

Pre-meeting Reports
5th November 2013

- 112. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Carl Lawrence, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an update on the crime figures for Leiston for October. PC Lawrence also informed members of all the upcoming initiatives the SNT are doing with young people. Cllr Ginger brought up a couple of issues which included recent incidents of boy racers speeding along Red House Lane late at night. Cllr Mrs Nunn and Cllr Howard asked about incidents that had been reported of a large vehicle turning around half way up Southfield Drive very late at night. Cllr Sparrow queried the action taken with regard to a recent callout to investigate a rowdy gathering in Seaward Avenue.
- 113. County Report.** Councillor Smith gave a report on his activities for October which included a report of the recent visit to Leiston of Mrs Cadman. He had also met with Suffolk New College to discuss the impending conversion of Alde Valley School to an Academy (with New College as the sponsor). He informed the meeting that the County had set their budget for next year which would be in the public domain for scrutiny later in the week. Cllr Howard expressed his concern at what he considered to be the virtual privatisation of schools with the Governments drive for Academies and Mr Briggs was reassured that there would not, as far as Cllr Smith was aware, be any change of uniform when Academy status was achieved. Cllr Ginger used the ongoing problem of getting the drain cover sorted out in Sizewell Road as an indication of how he thinks divestment is degrading public services.
- 114. District Report.** Cllr Cooper gave a report on the current effects of Housing and Benefit changes. Cllr Howard was concerned at the national picture with many families being evicted and being put into B&B. Cllr Cooper was able to confirm that no one had been evicted in SCDC and, as he had reported, there were ongoing initiatives with the CAB to try and help as many vulnerable families as possible to try and avoid it ever happening. Cllr R Bailey asked Cllr Cooper to congratulate his officer who was heading up the programme to bring empty homes back into use as he felt that she was doing a really good job. Cllr Nunn reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Boundaries had now been approved by SCDC and the recruitment process was ongoing to try and get an officer in to provide support to the Towns and Parishes who were producing a plan. He then announced that DCLeisure were now confirmed as the preferred partner to run the Districts Leisure Centres for the next 15 years. He also assured Mr Briggs that the constant issues of cleanliness and maintenance that had arisen during their current operations had been raised and would hopefully be addressed during the negotiations. Cllr Hawkins explained that he had recently contacted ONR who had told him that they had no concerns about the building of any new houses in Leiston as the Emergency Planning Team at SCC now had the remit to ensure that they could accommodate these in their plans. There was nothing else to report but two items were raised. Cllr Howard asked for a report of the recent JLAG meeting and whether SCDC were concerned at the withdrawal of funding by EDF to aid the District respond to the New Build project. Cllr Nunn confirmed that the much reduced funding they received was indeed unsatisfactory but that SCDC would continue to do as much of the required work as they could with the resources available. The other item was to enquire when the CCTV camera would be erected in the Sizewell Road Car Park. Unfortunately Cllr Nunn was unable to give a firm date just that instructions had been given for it to be done. It was probably going through the planning and regulatory process. Mr Graham Jackson suggested that members, in light of the possible delay on Sizewell C, consider forming a Joint Development Committee of Councillors, residents and businesses to work on how the town deals with the delay and the stultifying effect that being in limbo will have on the town.

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,
5th November 2013 at 7.53 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

- 115. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1st October 2013 be signed as a true record.
- 116. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Parker and Cllr Mrs Geater.
- 117. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman informed the meeting that she had attended a meeting with the Highway Department, a meeting with Galloper Wind Farm, a meeting with the Youth Club and a Fairtrade meeting. The Fairtrade group would be having a stall at the forthcoming Christmas Fair and would also be having a coffee morning during the Fairtrade fortnight in February. She then reminded the meeting that articles for the November newsletter had to be in by the 13th. Finally, the Chairman thanked Cllr Smith for arranging the visit of Mrs Cadman as she felt that it had been very useful.
- 118. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Agenda item 9. Cllr Howard in any item referring to nuclear power and Cllr R Bailey in item 8. Cllr Mrs Nunn and Cllr Mr Nunn in 13c and Cllr Hawkins in items 13a, 13b) and 13c).
- 119. Highbury Field Footway.** The landowners were currently discussing an agreement with their solicitors.
- 120. Sizewell Emergency Plan.** The Clerk briefly outlined the evacuation proposals and the predicted evacuation times in the document and also pointed out the assertion that the Plan could accommodate any future housing in the Town that the SHLAA allowed. Cllr Howard was very concerned that the new plan did not recognise the real world experiences of previous accidents where evacuation had taken place out to 30km. He therefore proposed that the Council write and seek a DEPZ of 30km which was not supported. He also felt that the evacuation centres at Darsham and Farnham were too close and that the consultation period for the plan was not long enough to allow many parishes/organisations to respond adequately. It was noted that the plan used 2.4km as a DEPZ as this was stipulated by the ONR (and therefore had to be used). It was also pointed out that the evacuation centres would be monitored and residents evacuated further away if an incident occurred which required the EEPZ to be cleared. The Clerk would inform the Suffolk Resilience Team of the concern regards consultation timings.
- 121. Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** Cllr Hodgson gave a brief report on the recent meeting

between SPLG and SCDC and also on a presentation he and the Clerk had attended by the lead officer for the Sizewell C project from the Planning Inspectorate. The important point in the latter meeting was that the Inspectorate do not get involved with the consultation phase. Their role is to assess that EDF have adhered to the agreed Statement of Community Consultation once they submit their planning application.

- 122. Haylings Pond Update.** Cllr Cooper reported to members that, since the last on site meeting with SCDC (where grave concerns were again expressed about the state of the car park), he had received a further offer. The District were now prepared to tarmac a 6m wide strip down the centre of the car park as well as tarmac the entrance road before handover or they would give £20,000 to Leiston Town Council to get the work done as part of a handover. There would need to be an agreement in place for SCDC to do the work however so members were asked their opinion. The meeting agreed that the offer was unexpected and very welcome. They appreciated that SCDC would of course need a commitment from the Town Council to take the facility on before spending that amount of money but were still wary about the on costs of owning the pond and the meadow. Overall though, on a proposal from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to thank SCDC for the offer and inform them that it had been received favourably although a final decision on which way to go with the remedial works would need to be an agenda item on 3rd December. Cllr R Bailey abstained.
- 123. Film Theatre Extension Update.** Most of the tenders were now in and would be assessed before the Committee meeting scheduled for 18th November.
- 124. Valley Road Trees.** There was a discussion on the Valley Road hedgerow that belongs to the allotments and the dangerous state of the trees in the western part of it. This had been highlighted by the recent storm. Members agreed to get the hedgerow tidied up and lowered in height along its length and get some quotes for either leaving in shortened stumps for the dead/dying trees or of removing them and replanting to achieve a decorative hedgerow.
- 125. Youth Club and Youth provision.** Members noted the report from the recent meeting with CYP (SCC) with regard to the building progress and future arrangements for the old Middle/Modern School on Waterloo Avenue. The Youth Club have their space guaranteed now and will be entering into a lease with SCC in due course. They will, along the Town Council, then have a representative on a building management committee to oversee the liaison between all the various users of the new building. There was also a meeting between Councillors and the young skaters and bikers of the town to discuss future provision of facilities. The bullet points that came from that meeting were that the young people would like the first investment to be in rejuvenating the current skatepark, along with a new shelter, followed by a possible bmx track in a suitable location. The Clerk would now be looking at various options in due course.
- 126. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £27,752.10p along with £15,760.99p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Cooper declared an interest in cheque 311759.
 - b) **Financial Update.** Members noted the half yearly financial update and report and the fact that the Council were on track with their budget to date for this year. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the report be accepted.
 - c) **Banking Arrangements.** In accordance with instructions at the August meeting the Clerk informed members, that, after some investigation, the best option for spreading the Council's financial risk would to open an account with Barclays Bank who did not charge for their Community Account. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council open a Community Account with Barclays plc.

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

127. Planning.

- a) **DC13/2849 – Erection of modular building for civil nuclear constabulary at Sizewell B power station, Sizewell, Leiston.** (Cllr Hawkins, Howard and R Bailey abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **C13/2905/FUL – Erection of timber framed garage – 19 King Georges Avenue Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **C13/2958/ARM – Erection of one single story dwelling (revised scheme – 1 Garrett Crescent Leiston.** A recommendation would also be made to limit use of machinery so as not be operated outside of 8am – 6pm weekdays, 8am-1pm Saturdays and not at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays. (Cllr Howard and Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C13/2994/FUL – 14 temporary site investigation trial trenches at Land on the North Side of, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston.** (Cllr Howard and R Bailey against)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **C13/3029/FUL – Erection of link-detached two-storey dwelling house – 2 Southfield Drive (part side of) Leiston.** A recommendation would also be made to limit use of machinery so as not be operated outside of 8am – 6pm weekdays, 8am-1pm Saturdays and not at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays. (Cllr Hawkins abstained, Cllr Howard against, Cllr Cooper declared an interest)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) **Planning enforcement.** Cllr Cooper gave everyone a copy of the policies and procedures for planning enforcement issues for information.

- g) **Neighbourhood Plan update.** The group leads had met and were now waiting for Mr Chris Bowden to put together a shell copy to go forward with.

128. County Matters

- a) **Highways.** Members went through the report from the meeting with the Highways department and asked the Clerk to progress the items that needed chasing.

- b) **Speed Data.** Members noted the speed data sheets that had been provided and asked that the Clerk request that further data be obtained for Haylings Road and Abbey Road. There was a problem on the road leading into Leiston through Aldringham but the more pressing problem was the speed past the Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the Council pursue the installation of a flashing sign in King George Avenue to try and get speed reduced there.

129. District Matters.

- a) **SALC.** Cllr R Bailey informed members that he could now write a report for members to explain the agreement that had been reached between NALC and DCLG on how the Sustainable Communities Act would be administered.

- b) **Haylings Pond.** Members thanked Cllr Cooper for all the work he had done to progress Haylings Pond recently (see above).

130. Correspondence.

- a) **Leiston Old Folks Outing.** Members all agreed that a big vote of thanks should be given to the LOFO team for organising such a well received event again this year and asked Cllr D Bailey to pass this on to his team.

- b) **Home Start Suffolk Coastal.** Members noted a letter from Home Start requesting grant aid. Home Start is an organisation that members have supported in the past in appreciation of the work that they do in the town and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to donate £50 again this year.

131. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Community Rail Partnership.** Cllr Howard asked the Chairman to put the Community Rail Partnership on the agenda for December.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.57 pm.

Chair

Dated
