellowes will attend a meeting about Five Estuaries re. compensation habitat for Orford Island. This will be on 11th January. On 16th January she will attend a SZC meeting which is the first meeting since the DCO was triggered.

Cllr Lumpkin attended an Aldeburgh United Charities meeting and a meeting of the Fairfield Centre. Cllr Lumpkin advised that he was to be appointed a trustee of the Fairfield Centre and the Aldeburgh United Charities.

Cllr Haworth-Culf reported that there is a new Head Teacher in post at Alde Valley School. Car parking passes have now been successfully issued to RNLI. Very positive feedback has been received for all the Christmas events including the Children’ Christmas Party at the Old Generator Station.

63. Mayor’s Report

Cllr Webster reported that he attended the following events and meetings:

- 19 December Hospital Carol Singing
- 23 December Visiting Hospital Wards
- 26 December Boxing Day Swim
- 3 January Aldeburgh United Charities Trustees Meeting

Cllr Webster proposed 3 new people to be trustees of Aldeburgh United Charities (AUC): Rob Maybe, James Wood and Cllr Lumpkin. As stated in the constitution, Aldeburgh Town Council are to approve new trustees.

RESOLUTION to APPROVE the appointment of Rob Maybe, James Wood and Cllr Lumpkin as Trustees of Aldeburgh United Charities. **PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL** by Cllr Haworth-Culf and **SECONDED** by Cllr Howard-Dobson.

In Favour	8
Against	0
Abstentions	0

Cllr Webster confirmed that the AUC confirmed at their January meeting that as soon as bank signatories have been updated, Aldeburgh Town Council will be refunded for the payment made on behalf of the AUC for the Co-op vouchers that were issued shortly before Christmas to beneficiaries of the AUC. The charity are grateful for ATC support and reported that people receiving vouchers were very appreciative and thankful.

64. The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

The next meeting of the Full Council will take place on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm in the Moot Hall.