

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd June 2014

9. **Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jason Cowles, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for May (attached). He then introduced Mr Rod Gilbert who gave the meeting a quick overview of the Community Speedwatch Scheme.
10. **Mrs Nicola Corbett, EDF Energy.** Mrs Corbett apologised that Tom McGarry was unable to attend the meeting but updated members on the Nuclear New Build programme herself. Nicola explained that work was currently underway to produce a gravity model for the workforce to gain a better idea on numbers, travel plans etc. Work was also continuing on the ecology studies and noise monitoring would begin soon, which would establish a baseline level. EDF Energy representatives had attended a JLAG meeting and the company would soon be seeking approval for an updated Statement of Community Consultation to recognise the extra stage of formal consultation. The Stage 2 consultation period, when announced, would begin with consultation events in Leiston and Sizewell (as per Stage 1). Cllr Howard asked whether there were minutes from the JLAG meeting. The District Councillors confirmed that there were only notes, no minutes. Cllr Ginger asked about the intended closure of Bridleways and footpaths around the proposed construction site as he felt that provision should be made to use the huge civil engineering skills available to the project to seek a solution to keeping them open. Nicola took all his comments and promised to log them as feedback. Cllr Ginger was also concerned as his perception was that EDF Energy seemed to be working closely with Eastbridge with regard to their concerns on the proposed accommodation campus and was hugely fearful that the campus would fall back onto the reserve site in Leiston. He re-iterated the Councils total opposition to this happening and hoped, if the campus failed at Eastbridge it would be spread further afield as was requested in Stage 1. Nicola confirmed that EDF Energy is still committed to the on-site campus for all the reasons stated by Tom McGarry at the April meeting but that a reserve site is necessary should it not be possible to proceed with the on-site option. Cllr Howard asked for suggestions as to how the Town Council could get involved with the education and skills issue. Nicola promised to keep in touch with the Council on this issue. There were questions from Cllr Howard about the jetty and the beach landing facility – EDF Energy is still profiling expected deliveries by sea, which would ultimately shape the jetty design. Cllr Howard asked whether caravan parks would be utilised for construction worker accommodation and how this would have a knock on effect on tourism. Nicola explained that EDF Energy are in discussion with representatives from the tourism industry and, in answer to Cllr Howard's concerns, indicated that while there would be opportunities to offer accommodation, like caravan facilities, during construction (which could have an economic benefit), this should be achieved without adversely affecting the tourism offer. Mr Taylor sought clarification of the shift pattern that would be employed during construction, which Nicola agreed to take away and respond to and she also agreed with his assessment of the outage programme for all reactors once construction was complete. Mr Taylor recommended that the meeting look at the responses to the Scoping Request on the Planning Inspectorate website as the responses from the various agencies were very interesting. Mr Jackman-Graham sought details of the lighting policy and its effect on the environment. His comments were noted and would be logged.
11. **County Report.** Councillor Smith sent his apologies.

12. **District Report.** Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Cooper had nothing to report. Mr Taylor pointed out that, at a recent Sizewell C task Group meeting at Melton Hill, some Councillors seemed to have reservations about the amount of information they had been given about the project. He hoped this had been resolved.
13. **Public.** Mr Jackman Graham asked about the Neighbourhood Plan and Mrs Borrett brought the Clerk's attention to concrete cutters being used on the King George Recreation Ground (presumably by NCSGRP contractors) which her husband felt were being operated too close to where the children were playing. Cllr Mrs Nunn referred to a letter she had received which brought attention to the narrow pavement by the Catholic Church. She wondered whether the Church could be approached to see if they would agree to removing the hedge to allow the pavement to be widened. Mr Briggs hoped that SCDC would do their best to encourage special adapted bungalows to be included in the affordable homes quota of any future large developments. He also re-iterated the comments of many with regard to the state of the Dinsdale Road toilets. He felt they should be done up or closed. Finally, he commended the Council on their unstinting support for the Youth Club and CYDS as he felt both organisations were essential for the young people of the town and did such good work. Mrs Hawes asked that the Council consider installing a pedestrian or zebra crossing at the top of the High Street, beginning of Aldeburgh Road area as it was extremely difficult to cross at that point.

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,
3rd JUNE 2014 at 8.01 p.m.**

PRESENT

**Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
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 J. N. Last
Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn**

14. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6th May 2014 be signed as a true record.

15. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr A. J. Nunn, Cllr Parker, Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr D. Bailey.
16. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he recently attended the mayormaking at Aldeburgh.
17. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Agenda item 20. Cllr Cooper in 17, Cllr Geater in cheque number 312013 and Cllr Howard in item 20 (RBL) and as a member of TASK and CANE.
18. **Discussion on Mr McGarry's presentation.** Members just noted that Mrs Corbett would be getting back with the information discussed during her briefing.
19. **Play Areas and Open Spaces Committee.** Members agreed a meeting of the committee at 7.30pm on Tuesday 17th June in the Community Centre. This would be open to the public and any items for the agenda should be passed to the Clerk before 9th June.
20. **Dinsdale Road Toilets.** Cllr D Bailey asked for this to go on the agenda as he was concerned at the continued decline of the facility and wondered whether there was any way to engage with SCDC to take them over on a more permanent basis to allow the Council to invest in them. He was unfortunately not in attendance to explain his ideas but members concurred and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to open talks with SCDC to try and take this forward.
21. **Emergency Resilience Planning.** Cllr Cooper confirmed that a public meeting of the Emergency Resilience Committee would take place in the Community Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th June.
22. **Our Place Programme.** The Clerk explained to members that the consultant he had been working with on this project had agreed to progress a report aimed at taking the project to the next stage. If the report indicated that the next stage could achieve any benefits for the town it would attract a lot more funding from DCLG to continue in the programme. The Clerk asked that members allow him to release the £3,000 grant, received for this project from DCLG, to go toward the preparation of the report. It would be matched by the Leiston and District Community Partnership (LDCP) and a further £3,000 was pledged from the County Council. Part of the funding would also be used to help the LDCP convert from a Limited Company to a Community Interest Company. This would allow the Partnership to become involved in the second stage (if it proceeds) but, even if not, would allow the Partnership to diversify from its current objectives. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that the £3,000 DCLG grant be used to commission Mr. Piercy from Locality Matters to produce a report and strategy for the Council.
23. **Bus Shelter, High Green.** Members noted that the County Council would provide a bus shelter on High Green if the groundworks were put in place by the Town Council. This was hoped to come in under £2,000.
24. **Defibrillator.** Members noted the comments with regard to having another publicly accessible defibrillator, additional to the Co-op's, in the town and how this would probably not help as one still had to dial 999 to gain access to it and the responders would be there very quickly. Members did however think that having one in the cinema (with the staff trained to use it) and in the Community Centre (with certain

volunteers trained in its use) could save lives. At a cost of approximately £1,500 each (including training) it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the Council purchase two defibrillators for the Cinema and the Community Centre.

25. **Allotments.** Members noted the date for a walkround at 2pm on 20th August.
26. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** Members noted that, unfortunately, they did not have a representative at the meeting of 27th May but the Clerk had received the minutes which he would forward. There was some discussion which basically identified some confusion around the activities of the SPLG as opposed to other organisations as many of the representatives were the same on all of them. It was therefore deemed important to make sure the minutes for each organisation were published in a timely fashion to ensure that there was no confusion.
27. **Fairtrade.** Cllr Howard asked Cllr Last to try and get the Town Team to spread the word with regard to Fairtrade and to encourage all their members to support the initiative by only using Fairtrade products at their meetings perhaps. He went on to describe the need for a gazebo for when the Fairtrade Committee attended fetes etc. Members agreed that this would be very useful and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed to purchase a suitable 3mx3m gazebo for Council use.
28. **Film Theatre – formal complaint.** Members reviewed the formal complaint registered about their management of the Film Theatre and agreed a reply. The basis of the complaint was that the complainant felt that expenditure on the Cinema was dis-proportionate to the benefits obtained by the town through having its own Theatre. He also felt that expenditure was authorised by many councillors who, he felt, had a conflict of interest through their open support for the venue. The reply clearly pointed out how declarations of interest worked within the published Code of Conduct (operated by all councils) and how all Town Councillors abided by this Code. It also explained how members arrived at, quite transparently, every decision to invest, or not, in the venue as they continued to be the custodians and owners of the building. The amount of expenditure was a subjective opinion and one members always looked at and discussed each year when setting the precept. The reply also pointed out how residents' money was spent on other services and facilities in the town for comparative purposes.

The meeting took a break from 8.45 – 9.05pm for refreshment

29. **Finance.**
 - a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £20,366.59p along with £8,890.40p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
 - b) **Approval of accounts for 2013/2014.** Members had studied and asked questions on the completed accounts for 2013/2014 along with the Internal Auditors final report for the end of year. It was noted that there was an error on the trial balance in that the headers and footers on the spreadsheet indicated the wrong year. This had now been rectified. With this rectification it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the accounts for 2013/2014 and the Accounting Statement on the Annual Return be approved, the Internal Auditors' report be noted and that the Chairman be given approval to sign the Annual Governance Statement on their behalf.

30. **Planning.**

- a) **DC14/1401/FUL – Proposed two storey linking extension - Land at Unit 14A, Masterlord Industrial Estate, Station Road, Leiston. (David Silvers)**
Recommend Approval
- b) **DC14/1604/FUL –Erection of a single-storey rear extension – 104 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.**
Recommend Approval
- c) **DC14/1555/FUL – Construction and use as offices of a new projects building and associated civil and ground works – Sizewell B, Sizewell Power Station, Sizewell Power Station Road, Leiston.** The Clerk was to identify whether these were permanent or temporary and comment accordingly. Cllr Howard and Cllr R Bailey against.
Recommend Approval
- d) **C14/2 Installation of new steel training drill tower including provision to support existing radio mast at Leiston Fire Station, King George Avenue, Leiston.**
Recommend Approval

During the above item Cllr Last declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote

- e) **DC14/1427/FUL – Extensions and loft conversion – 55 Abbey Road, Leiston.**
Recommend Approval
- f) **DC14/1430/FUL – Erection of new eco house with associated landscaping and highways access and comprising integral equine stabling provision – Land adjoining Elmwood Nurseries, Haylings Road, Leiston.** (Address obviously wrong but as per application). Members noted the innovative design and the reasons the applicant felt it was appropriate to build in the countryside. They were concerned however about how the development would impinge on the surrounding countryside and the footpath and requested a deferment to enable them to visit the site.
- g) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and, in particular, the work currently being undertaken by the Town Centre and Employment Group. The group had canvassed and consulted with the town centre businesses and broader business community to arrive at a vision and draft plan for revitalising the town centre by effective use of the land behind Sizewell Road and the High Street Car Park. The group had had discussions with SCDC to encourage them to wait until the Neighbourhood Plan had received the towns consent before developing their own land there so were very keen to now put together a model for the centre and a business plan for realising the aspirations. The Clerk requested that members release £2,000 from the Neighbourhood Plan reserve to go toward commissioning a presentation model of the town centre proposal which would be extremely useful for any future public consultation and exhibition when the Plan is presented to the town for comment. It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed to use the money accordingly. Cllr Howard and Cllr Ginger abstained.

31. County Matters

- a) **Speed Reduction Measures.** Members noted the latest speeding statistics for Haylings Road and Abbey Road which gave compelling evidence to the need for speed reduction measures in each location. Members recalled Cllr Smith offering to purchase a flashing speed warning sign for the town and members felt that two were needed so discussed using £3,000 from reserves to buy one themselves. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast it was agreed to request the County Councillor to fund a speed warning sign and for the Town Council to fund another. Cllr Howard against.
- b) **Highway Committee meeting.** It was suggested that the Highway Committee have a meeting of their own before meeting with the County Council in the summer to ensure that they had thought of everything they wished to raise. The Clerk was asked to organise a venue and date to suit.

The time reaching 10pm it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to be concluded.

32. District Matters. Nothing raised

33. Correspondence.

- a) **Avenues East (Optua East Anglia).** Members noted the letter from Optua detailing their work in the town and requesting consideration for grant funding. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that £50 be donated in recognition of the work the group does for our residents.
- b) **Disability Advice Service (East Suffolk).** Members noted the letter from DAS detailing their work in the town and requesting consideration for grant funding. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr R. Bailey and agreed that £50 be donated in recognition of the valuable advice they give to our more vulnerable residents.
- c) **Leiston Royal British Legion Band.** Members noted the request from the Band for a donation of funds to cover their hire fee of the Film Theatre for their Christmas concert of £420. Members noted that they had earmarked a sum in the grants budget to go to the Band as they are a most valuable organisation in the town. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that £750 be donated to the RBL Band.

During the above item Cllr Howard and Cllr Ginger were invited not to leave the room but took no part in discussion or vote

- d) **Scout Leader.** Members discussed a letter from a young man training to be a Scout Leader with Leiston Scouts who was asking for a donation to help him go on the Suffolk Explorer Belt Finland Expedition next year. Members were pleased to be able to support this and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey it was agreed to send £50 to the Suffolk Explorer Scouts to go toward Gary Robinson's costs for this trip.
- e) **Community Infrastructure Levy consultation.** Members briefly looked at the consultation being conducted by SCDC on the amount that would be levied from next April for the Community Infrastructure Levy in the District. They were very disappointed to see that Leiston was the only town (along with a part of Felixstowe) that was considered to be in the low bracket. The Clerk was asked to investigate the evidence that this assessment was based on and to challenge it to ensure a fair Levy was applied for future developments in the town.

f) **Hopkins Homes – Aldeburgh Road – Estate road naming.** Members were invited to consider providing suitable names for the new proposed development in Aldeburgh Road being built by Hopkins Homes. There were certain criteria to be followed (no Christian names, do not name after a person still alive etc.). Cllr Last suggested that, as comments had been made when the application was put in that they would be sorry to lose the wildflowers around the site, perhaps the roads could be named after wildflowers. This would fit nicely with the “trees” estate around Ashfield Drive. Members agreed to give this some thought and liked the idea of one (of the five roads) being called Poppy Way or similar recognising the centenary of WW1.

34. Questions to the Chairman.

a) **Healthwatch.** Cllr Howard asked whether the Chairman thought it a good idea for the Council to become a member of the new Healthwatch organisation. The Chairman, in turn, asked members who all agreed it would. The Clerk was asked to make it so.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.15 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----