

Pre-meeting Reports
1st April 2014

- 227. Police Report.** The Chairman informed members that PC Carl Lawrence had sent apologies as he was unable to attend at short notice due to an operational call out. The report for March is attached to these minutes.
- 228. Mr Tom McGarry, EDF.** Mr McGarry updated members and the meeting on the Nuclear New Build programme and how it related to Sizewell. He reported on the main points covered recently at the Community Forum where EDF Energy had given more detail on their intentions with regard to the lead sites for the accommodation campus and the park and ride sites and had also announced a further, additional, consultation stage to be conducted later this year before the more finalised and fully detailed proposals are presented at Stage 3. This last item was in response to the many demands for more detail to be given so that more considered responses could be given than was possible at stage 1. Mr McGarry explained how the traffic modelling was currently being done with SCC to ensure that there was going to be details available for the additional consultation and that there would be more detail on how the accommodation campus might look too. There were questions on the jetty and the possible bridge over the beach from the jetty and whether it would be permanent, one on worker numbers and education and training being put in place so that local people could get some of the more highly skilled jobs and one on whether they were thinking of using caravan sites and, if so, where they would be. Mr McGarry explained that there was soon going to be a scoping consultation for the Environmental Impact Assessment and he went into some detail about the investigative work and drilling currently being done offshore and onshore for the proposed rail routes so, again, more detail would be available later in the year. One point was raised that needed clearing up which was the misunderstanding with regard to the recent informal consultations around the lead sites. This was announced at the previous Community Forum and had indicated that they would be carried out in those parishes affected by the sites. In the case of the campus EDF Energy felt that Eastbridge and Theberton and some properties in the north of the Leiston parish (only) would be the most affected so had felt it inappropriate to extend the consultation to all the residents of Leiston. Councillors felt however that many residents would have appreciated the opportunity to comment on the mitigation factors needed for the site, especially road and footpath alterations perhaps. The new stage of formal consultation would now allow everyone to comment on this. Mr McGarry then answered further questions on the EU investigation into State Aid, CO² offset, whether EDF Energy were going to use caravan sites for workers and the current government review into energy pricing. There was an explanation on the proposed new strategy for the siting of the Visitor's Centre and Mr Taylor commented on this as well as the fact that he felt that the Community Forum was not well attended. Mr McLintic asked how much of the UK's future energy needs would be provided by Sizewell C – 7% - and finally, Cllr Ginger enquired about progress at Upper Abbey Farm. Mr McGarry reported that the bats were now rehoused and that it was EDF Energy's intention to comply with their obligations to rebuild the property although, currently, they were reviewing how to best incorporate the building into their plans for Sizewell C given its location near the proposed site entrance. This would be discussed with SCDC later in April.
- 229. County Report.** Councillor Smith announced that the new bus shelter in Waterloo Avenue would be installed by 10th April. He then explained to the meeting that, as an action from the flooding forum, he had entered into negotiation with Anglian

Water to get the entrance road into the Leiston Water Recycling Centre (LWRC){Sewage Works} upgraded and made up to adopted highway standards. Anglian Water in response had offered to spend £12,000 to metal the road but would not commit to the £55,000 required to bring it up to proper Highways standard (with kerbs, drainage and lighting). He, in turn, wished to offer Anglian £8,000 from his highway budget toward the project plus, if members agreed, £4,000 from LTC to try and persuade them to do it up to adoption standard. He asked members to consider this later in the meeting. He reported the outcome of the review into speed reduction measures and was pleased to announce that the Cabinet had agreed to let Town and Parish Councils purchase and install flashing speed signs to try and combat speeding. The preference would be for moveable signs i.e. posts erected to enable the sign to spend some months in various hot spots so motorists don't get too used to them. He offered to spend £3,000 on purchasing one for Leiston. Cllr Howard referred to a recent report that only 8 out of 43 police authorities were doing well by victims of sexual and domestic abuse. He appreciated that the main question was for the police authority but asked Cllr Smith to find out what funding SCC put into shelters etc. and whether this was being reduced.

230. District Report. Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Cooper had nothing to report. Cllr Ginger asked them to bear in mind his increasing concerns with regard to the Gateway Home Choice system operated by SCDC on behalf of Flagship. He had heard two reports recently of residents being unable to get replies from the dedicated Gateway numbers in circumstances when they needed to access the system. Cllr Howard was disappointed that he had received a leaflet with his council tax bill which set out the views of the leaders of the Police Authority, SCC and SCDC – with their contact details – but did not have anything from the Town or Parishes included. He thought that this was wrong. Cllr Last asked whether, now the Leisure Centre was under new management, “Places for People”, anything would be done about the poor and deteriorating facilities at the venue. Mr Taylor pointed out that he had not had a reply to his query from the previous meeting with regard to SCDC protocol on posting minutes online after meetings.

231. Public. Mr Watson from CYDS explained to members why CYDS were asking for an emergency grant and pointed out their difficulties now that both SCC and SCDC had withdrawn their funding as, when applying for funding, one of the most common questions is “what local funding and support do you receive”. He hoped that members would help them over the next two to three months while they pursued more core funding. Cllr Ginger wished to point out that this indeed was another effect of the cuts that principal authorities were making. Mr McLintic introduced himself as the most immediate neighbour of the Film Theatre and the one that was unfortunately affected most by the Councils plans to build an extension to the venue. He had written to the Chairman with a detailed request but just wanted to request that members continued to look at alternative proposals to building upwards and that they look again at using the car park. He was of the opinion that, being a supporter of the Cinema, this was the better option for all concerned.

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 APRIL 2014 at 8.17 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 Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C. S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor W. H. Howard
Councillor J. N. Last
Councillor A. J. Nunn (from 2030)
Councillor N. Parker

232. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4th March 2014 be signed as a true record.
233. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Sparrow.
234. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that the Fairtrade Committee had rounded off the Fairtrade Fortnight events with a band concert by the Junior RBL Band where there had been the opportunity to explain to the guests what Fairtrade was all about. She thanked Cllr Howard and Cllr R Bailey for their work on this and then thanked all the Councillors for helping make the Chairman's Reception such a success. The other event she had attended had been the launch of Suffolk Coastal District Council's Community Enabling Budget initiative at Ufford Park.
235. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Agenda item 12, 13, 17 and 25. Cllr Mrs Nunn in item 12, Cllr Mr Nunn in item 12 (on his arrival), Cllr Cooper in 16 and all of 26, Cllr Howard in 5,23 and 24. Cllr Mrs Geater in 17, Cllr Hawkins in 29 letters 1 and 2, Cllr Hodgson in 29 letter 1 and Cllr R Bailey in Haylings Pond. Cllr Howard also declared an interest in any item related to RBL or EDF.
236. **Discussion on Mr McGarry's presentation.** The main points were from Cllr Howard who asked that the Council get involved more with discussions on education and skills and that they keep asking questions on the use of caravan sites and the beach.
237. **Boundary Commission consultation.** Members noted the consultation currently being carried out by the Boundary Commission on the newly proposed District Council Wards. Members noted the draft response presented by the Clerk which

encapsulated Councillors disappointment and concern at the proposed change from Leiston being warded with Knodishall to the completely inappropriate warding with Middleton and Theberton put forward by the Commission. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed that the letter be Leiston's response.

- 238. Sizewell Road Car Park CCTV.** Members heard that the expected erection of a CCTV camera in Sizewell Road Car Park was still being looked at. Cllr Cooper reported that he would be going to a meeting on Friday and the Clerk informed members that the meeting they had requested take place with the District Officers to discuss the situation was set for next Wednesday. Cllr Cooper did report however that there were no plans to install a barrier.
- 239. Leiston Water Recycling Centre. (LWRC).** Members discussed the request from Cllr Smith for them to pledge £4,000 toward his attempt to persuade Anglian Water to bring the entrance road to the LWRC up to highway standard so it could be adopted by SCC. This would see drainage installed and would help the residents in Carr Cottages who live by the current track. Cllr Hodgson also felt that, should this go ahead, the junction of the track with Valley Road should be splayed to allow tankers to turn up Kemps Hill thus taking HGV's away from Archway Cottages and Valley Road. Cllr Geater was against the proposal as he could not see why this private track should get council funding when, for instance, a really bad track at the rear of Wesward Ho did not for instance. Overall though members agreed to pledge the £4,000 on the understanding that it would be used (if needed) toward the makeover of the entrance road to full adopted standard and that Highways then took it on. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper there were 6 for and 4 against.
- 240. Play Areas and Open Spaces Committee.** Members noted the minutes from the recent Play Areas and Open Spaces Committee and asked that the Council consider formally adopting the licence for fishing currently enjoyed by the Angling Club with Suffolk Coastal. On a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to honour the licence, valid until 2015, on handover of the pond and to review renewing it at the appropriate time. Members then discussed and agreed a time for them to walk around the play areas to further the other items raised in the minutes.
- 241. Emergency Resilience Planning.** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Nunn were still looking at the paperwork required and will shortly convene a meeting to progress this.
- 242. Highbury Field Footway.** Members were pleased to hear that quotes were now being sought to install the path. The Clerk asked members to consider when they might wish the work to be done. The field was currently under crops which are due to be harvested on 1st August. If the work is done before this then there would be some compensation due, a maximum of £500, but after this then there would be no problems. Members agreed to wait until August.
- 243. Film Theatre.** Members reviewed the notes from the briefing held on 17th March. In particular they noted the request to go out to tender again with a new specification and internal design for the proposed second storey extension. The original tender package had included a lot of extras and some higher spec items that had resulted in some unaffordable quotes coming back. The new internal design and fittings would hopefully bring more affordable quotes if members wished to go to tender

again. The process of retendering would be at no further cost to the Council. Members noted that, at the briefing, and in the notes there from, consideration had again been given to possible alternatives. The broadly comparable cost of a single storey extension was noted but it was felt that the more preferable option of keeping everything compact and within the building itself also meant that the Council's land was not blighted for future development and possible sale which would give better value to residents in the long term. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the Council go out to tender once more with the amended plans and include in the list invited to tender, local builders. It was also requested that any local builders interested in tendering be given the original plans to cost up too (for comparison and fairness). Members asked that the Clerk revisit the business plan put forward last year at the beginning of the project to ensure it was still plausible.

244. Theatre Staff Employment Contracts. The Clerk had misunderstood what was required for this item so it was agreed to have an early Personnel Committee meeting to clarify the situation.

245. Town Team. Members were pleased to note the report from the Town Team and Cllr Cooper offered to attend their next meeting.

246. Our Place. The Clerk informed members that he had been successful with a bid for some initial funding for the DCLG "Our Place" programme which encouraged communities to become more autonomous and have more say in a wide variety of services that were provided by other bodies in the Town. The funding would be for the Leiston and District Community Partnership to become a Community Interest Company and for it to advertise and get involved more in the Town affairs. The next stage after this would be to get funding for an advisor to look at Leiston and to produce a report and possible strategy on what was possible and what could be achieved from the initiative in the future. Members were wary that the CIC, or whatever body emerged from the process, did not duplicate or supplant the Council's role and function so, bearing that in mind, it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Nunn and agreed that, in principle, the Council supports this initiative and that the Clerk be authorised to get more information in due course. Cllr Cooper abstained.

247. CYDS. Members noted the request from CYDS for emergency funding and the paperwork describing their role, activities and accounts to back up the request. Cllr Ginger again noted that this was another casualty of the cuts being imposed on local authorities but felt that the Town Council had to step in and try to help keep CYDS going as it provided a valuable service for many young people from the Town. The Clerk confirmed that the budget would be able to absorb the £16,000 requested but that a reassessment of earmarked reserves would have to take place once last year's accounts were finalised and the year end position calculated. Members also noted that it was unlikely that any further aid could be found should CYDS not be able to get any concrete core funding within the breathing space that this grant would enable. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to award CYDS £16,000 to cover all running costs for a further three months operations.

During the above discussion Cllr Cooper declared an interest and left the room. He was recalled briefly however to answer some questions in his capacity as a director of CYDS.

248. Balloon Releases (and Chinese lanterns). Members discussed and agreed a policy on balloon and Chinese lantern releases. They did not support these at all and would actively discourage organisations and individuals from taking part in such activities due to the proven threat to wildlife and the environment.

249. Haylings Pond handover. The Clerk reported that the exchange of contracts would shortly take place which would allow the capital works agreed with SCDC to commence.

250. Bus Shelter Main Street. Members noted the Clerks correspondence with the conservation officer at SCDC (also the owners of High Green) in which there had been positive comment with regard to the Clerks request to possibly place a bus shelter on High Green next to the blighted bus shelter which is now all but unusable. He explained that SCC had tacitly agreed to provide the shelter if someone else carried out the groundworks. This was not a simple job as it involved removing part of a historic wall and placing sleepers around the shelter to hold back the earth on a slope. On proposition from Cllr Ginger however, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to progress the idea and get some costings.

251. Defibrillator. Members discussed the merits and possible problems of the Council installing a Community Public Accessible Defibrillator (CPAD) on their property in the town and also the alternative of putting one in the cinema for use by the staff with all the issues of training that that might incur. It was agreed that, as a public service, the provision of a CPAD could only really be a positive if it saved a life so, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed in principle to progress this initiative and for the Clerk to bring some costs and facts to the table in due course. Cllr Mrs Nunn felt that, at any future discussion, Cllr Mrs Geater's views should be sought to help with the deliberations.

252. Newsletter. The Chairman arranged a Newsletter Committee meeting for 22nd April.

The time reaching 10pm it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue for a further 15minutes.

253. Finance.

a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £9,768.35p along with £30,784.39p paid since the last meeting (a lot due to catching the end of year) be approved for payment.

b) **Review of Film Theatre Admission Charges.** Members noted the report from the Theatre Manager and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr D Bailey it was agreed to implement the report in full. The new charge for adults would increase 30p to £7.25, a child 20p to £4.95 and concessions by 30p to £6.25. There were also levels set for the surcharge to be levied on the new premier {£1.50} and cuddle {£1.00} seats currently being installed. These prices remain lower than all nearby cinemas and ensure residents not only gain from not having to travel but that they get good value too. Three members voted against on the basis of the surcharge being a dual pricing structure per se.

During the above item Cllr Ginger left the room and took no part in the debate.

254. Planning.

- a) **DC14/0659/FUL – Storage of three electrical transformers and associated concrete plinths and groundwork’s: siting of a security cabin, installation of a gate and erection of a 2.7 meter high palisade security fence along the perimeter of the site. Land West of Cullen Place, Eastlands Industrial Estate, Eastlands Road, Leiston.** The Clerk was to enquire about any proposed security lighting. (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **C14/0602/FUL – Conservatory to rear of property – Bramble Cottage, Badger Wood Lane, Leiston** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **C14/0689/FUL - Construction of the eastern supergrid transformer substation compound at the galloper wind farm onshore site and associated underground electrical cabling works at Sub Station And Part Adjacent Land, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston.** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C14/0808/FUL Erection of fencing to south and west boundaries of 1 Queen Elizabeth Close, Leiston.** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

The time reaching 10.15pm the Chairman closed the meeting and informed everyone that it would be resumed where it left off at 7.30pm Tuesday 8th April in the Community Centre.

The meeting resumed, as above, commencing 7.30pm Tuesday 8th April in the Community Centre, King Georges Avenue, Leiston.

PRESENT

**Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. 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 J. N. Last
Councillor A. J. Nunn
Councillor Mrs J. Sparrow**

255. Apologies. Apologies received from Cllr Parker, Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr R Bailey.

256. County Matters

- a) Nothing raised

257. District Matters.

- a) **Sylvester Road Car Park.** Cllr Mrs Sparrow asked for the owners of the car park, believed to be SCDC, to take action to remove the skip and rubbish that was currently blighting the area.
- b) **Gateway Home Choice.** Cllr Ginger reported that there was still a lot of concern over the accessibility and performance of the Gateway Home Choice system. He had had further firsthand experience of the service run by Suffolk Coastal but had heard that, nationally, there was growing concern too.
- c) **Neuve Chappelle.** Cllr Cooper reported that the mayor's office in Neuve Chappelle had responded to his letter regarding possible Town Twinning and would respond again once mayorial elections had taken place there.

258. Correspondence.

- a) **Long Shop Museum.** Members discussed the report and request for grant aid received from the Long Shop. Cllr Boast reported that, from his point of view as a volunteer, there was a good atmosphere around the museum and Cllr Howard recommended the Thursday evening talks that they arranged there. Many other activities were also detailed in the report. The Clerk explained that the Council had declined to support a grant request last year but that £1,600 had been earmarked in the Precept for this year if members wished to support the Museum. Cllr Last wondered whether, if the Council release the grant, that it could be seen to be set against a specific project and not absorbed into the running costs per se. Members agreed that this would be a good idea and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to hold over this request until June.
- b) **Dr Coffey MP.** Members noted an update from Dr Coffey on some of the major issues occurring in her constituency. All items were of interest but a particular note was made of the report on how Suffolk Coastal was "passing on the Local Council Tax compensatory grant given them by Central Government". As this was not being passed on in full and was being reduced and withdrawn totally in two years members, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, asked the Clerk to write to Dr Coffey and inform her of her mistake.
- c) **The Eighth in the East – Cycle Route.** Members noted the letter from "The Eighth in the East" which requested support for the creation of a publicised cycle route from Saxmundham Station to Leiston and the coast taking in all WW1 and WW2 points of interest. Cllr Howard proposed that we support the initiative as it would help the organisation bid for funding for the project. This was seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed.
- d) **Composition of committees and other representatives.** Members briefly discussed the fact that, at the AGM, they would be looking at the composition of committees and nominating representatives to outside organisations. Members were asked to consider what would suit them and to think about the composition of the new Open Spaces committee. The Nursing Association Trust representative (letter 6) would also be determined then too.

259. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Sizewell Road Car Park CCTV.** Cllr Cooper was asked, through the chairman, whether the expected progress with regard to the placement of a camera at the Sizewell Road Car Park had been accomplished. He was pleased to report that it had and that members would be able to get more detail at the meeting they had requested with District Officers scheduled for the following afternoon.
- b) **Children's Centre Waterloo Avenue.** Cllr Howard asked the chairman

whether she too had been impressed with the excellent facility that had been provided in the old Modern School for the Children's Centre, Youth Club and Day Care centre. The Chairman explained to members that she did indeed agree and was extremely impressed with what the County Council had done with the premises.

- c) **Bus Shelter Main Street.** Cllr Howard informed members that he been in correspondence with BT Open Reach with regard to the unsuitable siting of the DSLAM cabinet in the Main Street Bus Shelter. On a site visit a BT representative agreed that placing it in the centre of the shelter had been wrong and asked whether the Council wished to pursue this and get it moved. Members agreed that Cllr Howard should say yes to this and ask that it be moved to the north of its current position as this would allow a seat to be placed in the shelter. Members did not want any works to jeopardise the proposed new shelter however.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 8.15 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----