

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd February 2015

- 199. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Hayley O'Donnell, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for January (attached). Hayley explained the new routine for issuing warnings and tickets for speeding and Cllr Last asked whether the SNT could cover Haylings Road more in their speed checks.
- 200. Mr Tom McGarry.** Mr Tom McGarry addressed the meeting and updated them on the New Nuclear Build programme and introduced Dr Steve Manning who had brought along some visual aids to help explain what was being proposed for Aldhurst farm site. Mr McGarry addressed the meeting thus;

As councillors will be aware, the District Planning Committee will consider the Aldhurst Farm Habitat Creation Planning Application on 4 March. My colleague Dr Steve Mannings is here to take your questions on the scheme.

General NNB Update

At present we have winter birds, badgers and soils surveys underway on the main site, the sites of the rail extension options and the lead associated development sites such as the northern park and ride option at Darsham and the southern option, located to the north of Wickham Market.

We continue to undertake monthly groundwater and surface water monitoring in and around the main development site.

The surveys will help inform the details of the developing proposals, alongside the feedback from Stage 1 consultation.

This week a team of marine engineers working on the Sizewell C project will begin a programme of work to gather fresh data from the seabed via a series of geophysical surveys, tests and shallow boreholes along the Sizewell coastline and out to sea. As part of the work sediment cores will be removed from the sea-bed for laboratory analysis.

This work will provide essential geotechnical information for on-going design studies concerning the cooling water infrastructure and the jetty needed for the new power station. The work will be carried out from boats in front of the Sizewell site.

Because we will be removing sediment from the sea-bed you will recall that EDF Energy applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for a license to carry out the work. This work is due to start this month and will take approximately 6 to 8 weeks complete, depending on the weather conditions.

As you know, EDF Energy has confirmed that any announcement regarding Stage 2 public consultation on Sizewell C will follow the final Investment decision on Hinkley Point C.

EDF Energy and the UK Government are working hard to finalize agreements on Hinkley Point C and are making significant progress in all areas, with the shared objective of finalizing all documents by the end of March 2015. EDF Energy is also making progress in its discussions with future project partners. Meanwhile, the Hinkley Point C team is working to prepare for the launch one of the largest construction projects in Europe.

Upper Abbey Farmhouse

We are currently finalising the procurement (ie tender of the building contract) to enable us to obtain the required internal approvals with a currently expected start for the restoration and repair work during second quarter of 2015. Further updates will follow.

Lorries through Leiston

With regard to new build, HGVs to the Sizewell C compound are very few and far between at present.

As for Sizewell B, any contractor not using Lovers Lane can be challenged at the Security gate if reported by the public. All contractors on the Dry Fuel Store know the route to site and the B Station has set up a traffic helpline in order to deal with any issues promptly. There is a travel plan in place for the DFS – and if any contractor goes off the approved route twice they are fined and the fee goes to a local charity. It is worth remembering the A12-B1122 is the official HGV route for the Leiston Industrial estate and the town in general, as well as Sizewell.

Some news from Sizewell B

The UK's nuclear power stations have to renew their license to operate every 10 years and Sizewell B has received the regulator's approval for continued safe operation.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has approved the Periodic Safety Review of the safety case for Sizewell B. This allows the UK's only Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR) to operate for a further 10 years.

The industry regulator confirmed Sizewell B meets its safety case to continue delivering low carbon power to over 2million customers until 2025 and the station is already working on the case for the next ten years to ensure operation to at least 2035. This is the station's current stated lifetime although two years ago EDF Energy expressed its aim to extend its life for 20 years beyond that to 2055.

A Periodic Safety Review (PSR) is carried out every 10 years at all nuclear power stations in the UK.

The PSR is a look back at the operation of the station over the last ten years and a look forward at processes to manage safe operations for the next ten years. The review also looks at the experiences of other nuclear stations around the world to see if lessons can be learned.

This is the second PSR to be carried out at Sizewell B. The PSR highlighted opportunities for improvement which will be programmed into the station's enhancement plans. This work will be part of the maintenance tasks carried out every 18months when the station is brought offline to refuel.

Cllr Ginger brought up the issue of the potential closure of Bridleway 19 again and Cllr Hodgson asked whether the surveys currently taking place would be informing Stage 2 as well as the final consultation (3). Mr McGarry confirmed this was the case.

Aldhurst Farm Planning.

Dr Steve manning gave an overview of the project and went into more detail as questions were asked. The majority of issues raised appear later in the minutes as formal comments. Cllr Geater sought details of how safety and ecology was weighed against recreation and public amenity (same as it is now around Kenton Hills and Sizewell Marshes). Mr Briggs hoped that they would maintain the Leiston Beck to a high standard to give the Sewage Treatment Plant a better chance of avoiding flooding and Mrs Betson hoped the project would go ahead to add to the attraction and tourism offer that the AONB and SSSI currently provide.

201. **County Council.** Cllr Smith reported that he had met with the Headteachers of all the Leiston schools and had been particularly impressed with Avocet Academy's Leiston Primary School. He then explained that the County Council's budget would be £499million next year (excluding money for schools) and this would be a reduction of £38.2million which had to be made in savings. He explained how the reserves were earmarked and managed and

responded to Cllr Howard's query on solvency promising to forward the budget papers and reports through the Clerk.

202. **District Council.** Mr Taylor raised concerns that, in light of the large area covered by the Aldhurst Farm Planning application, there should have been more than the statutory signage put up by the District Council. It was agreed that the information sheet sent out to every household in the Parish had been quite helpful however.

203. **Public.** Mrs Borrett asked the Council to seriously look at supporting removal of the speed humps in the High Street as the noise and vibration caused by vehicles travelling over them was very upsetting as she lived so close. Mr Taylor drew attention to the disruption caused by a gas leak in Westward Ho which could have been a lot less if it had been reported sooner. He requested that everyone should report the smell of gas and not rely on someone else to do so. Mrs Girling thanked the Council for their perseverance in finally getting the footway in from the cemetery to Highbury Cottages. Mr Briggs observed that the community was being very poorly served by ambulances at the moment.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, 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 February 2015 at 8.37 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)

Councillor D. Bailey

Councillor R. Bailey

Councillor D. Boast

Councillor R. 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 Mrs A.V. Nunn

Councillor N. Parker

Councillor Mrs J. Sparrow

204. **Minutes.** The amendment to Minute 168 from December was agreed it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6th January 2015, along with the amended minute 168 be signed as a true record.

205. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Nunn.

206. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported a quiet month with only one engagement to represent the Town.

- 207. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard as a member of TASC, CANE and RBL. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins in all planning matters. Cllr R Bailey in Haylings Pond and Cllr Cooper and Cllr Boast in Suffolk Carers and CATS.
- 208. Planning. DC/14/4224/FUL – Creation of approximately 6ha of wetland habitat, including wet reed bed, open-water and perimeter ditches within 4 ground water basins together with marginal drier reed habitat. Soils excavated to create the basins, would be used across the wider site to establish a landscape including grassland, heath land, scrub and scattered trees. Other associated works include realignment of the existing watercourse, the relocation of groundwater abstraction boreholes, a new pump house and fencing – Land South and West of, Lovers Lane Leiston, Suffolk.** Members picked up many of the points made in the public session. Cllr Howard wished for the long term management plan to be clearer and felt that the proposed or promised public amenity plans were too vague at the moment. There was concern that the site access was in a residential area in Abbey Road – perhaps it could be on Lovers Lane somewhere – could be an opportunity to provide a more suitable access to the Sewage works for tankers too. There were queries on the security fencing and Cllr Howard hoped that it would not be CNC officers patrolling the site and providing security. Dust prevention would be a big issue for SCDC to look at and, with the proximity to houses, there would have to be scheduled work hours to avoid noise nuisance. Cllr Boast thanked Dr Manning for a very informative presentation. The mapping issue of FP18 would be passed to County to ensure accuracy and Cllr Howard asked whether efforts could be made to establish exactly who was responsible for the culverts under Lovers Lane. The two biggest items members wished SCDC to pursue though were the inclusion of a cycletrack around the perimeter of the site from the the Lovers Lane/Kemps Hill junction round to Abbey Road. This was to finally give Bridleway 19 and Bridleway 13 a track which was not on a pavementless main road. The other issue was the culvert and the need to enlarge the pipes or look at other management techniques to ensure that flooding was alleviated somehow when the culverts get clogged up.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- 209. Mr McGarry's presentation.** No comments.
- 210. Police Meeting.** Councillors asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Inspector and Sergeant later in the month.
- 211. Pumptrack – update.** Members noted the Clerk's report on possible problems of access for lorries to build the pumptrack but also noted that the possible acquisition of the Primary School field (which would solve the problem) was on the agenda for March.
- 212. Newsletter.** Articles were coming in ready for the deadline of 10th February.
- 213. Fairtrade Fortnight.** Cllr Mrs Nunn reported to the meeting that the Fairtrade team had organised two events to highlight and promote Fairtrade Fortnight. There would be a coffee morning in the United Church on 25th February and a Band Concert in the WI Hall on 4th March. Fairtrade would also have a webpage on the new Town website.

214. **Meeting with Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd.** The Clerk was asked to get quotes for repairing the final bit of track leading into Haylings Pond from Haylings Grove for the March agenda. The meeting was informed that the brambles to be cleared around the garages by Charles Adams Close contained dumped asbestos. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for removing the rabbit fencing along the northern boundary of King George Avenue Recreation Ground. Members noted the concerns about increased dog fouling in the cemetery and the broken fence onto the field there.

215. **ONR Response to Mr Skelcher's presentation.** Members noted the response from ONR and also noted Mr Skelcher's comments regards that response. Cllr Howard reported that the Sizewell Stakeholder Group had held a meeting of the Sub Group on the 29th January 2015. The main subject for discussion was public information and the revised Emergency Plan. The group had previously pressed for a much extended plan. However events have overtaken them and the Stakeholder Group recognised that the ONR, the Government and Europe are considering, in the light of world nuclear issues, further emergency planning issues. The industry and the Emergency planners have taken on board some of the issues that have been raised with them and 3 actions have been, or are being, carried out. Information letters, calendars and Potassium Iodate tablets have been sent out to residents living within the 1 kilometre radius, informative letters and a public health information leaflet has been sent out to people residing within the 4 kilometre radius and a public information leaflet will go out to all residents living within a 15 kilometre arc. The SSG worked on the wording for this leaflet and it is hoped that it will go out in the coming months. The SSG welcomed the further work that ONR Government and Europe are undertaking.

216. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £14,940.16p along with £1,785.86p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) **Internal Audit.** The Clerk presented the report from the internal auditor's recent examination of the accounts. Members noted that it was a thorough and positive report and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard seconded by Cllr Ginger the report was accepted in its entirety. This included a recommendation to register for Data Protection. Cllr Hawkins recommended that the Clerk look into COIF (Charities Investment Fund) for possible investment of some of the reserves.

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

217. Planning.

- a) **DC15/0154/FUL – Two storey extension to house – 5 Valley Terrace, Leiston.** Cooper and Hawkins abstained.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan which was now awaiting scrutiny by SCDC and further consultation.

218. County Matters

- a) **Highways** Members discussed the forthcoming resurfacing of the High Street and Aldeburgh Road from Red House Lane to Barclays Bank. There was a ground swell of opinion and requests from the public for the speed humps to be removed. The Clerk explained that the engineering involved were that to be done was quite significant and costly and would delay the

resurfacing (assuming the costs could be met). Some members were adamant however that the humps were there for road safety reasons and removal would increase speed and risk in the High Street. The debate was resolved with members seeking a meeting with Highways to discuss investigation of other speed reduction measures that could be employed and also to clarify what maintenance was being proposed for the humps during the resurfacing.

219. District Matters.

- a) Sports Centre. Cllr Geater asked Cllr Cooper to enquire why a blocked drain in the changing rooms was not being fixed (after several reports of the defect).

220. Correspondence.

- a) **Knodishall Flooding.** Members noted the letters from Knodishall Parish Council requesting support to try and get the flooding issue on the Leiston Road sorted. Members agreed to write and support their efforts.
- b) **CATS.** Members noted the letter from CATS and heard from Cllr Boast on the range of services that they provided. Members also understood the value that CATS gave to residents of the town and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to donate £150 to help with their work.
- c) **Suffolk Safer Cycling Campaign.** Members were pleased to hear that Cllr Hodgson would continue to be our contact point with the S.S.C.C.

221. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Cllr Cooper was asked for progress on the installation of the defibrillator in the Community Centre.

It was proposed by Cllr Ginger and seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn that, under the Public Bodies Act (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

222. Film Theatre. Members discussed an item of business regarding the Film Theatre and agreed an item for inclusion on the March Agenda.

During the above item it was proposed by Cllr R Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that, the time being 10pm, Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to continue.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.10 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----