

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd March 2015

- 223. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Carl Lawrence, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for February (attached). He was asked about the policy of enforcement in the 20mph area of the town centre and response times. Parking on pavements was still a problem in the town centre and the SNT was asked to continue working on this.
- 224. Mr Chris Betson and Mr Andrew Fell.** Mr Chris Betson, Chair of Governors at Alde Valley Academy and Mr Andrew Fell, Regional Advisor for Bright Tribe Trust (sponsors of the Alde Valley Academy) updated the meeting on progress and future plans at the High School since Bright Tribe took over in January. Mr Betson gave a short resume of the events leading up to Bright Tribe becoming the sponsors and members were pleased to hear that Emma Laflin had now officially been confirmed as the first Principal. He explained to the meeting that Bright Tribe had brought an awful lot of resource and expertise to the school since taking over and the school was currently being restructured to take into account the falling pupil role and was also designing a revised Post 16 curriculum to take greater account of the needs of students as they approach adulthood and employment. Once this is complete the issue of uniform will be addressed after consultation with the parents. Cllr Ginger regretted that the falling numbers had meant redundancies amongst the staff and hoped that this would be sorted out quickly with the unions to ensure moral could be restored. Cllr Howard asked about the lease on the sixth form centre and was told that the site reverts back to the County Council once the sixth form have moved out. Mr Betson advised that the County Council had granted Alde Valley a 5yr licence on the site and that at the end of this period it would revert to the County. Alde Valley hoped to relocate the 6th form to the Seaward Avenue site for the start of the 2015/16 school year. He expected the sixth form to have all moved back onto campus in Seaward Avenue by September. Most people were in agreement that the split sites was not efficient and that 6th Form provision would be best catered for on the main site. The infrastructure there was being upgraded to accommodate them. Cllr Last asked about the supply chain from Stockport and agreed to talk to Andrew Fell outside the meeting to unpick exactly what his concerns were with this. Mrs Hill enquired about the educational team and Mr Fell's role as Regional Advisor and Mr Taylor asked for clarification that Alde Valley Academy would not become a Nuclear Academy. By this it was assumed that he meant that they would not only concentrate on a pathway for a career in Nuclear Power – Cllr Howard clarified this and asked for assurance that other forms of power would be on the curriculum too. They also sought assurance that Bright Tribe was not funded by the nuclear industry. Mr Fell and Mr Betson assured him that there were many educational pathways making up the curriculum, that EDF were not funding Bright Tribe and that Alde Valley wouldn't become a "Nuclear Academy."
- 225. County Council.** Cllr Smith reported that the County Council had set their budget at £499 million for 15/16 which was a saving of £38.2 million on the year before. On 9th February he had met with Kier to see how their operation was progressing and was hopeful that, with such a benign winter this year, that they would be able to catch up with the backlog. Mr Taylor asked whether Cllr Smith could enquire about the steel used in County Council

roadsigns as he was concerned about their longevity – he had noticed many were falling over or were broken.

226. **District Council.** Cllr Cooper tabled a report which included details of the SCDC budget and the visit of The Police and Crime Commissioner to the Council. Cllr Howard asked about the recently advertised post for an economic advisor to help SCDC make the most of the opportunities that Sizewell C might bring. He wondered who was funding the post. Cllr Cooper informed him that it was being jointly funded between SCDC and EDF. Cllr Howard then enquired once more about the fact that JLAG meetings were not open to the public. He was again informed that the meetings involved discussions with officers who had a duty of confidentiality with many of the issues being discussed. Mr Hawes asked whether, should the Town Council take on the Primary School Field, a secure dog exercise area could be considered – this would be beneficial for residents and also reduce the number of dogs on the adjacent recreation ground. Mr Taylor asked that, at the following days North Area Development Control meeting, whether Cllr Cooper could ensure that the topic of connectivity between Aldhurst and the current SSSI was raised for consideration.
227. **Public.** The residents of Long Row wished the council to be aware of their severe frustration at the recent Planning Permission granted for housing in Long Row. They were extremely concerned about the fabric of their own properties which, having no foundations and being some of the oldest in the town, were very susceptible to subsidence which the increased traffic and construction vehicles any developments would bring to the lane would exacerbate. They understood that the Town Council had strongly recommended refusal of the application for those reasons as well as the actual road safety issues at the junction. The residents could not understand how the County Council officers had agreed that the junction was suitable for more development. They asked for the Council to help them try and get this application overturned. They felt that one way was to make Long Row a conservation area.

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 March 2015 at 8.20 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

228. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3rd February 2015 be signed as a true record.
229. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Nunn.
230. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman had tabled a report but had had a quiet month representing the Town with just two visits, both to Bury St Edmunds.
231. **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 Ginger on items 7, 11 and 12.
232. **Long Row.** There was considerable sympathy for the quandary faced by the residents of Long Row. Anyone local knew there was more than the aggravated issues many proposed developments engender in this situation and members agreed that the permission granted was wrong. To overturn a planning decision however was difficult and required an instruction from the Secretary of State. On a proposition from Cllr R Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed to write to Mr Pickles to request such a decision and to also request that Long Row be made a conservation area. The latter would need some time and might not preclude development even then although it would at least be more in keeping. The appeal to the Secretary of State however would require evidence of a flawed decision which everyone was asked to provide to the Clerk to help him write a letter.
233. **Highways Meeting of 24 Feb.** Members were pleased that Highways were taking the HGV problem seriously and Cllr Howard amended the minutes from the meeting to recommend a "No HGV" sign rather than an "unsuitable for HGV" sign at the entrance to Buller Road.

234. Haylings Pond Car Park. Councillors noted the quotation from NJB for £877 to repair and make good the final part of the drive into the Haylings Pond car park. This was considered worth the expense to just finish off the project and, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to go ahead. The Clerk was asked to get an estimate for clearance of the other entrance (onto water tower lane) and for laying some slabs across the muddy part of that entrance.

235. Film Theatre. Members noted the Clerk's report which outlined the progress to date on the cinema extension project and the proposed course of action to further the single storey alternative. At the February meeting the Clerk had been given permission to negotiate with the adjacent landowner to try and purchase the piece of land at the end of the next door gardens to allow a toilet block to be erected close to the Theatre. The maximum amount members had agreed was £10,000 to make the project viable. Anymore and it would be more cost effective to build slightly further from the Theatre on the Council's own land. Unfortunately, the Clerk had not received an acceptable response to date but was hopeful the landowner might still support the Council's ambitions. Members confirmed the £10,000 limit (proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger) and also confirmed that the Clerk be given authority to spend up to £3,000 to employ an architect to draw up plans, either for the new plot or for the Council land if negotiations fail. This would be to take the project through planning and was proposed by Cllr Boast and seconded by Cllr Bailey. Currently Hoopers had still not got in all the revised tenders for the two storey project but they would get back to us once they had.

The meeting took a break from 8.40 – 9.00pm for refreshment

236. Primary School Playing Field. Members noted that, although the offer of overage and contributions for maintenance to allow divestment of the Primary School playing field to this Council was fair, the removal of the drift onto King George Avenue from the Register of Title meant that there was no means of access. Members were very happy with the stipulation that it would continue to be used for recreational use however and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to take the land, under the terms offered, but only if full rights of access could be obtained. Cllr Hawkins abstained.

237. Police meeting. Members met with Inspector Aitken on 25th Feb where they learned that the Safer Neighbourhood Team would not be affected by the budget cuts recently announced by the PCC. The Halesworth response team hub would also remain at its current strength too. The PCSO's would be reviewed later in the year but it was widely thought that they would not be cut, indeed, PCSO's and Specials would probably increase.

238. Review of Film Theatre Admission Charges. Members noted the report from the Theatre Manager which recommended new pricing bands for 2015/16. These added 50p to an adult and senior ticket with no change to a child's ticket which would remain at £4.95. On a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr D Bailey, it was agreed to accept the recommendations in full, including implementing the new charges on 27th March.

239. Finance.

a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £24,134.21p

along with £10,067.62p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

240. Planning.

- a) **No plans to consider.** The Clerk informed the meeting however that the power station application in Carr Avenue had now been officially withdrawn.
- b) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. Traffic modelling would probably not now be required but a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan was. The next step after that would be a pre-submission consultation which would tease out the final qualms residents may have with the proposals.

241. County Matters

- a) **Highways** Members discussed the item raised earlier and asked the Clerk to get a definitive statement on how the 20mph might be enforced.

242. District Matters.

- a) KGA Recreation Ground. Litter was still visible in the hedgerow along the western boundary.

243. Correspondence.

- a) **Ambulance Response Times.** It was noted that East Suffolk had the worst response times in the County. Down to 50% last August from a target of 75% for 999 calls to be reached in 8 minutes.
- b) **Magpas.** In response to a request for grant aid from the Medical Emergency volunteers at MAGPAS it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the Council grant £100.
- c) **Sizewell C Joint Local Authority Event** to be held on 11th March. It was confirmed that Cllr Howard, Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Boast would attend.
- d) **Sizewell Sports and Social Club.** It was agreed to write a letter of support for the Club to use in their fundraising efforts to build a recreation and play area at the club.

244. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Cllr Cooper was asked to put recreational outdoor fitness equipment on the next agenda.
- b) The Clerk was able to {finally} assure members that the defibrillator would be installed in the Community Centre next week. The Cinema had all completed their training and their defibrillator was already in situ.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Chair

Dated
