

Pre-meeting Reports
1st October 2013

- 90. Mr Tom McGarry.** The Chairman welcomed Mr McGarry, EDF, who gave members an update on the New Nuclear Build at Sizewell. Tom recapped on the stage one consultation which ended in February and outlined the ongoing environmental and technical work that was now taking place to better inform on the options so that detailed proposals could be put together for the next consultation. This looked like it would not happen now until well into 2014. He took questions and then gave an update on Upper Abbey farm which had attained Planning Permission in August. EDF now had a “Bat Licence” to enable them to start work on the property and they would be doing so shortly.
- 91. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Sam Maples, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an update on the crime figures for Leiston for September. Cllr Ginger asked that the Council consider taking up the Chief Constable’s offer to come and talk to the Council (possible early in the new year) and Cllr Last asked that the speed checks the SNT were currently undertaking be done at peak times rather than the middle of the day.
- 92. County Report.** Councillor Smith gave a report on his activities for September which included the Youth Club AGM and the 21st anniversary celebrations of the Film Theatre Support Club amongst others. Cllr Ginger raised the recent request from residents that the street lights on the side streets be left on an extra two hours on Friday and Saturday night. The Chief Constable had given his support for this although Cllr Smith had not yet been able to talk to him to ascertain the basis of that support. He would do so soon. Cllr Smith was asked to try and expedite the repair required to the sunken ironworks outside the Crown Pub as this had been a real hazard since the resurfacing work had been completed.
- 93. District Report.** There was nothing to report but two items were raised. The uncertainty and lack of information with regard to the old gas works decontamination proposal and concern over the state of the repairs to the Haylings Pond Car Park.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, and agreed, that standing orders be suspended to allow the public part of the meeting to be completed.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
1st October 2013 at 8.16 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor R. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor R. J. Geater
Councillor C. S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor J. N. Last
Councillor N. Parker
Councillor J. Sparrow

- 94. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3rd September 2013 be signed as a true record.

95. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cllr Howard, Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Cooper.
96. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman began by informing members of her involvement with the Leiston and Sizewell Community Benefit Fund. The panel was due to meet on Monday (next) to look at the first awards. On behalf of the Council she thanked the Leiston Film Theatre Support Club for all their hard work and support which had been documented and so well presented at their recent 21st anniversary open day. They had made a fantastic contribution to the success of the Theatre since their formation and their continued support was hugely appreciated. Again, on behalf of the Council, she thanked Nick Boulter and the Clerk for organising the "Show Me" Leiston event which had been such a warm and friendly occasion last weekend. The Neighbourhood Planning Team had attracted the interest they needed for their consultation and the Skatejam had been a real success too.
97. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Ginger declared an interest in 14b) and 14c).
98. **Youth Provision.** Members heard that the Clerk had been approached by various young people with regard to requesting additions to the skatepark, or the possibility of a pump track on Victory Road recreation ground or on King George Avenue rec. He wondered whether it would be a good time for members to engage with the young people and the outreach workers to just explore these aspirations and see if we could facilitate any enhancements to the current play provision. The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting.
99. **Youth Club – building management.** Members noted the invitation from Suffolk County Council for Leiston to provide a representative to sit on a building management committee for the new community building and Children's Centre in Waterloo Avenue. This was in our role as facilitators of the Leiston Youth Club who would have a dedicated space in the centre. Cllr Howard (via a letter) and Cllr Mrs Nunn volunteered to be our representatives.
100. **Highbury Cottage Footpath.** The Clerk informed members that the landowners of Highbury Field were still looking at the proposed access agreement drawn up by their solicitor.
101. **Fairtrade update.** Cllr Mrs Nunn reported that the Fairtrade team had exhibited at the "Show Me" event and would do so at the Christmas event too. There was a committee meeting due soon and she also thanked Cllr R Bailey for taking the Fairtrade display "on tour".
102. **Allotment Committee Meeting of 10th September.** Members noted the minutes from the meeting and agreed to have a meeting with the Allotment Association on 26th November. Cllr Ginger reported that a bonfire had recently been lit outside of the times allowed.
103. **Community Centre Management Meeting of 17th September.** Members noted the minutes from the meeting and discussed the possibility of installing a commercial dishwashing machine. The Clerk gave an indicative price of what such a machine might cost to purchase and install (around £2,000). Members decided to ask the clubs to apply for grant aid to purchase a machine. They also asked the Clerk to look at reserves and, if neither were feasible then to consider putting a sum in next year's estimates.
104. **Sizewell Beach Management Meeting of 23rd September.** Members noted the minutes of the meeting and the actions arising from them.
105. **Newsletter articles.** Members understood that the motion put during Questions to the Chairman at the last meeting had been ultra vires and, hence, needed to be revisited. Members looked at the wording of the motion and queried what constituted a personal political view as this had many connotations. The Clerk put forward that what was probably meant was controversial rather than political although, again, it was difficult to be precise as

to what might be considered controversial. There was further discussion but it was soon proposed, seconded and agreed that members move on to next business. The Newsletter Working Party noted all the guidance and comments.

106. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £14,993.14 along with £14,621.09 paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Hodgson declared an interest in cheque number 311724.
- b) **Salary and Wages Review.** Members considered the recommendations of the Personnel Committee with regard to this year's review of pay and conditions for Council staff and, on proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Geater, it was agreed to accept all the recommendations put forward. There were no changes to conditions and the pay award amounted to an increase of almost 2% across the board backdated to April.
- c) **Cinema Admission Price Review.** Members noted the report and recommendations from Mr Burns which was requesting a 20p increase across the board for all tickets. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the ticket prices be increased by 20p from 4th October.

During the above two items Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room.

- d) **Auditors Report 2012-2013.** Members were pleased to accept the Auditors report and noted their opinion. The one matter which was drawn to members' attention had already been resolved so, on a proposition from Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to accept and approve the Annual Return and Auditors Certificate for 2012/2013.

The meeting took a break for refreshment from 8.55pm – 9.15pm

107. Planning.

- a) **C13/2397 – Erection of a two-storey extension to side of existing semi-detached house at 11 Valley Terrace, Leiston. (Cllr Hawkins abstained).**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **C13/2471 – Alterations and extensions to existing dwelling together with formation of new vehicular access onto main highway at 2 Halfway Cottages, Leiston.** Members noted the size of the extension which was quite large. They also noted the new access on to the highway. With regard to the access members were concerned that the visibility splay was wide enough to allow good visibility along the cycletrack that it crossed before reaching the road. The house itself would probably be acceptable but careful attention had to be paid to materials and design as the halfway houses were rather unique. **(Cllr Hawkins abstained).**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **C13/2491 – Remediation of former gasworks for the improvement of the site and to reduce potential environmental liabilities (future alternative use to be subject to planning application in due course). Gas Works, Carr Avenue, Leiston.** Members were pleased that the site was being cleaned up but were very concerned about the disruption noise and transport issues that the clean up might entail. SCDC would be asked to ensure their environmental team included the appropriate conditions in any permission to reduce dust and noise and smell to absolute minimum appropriate for the operation. Machinery should not be operated outside of 8am – 6pm weekdays, 8am-1pm Saturdays and not at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C13/2610 – Demolition of existing kitchen and lobby and erection of a new single storey extension comprising kitchen/dining room at 5 Kings Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **C13/2727 – Construction of a side conservatory at 102 King George Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) Neighbourhood Plan update. The Clerk gave a resume of the interaction and consultation with residents that the team had achieved at the Sow Me Leiston event.

108. County Matters

- a) **Highways.** Members asked for the surface in Abbey Road and the parking on the green sward in Aldeburgh Road to go next week's agenda (for the Highways Meeting) plus the verge opposite No 20 Heath View.
- b) **Lighting.** Members discussed the request from a resident to support her request for street lights to be kept on an extra two hours on Friday and Saturday nights to allow residents to get home from the pubs and clubs in comfort. There was some discussion on this as the current system of turning lights off at midnight had met with a lot of approval however there was also sympathy with residents who did have to negotiate the side streets in darkness some evenings. It was eventually agreed and proposed by Cllr R Bailey, seconded by Cllr Geater that the Council write and support the initiative and ask for an extra hour, not unreasonable at all, on Friday and Saturday nights.

109. District Matters.

- a) **SALC.** Cllr R Bailey informed members that he been elected Chair of the Local Area forum of SALC for a further year and had also attained an appointment to NALC which he would write and explain to members for the next meeting.

110. Correspondence.

- a) **Leiston, Saxmundham and District Citizens Advice Bureau.** Members noted the letter from the Leiston CAB requesting a grant. Members, as always, were very appreciative of the work that the CAB did in the town and the service that they provided to residents in increasingly difficult times. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that £2,000 be donated to Leiston CAB to help them continue that work.
- b) **Bus Shelter – Waterloo Avenue.** Members noted the positive response from the County Council with regard to the siting of a bus shelter outside the Alde Valley Sixth Form Centre. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that we ask the County to go ahead and that we put it on the next agenda with a view to deciding a contribution.
- c) **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Hodgson go to the meeting with the Planning Inspectorate on 24th October at Theberton.

111. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Grit Bins.** Cllr D Bailey asked where we stood with the agreed provision of Grit Bins. The Clerk reported that they were behind the Council offices and would be put out later in October.
- b) **High Street Car Park.** Members asked whether the Chairman would thank Cllr Cooper for providing the deeds and documents relating to the High Street Car Park which has made ownership very clear.
- c) **Newsletter.** Cllr Hawkins asked whether the Newsletter Working Party would consider adding "contributions to this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Town Council" to our future newsletters.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.50 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----