

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd June 2015

10. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Dawn O'Keefe, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for May (attached). Dawn answered questions and undertook to inform Cllr Last of the latest detection rates. The main item raised was for the Council to investigate renewing signage around Haylings Pond to indicate it is a designated area. Quite a lot of concern was also expressed about litter/broken glass/anti-social behaviour in our recreation areas with the PCSO explaining the new SNT priority.

11. Mr Tom McGarry. A transcript of Mr McGarry's report is below;

“Congratulations to new and returning councillors, to Cllrs Cooper and Pratt for election to SCDC and Cllr Smith's promotion to the SCC cabinet.

There is a new member of the EDF Team based in Leiston:

- Amber Brinkley is the Community Liaison Manager for the Sizewell C Project. Amber is a resident of Theberton and is managing communications for the Aldhurst Farm project.

General Sizewell C Update:

Sizewell C

- Since our last meeting we have undertaken a lot of assessment work to inform Stage 2 consultation. This has included traffic counts in an array of locations on the A12, the B1122 and in Leiston. Offshore geophysical works will help inform our design and engineering work and for the environmental assessment we have undertaken winter bird and badger sett surveys at various locations including AD sites, and groundwater and surface water monitoring continues close to the Sizewell C site.
- The surveys and studies we are working through will help us provide that detailed information, which will be presented at future stages of public consultation.
- Many of you are aware that Sizewell C is linked to our sister project in Somerset, Hinkley Point C (HPC). EDF Energy and the UK Government are working hard to finalise agreements on HPC and are making headway in all areas with the shared objective of finalising documents in the coming weeks. This could allow a final investment decision to be made in the next few months. EDF Energy is also making progress with future investment partners in the HPC project.
- We aim to announce Stage 2 public consultation for Sizewell C as soon as possible after the HPC final investment decision. We want to work with you to understand how we can manage the impact of construction and maximise the benefits this project could bring to Leiston and Suffolk.

Ground Investigation Works to the north of the proposed SZC Construction Site:

- In order to inform a number of studies in connection with proposals for the Sizewell C Project, limited ground investigations are required at selected locations in the north-west part of the site.

- Investigations will improve our understanding of ground and water table conditions in the area.
- Works commenced yesterday and will be on-going for approximately six weeks (subject to weather).

We are also working on other projects within the parish boundary:

Upper Abbey Farm House restoration:

- EDF Energy are committed to reinstating Upper Abby Farm House
- Currently mobilising Contractors to complete the works.
- The reinstatement will be in accordance with the approved planning consent and include the reinstatement of original features and in some instance using historical construction techniques
- The works are planned to be completed by Summer 2016.

Aldhurst Farm:

- In March our application to create wetland habitat and heathland at Aldhurst Farm in Leiston was granted planning consent by Suffolk Coastal District Council. Delighted to announce that work has begun to convert 67 hectares of arable farmland in Leiston, known as Aldhurst Farm, into wildlife habitat.
- EDF Energy has contracted C A Blackwell to undertake this project, which will involve the creation of 6 hectares of wetland through soil excavation. The excavated soils will be spread across the rest of the site, ploughed in and grass-seeded to help create heathland.
- First six weeks include constructing the main site access off Abbey Road as well as the associated contractor's temporary works compound, carrying out further ecological surveys, landscape management
- Fencing works around the site perimeter will be necessary.
- Bear in mind that public access must be carefully managed not only for safety reasons but also to ensure that the new wildlife habitat is given ample time to establish itself and can be maintained.
- Once we enter the 'Main Works' phase, when the bulk earthworks and spreading material across the site begins, it will be necessary for this footpath to be temporarily closed.
- An alternative diversion route will be provided during this period and we are working with Suffolk County Council on the details. Information signs at the existing footpath entry points will indicate the exact location of the diversions.

At present, UXO Surveys are underway at Aldhurst Farm

- Unexploded Ordnance surveys are carried out prior to any activity which require breaking ground. The area has a history of being used as a battle training ground for infantry during WWII.
- For Aldhurst Farm magnetometry and ground penetrating radar equipment will be fitted to a quad bike which will then carry out a structured survey of all areas where we will be carrying out groundworks.
- This equipment detects metal objects buried in the ground. If an item is detected the equipment gives readings of its approximate size and depth. From this it is possible to establish the likelihood of the item being UXO, but we will always err on the side of caution.
- The site team has experience of dealing with UXO finds and has procedures in place to quarantine an area until it is made safe.

Skills, Education and Employment;

- Key focus for the EDF Energy Team at the Suffolk Show was promotion of apprenticeships, STEM etc.
- Working with local authorities to devise strategy to make sure local people have skills to gain employment on Sizewell C Project
- Meeting Alde Valley High School to discuss this week.
- Sponsoring the Suffolk Skills Show at Trinity Park in October.”

He invited all Councillors to join him for a tour of the new visitors centre and Sizewell B. Hopefully this can be arranged quite soon.

Questions.

Cllr Hodgson asked about Hinckley, Cllr Howard asked questions regards the footpath across the new nature reserve and Cllr Last asked about future traffic. Cllr Levermore and Hill asked about EDF's policy of investing in education and were pleased to hear that Mr McGarry was visiting the Alde valley Academy next week to discuss that very thing. Mr Hawes asked about the recent press reports of reactor problems at Flamanville and informed the meeting that, in his opinion, any build at Sizewell was a long way off.

12. **County Council.** Cllr Smith congratulated the Chairman on his election and also congratulated all the new and returning Councillors on their success at the recent elections. He informed the meeting that he had a new Locality Budget of £12,000 to distribute locally and a Highways budget of £4,000 for the year (£4,000 already allocated.) He informed members he was the new County Cabinet member for Finance and that, excluding education (which was ring-fenced) the County budget for this year was £499 million. Savings of £75million would be required over the next two years though which would be a challenge. Cllr Last asked that Cllr Smith gives an update on finance and the budget as it affects Leiston in future meetings. Cllr Howard asked Cllr Smith to give his opinion on Cross Street which was now breaking up and in a very poor state of repair – he also asked that Cllr Smith support, where he was able, the protection of the footpath across the new nature reserve. Cllr Last asked about the progress in erecting the speed activated warning signs. Cllr Smith reported how disappointed he was that they were still not up, especially as they were meant to be in place by March. He would be chasing this up. There was discussion on the students who travel to Suffolk One and how, if they wished to try and arrange dedicated transport, it would need the parents and students themselves to negotiate with the college which has a budget for travel. The County Council were not able to help anymore with this but Cllr Smith asked to be kept informed. Cllr Harle was concerned about the poor state of some of the pavements around the Ashfield Drive estate and Cllr Howard brought Cllr Smith's attention to a possible delay that was occurring for residents receiving the necessary equipment from Social Services to alleviate various hardships after operations etc.
13. **District Council.** Cllr Ian Pratt introduced himself as one of the new District Councillors for the Leiston ward (along with Cllr Cooper). Cllr Bailey asked Cllr Pratt to investigate the atrocious state of the cemetery at the moment. Not just the uncut grass but the roadway needed sweeping and the epicormic

growth needed trimmed etc. Cllr Taylor added that the fencing needed repainting too. Cllr Morsley felt that the frequency of cuts was insufficient and made it more difficult for the operatives when they did mow. All members were concerned that it really did look like Leiston was being put on the backburner as other Parishes and Towns seemed to be served much better. Cllr Pratt agreed to investigate all the complaints and hoped to be able to bring the answers back to the next meeting. Mr Geater asked Cllr Pratt if he would kindly do something about the blocked drains in the gents changing room at the swimming pool. He had regularly reported this as a defect over many months as it is a health hazard but nothing has been done. Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that District Councillors had had their "Enabling Communities" budget increased to £5,500 this year for use in their wards.

14. **Public.** Mrs Betson informed the meeting that the Leiston Business Association were making good progress with the CCTV in Sizewell Road. She also asked a question about the SPLG and their remit which she hoped might be answered at the appropriate agenda item. Mr Jackman Graham was content with the new application for change of conditions on the site behind his home and asked members to consider asking for other issues to be addressed.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Last, 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, 2nd JUNE 2015 at 8.45 p.m.!**

PRESENT

**Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor A.M. Cooper
Councillor C. Ginger
Councillor P. Harle
Councillor L. Hill
Councillor T.E.Hodgson
Councillor W.M. Howard
Councillor H. Jackson
Councillor J. Last
Councillor S. Levermore
Councillor D. Morsley
Councillor C. Nichols
Councillor M.J. Taylor**

15. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 20th May 2015 be signed as a true record.

16. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Susan Geater
17. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the memorial service for the 357th Fighter Group – the “Yoxford Boys” - held on Leiston Airfield on 24th May. He then reported to the meeting that there would be no refreshment break for a trial period to allow business to be completed in good time. This would need to be an agenda item in due course if members wished to discuss this decision further.
18. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard as a member of TASC, CANE and RBL. Cllr Taylor as a member of CANE and TASC. Cllr Cooper for all planning. Cllr Hill and Cllr ginger for item 10c. Cllr Last for 10b and the Firefighters Charity.
19. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison group (SPLG).** Cllr Taylor presented his report of the recent AGM of the SPLG which was held on 26th May. The report picked up some interesting items and encapsulated some anomalies in the remit of the group that he felt needed clarifying. The Town Council, as members, were contributing £150 toward the costs of the group and Cllr Hodgson, as the previous representative before Cllr Taylor picked up and explained some of the issues raised. Basically, members were unclear whether the group was currently representing its wider membership adequately, including Leiston, and members felt a debate was needed to decide on whether Leiston remained members. One of Cllr Taylor's recommendations was to invite the current Chairman of the SPLG to the next Council meeting to explain to members how the SPLG was going to go forward as a group over the next couple of years. This was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed. An Agenda item for payment of the subscription due would be at the same meeting.
20. **Young People.** Cllr Hill thought that it would be very useful to extend an invitation to the Principal of the Alde Valley Academy to attend a future meeting, possibly in October, to give an update on how the school was progressing and to discuss other issues relating to our young people where her experience and professional knowledge would be of great help. This was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed. Cllr Taylor hoped that members would look at the paper produced by the SPLG on young people and how they were suggesting EDF get involved with their future development. The paper needed more meat and he hoped members could put some thought into how the Council could help do this by seeking information from the youth groups and support agencies in the town.

The meeting took a break from 9.20 – 9.30pm for refreshment

21. **Finance and Personnel.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £30,594.00p along with £8,654.32p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) **Deputy Town Clerk.** The Clerk informed members that the Personnel Committee had appointed Mrs Caroline Rinder as Deputy Town Clerk with effect from 22nd June. Mrs Ellis is very kindly assisting two mornings a week at the moment to ensure there is a relatively smooth handover and to avoid too much business disruption.

- c) **Accounts for 2014/15 and Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15.** Members had studied and asked questions on the completed accounts for 2014/2015 along with the Internal Auditors final report for the end of year. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed that the accounts for 2014/2015 be approved and that the Chairman signs the Annual Accounting Statement. On a further proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed that the chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement on their behalf. Cllr Morsley asked that a special mention be given to the hard work and imagination that Wayne Burns and his staff put into making the Centenary such a huge success as well as reducing the deficit for the venue to just £3,000.
- d) **Allowances.** Members agreed to continue with the status quo for this year whereby the Chairman's Allowance is £1,000 and Councillor's Allowance, should they wish to take it, is £100.

22. Planning.

- a) **DC/15/1801/VOC Variation of conditions 4 and 7 of C12/1923 to allow occupation of 1 unit. Land Rear 31 High Street, Leiston.** It was agreed that the variations were reasonable and could be supported. Members asked that the concerns of the neighbours were raised though. The parking space for Unit 1 should be clearly marked out and allocated in accordance with the drawings. The contractor should be asked to be considerate in parking construction vehicles and should be asked to avoid working anti-social hours (i.e. Sundays and late evenings).
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b) **DC/15/1878/FUL Single and two storey extensions to dwelling and associated alterations at 15 Haylings Grove, Leiston.** Cllr Last abstained.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- c) **DC/15/1769/FUL Single storey extension to provide new toilet facilities including link corridor. Internal alterations to provide improved dressing rooms at Leiston Film Theatre, 72 High Street, Leiston.** Members asked for a letter of support to be sent.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- d) **DC/15/1746/FUL – To alter the wall between the premises and the footpath, creation of new access, parking, access ramps and hand rail at Leiston Baptist Church, John Street, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- e) **DC//15/1685/LBC – Detailed plastering specifications within reconstructed/renovated unit 1 (additional/amended detail following the grant of LBC C/13/0654) at Upper Abbey farm, Eastbridge Road, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- f) **Long Row.** Members noted the reply from the Secretary of State which indicated that there were no reasonable grounds for revocation of the planning permission for 17 Long Row.
- g) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. A fuller update and a campaign plan to reach

referendum stage by October would be given at a Neighbourhood Plan event on Tuesday 9th June.

With the time reaching 10pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing Orders be Suspended for 20 minutes to allow business to continue until 10.20 p.m.

23. County Matters

a) Highways. The Clerk distributed a short brief on previous discussions and studies that had been done with regard to introducing various One-Way schemes into the town for traffic. This was agreed to be an Agenda item in July. In reply to other concerns raised the Clerk pointed out that, unfortunately, where many residents feel that various pavements and roads in the town are in poor condition, the Highways engineers have different criteria and set limits for intervention.

24. District Matters.

a) **Nothing raised.**

25. Correspondence.

a) CYDS. Members noted the letter from CYDS seeking grant aid and financial support. It was agreed to ask CYDS for their most recent accounts and, as time was short, to put this on the Agenda for July.

b) Slaughden Sailing Club. It was agreed to send the letter of support now and to consider financial assistance at the July meeting.

c) Firefighters Charity. There was some discussion but no time for a vote.

26. Questions to the Chairman.

a) Out of time

The meeting finished at 10.20pm.

Chair

Dated
