

## Pre-meeting Reports 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015

27. **Police.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Christian Hassler, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave the meeting a brief report on crime statistics for June 2015. There were 25 crimes compared with 36 over the same period last June. Cllr Hodgson asked that the detection rate be included on the report and Cllr Last requested the report includes current response times.
28. **Jon Swallow.** Jon Swallow, the Chairman of the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG), presented a quick overview of what the organisation was and what it hoped to achieve. He explained that the SPLG was formed as a community group which would be better placed to present the concerns of all the effected parishes in East Suffolk to EDF, the District Council and the County Council. The current priorities were the concerns over the use of the B1122 as the preferred route into the proposed site and the siting of the accommodation. In response to a later question he also confirmed that the education and skills agenda (which was one of the group's first priorities) is still being pursued and being led by the group's secretary. He was pleased to note that the RSPB had also now published their concerns. He went on to give examples of how the group had used its contacts to lobby EDF, MP's etc. and, using those contacts, had shown how EDF did not appear to be listening to Parishes. Cllr Ginger pointed out that the group, although campaigning for the accommodation not to be on the Eastbridge Road, had not similarly ruled out the 40 acre field (reserve site). He hoped that, if Leiston remained a member, this would be taken up in the future. Mr Swallow noted the concern and explained that he had not been aware of the reserve site issue as he had been campaigning (and still was) for the accommodation to be more sustainable by being built nearer larger population centres where the accommodation could become valuable legacy housing. It had happened at Bridgewater so was hopefully achievable here. The Chairman thanked Jon for his time and the clarification.
29. **David McQuade.** Mr David McQuade, CEO of Flagship Housing, gave the meeting a quick overview of the current legislation and the fast changing situation with regard to Housing Associations in general and social rented housing in particular. Flagship covered almost six counties and had a massive demand for its services. There were regularly 40 families bidding for 2 or 3 bedroomed homes as they became available with this increasing to 80 in Ipswich (and even more in some areas.) They were unfortunately only building a third of the houses that they were before the credit crunch which was due to less public investment and that they rely on developers (section106) who were not as active. He expected the forthcoming benefit reduction programme to impact Associations over the coming years as almost 60% of their tenants relied on some form of benefit. He was concerned about the impact of the forthcoming Right to Buy legislation as he did not yet know what level of compensation (if any) would be offered to the Associations – income was needed to build more homes to replace the lost stock. Flagship as a group were working on improving their repair and maintenance service that they had now taken back in house and were always

trying to improve their customer service. Cllr Howard lamented at the desperate situation that now faced so many families trying to get or live in socially rented housing. He asked Mr McQuade what Leiston Town Council could do to help Flagship increase stock or highlight the issues raised. Cllr Ginger also hoped that the Council could continue to help SCDC prioritise social housing in their policies. Mr Briggs highlighted the unfairness of the bedroom tax, especially with the shortage of adapted accommodation which meant some disabled tenants were being caught up by it.

- 30. County Council.** Cllr Smith reported that he had recently attended a multi-agency conference which had looked under the surface in Leiston where there were some problems that had been identified as needing attention – ones that no one individual agency could solve alone. These issues did not affect the excellent quality of life that residents enjoy in the town overall but some families and residents did need help. There would be another one later in the year. He had been pleased to attend the presentation evening in the Film Theatre for the Suffolk young enterprise awards. He had attended the CATS AGM and had had discussions with them about the concerns there were for the future of Community Transport in the County. He assured the meeting that he had personally got involved in the “weeds” saga and could only apologise. The weed spraying operation had started late this year and was only half way through. This of course meant that the weeds were high when sprayed so, when they died, were unsightly. The Vehicle Activated Speed signs would be up in September. Cllr Last asked about the breaking news regards possible charges for brown bins. Cllr Smith said that no decision had been made but the subsidies the County provided to the Districts for the service were being looked at. Cllr Ginger asked Cllr Smith to look at the overgrowth on the short stretch of footway between Abbey Lane and Abbey Road. Cllr Taylor asked whether the County Council were contributing toward core funding of CYDS and if not, what was the figure that was now withheld. Cllr Hodgson raised the concerns around the overgrowth around road signs which was obscuring many of them. Either they were there for a reason or were not required. Cllr Smith agreed it was not a good situation. There then followed some discussion on the D2 link road as proposed for Sizewell B. Cllr Smith noted that the Town Council, although asking for the route to be considered and investigated in their Stage 1 consultation (for C), had yet to have a debate on its merits and whether to push for it once stage 2 arrives. Cllr Smith therefore agreed to write a report on where the County had got to with the D2 proposal which would allow the Town Council to form an opinion. The Clerk was asked to put the Sizewell Cyclepath on the Highways agenda for 28<sup>th</sup> July and members noted Mrs Bloomfield’s plea for the road sweeper to attend Crown Street and Valley Road on a more regular basis. Cllr Smith assured Mrs Lovell that a design was still being worked up for the Sizewell Hall Road and he was hopeful of action before winter.
- 31. District Council.** Cllr Ian Pratt tendered his apologies. Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that SCDC were currently working with the owners of up to 690 empty properties in the District to try and bring them back into use for accommodation.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper, 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, 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015 at 8.38 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

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

- 32. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 be signed as a true record.
- 33. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Jackson
- 34. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the Royal British Legion Poppy Collectors evening on 5<sup>th</sup> June which had been organised to say thank you to the collectors and to present awards for past service. Many of the collectors received certificates for 10, 15 and 20 years collecting but the most outstanding was Thelma Hawkins who had been collecting for 35 years. Everyone thanked Trevor and Marion Peskett who, once again, had organised and administered all the collectors to achieve a total of £8,250 for the Appeal. He had been to other events too during the month including the Army Cadet Force Open Day, the Leiston Works railway event at the Enterprise Centre and the Youth Club open evening. He was unfortunately unable to attend the High Sheriff's reception at short notice however so was unable to meet Mrs Shallow.
- 35. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard in 5 and 6 and as a member of TASC, CANE and RBL. Cllr Taylor in 5 and 6 as a member of CANE and TASC. Cllr Cooper for all planning and CYDS. Cllr Hill in 15 (LFTSC) and Cllr Last in 15 (The Firefighters Charity).

Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard proposed that uncompleted business (correspondence) from the previous meeting be attended to first.

36. **CYDS.** Members noted the accounts that had now been received and the letter from Mr Watson describing the urgent need for funding. Members were disappointed that the previous donation of £16,000 was not acknowledged as coming from Leiston Town Council in their accounts. There was some discussion as to what an appropriate amount would be to help CYDS with £9,600 being mentioned which would cover the rent and rates. Cllr Hill proposed that, in the first instance, the £1,000 set aside for CYDS in the grants budget be released while further talks took place. This was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed. To establish what was needed and what the organisation was currently achieving however needed a visit, by a small working party, who could report back and suggest or recommend whether to take money from the General Reserve to give further funding to the organisation. Cllr Hill agreed to accompany Cllr Howard, Taylor and Levermore.

During the above discussion, Cllr Cooper left the room and took no part.

37. **Correspondence.**

- a) **Fire Fighters Charity.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that £50 be donated to the Fire Fighters Charity. Cllr Last abstained.
- b) **Slaughden Sailing Club.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the Council donate £70 to the Sailing club to buy two new buoyancy aids.
- c) **Film Theatre Support Club.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that £100 be donated to the Film Theatre Support Club for use in their Prize draw.

During the above item Cllr Hill left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote.

- d) **Leiston Business Association.** Cllr Hill and Cllr Morsley expressed an interest in attending the LBA's imminent AGM and Cllr Morsley agreed to be the Council's voting member.

The meeting took a break from 9.15pm to 9.20pm

38. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison group (SPLG).** Cllr Taylor suggested to the meeting that, in his opinion, the SPLG has good support from all the parishes who could be affected by the current proposals. It was unfortunate however that, with the delay in the consultation process, only the steering group had really been meeting recently rather than having general members meetings. Councillors discussed the merits of continuing their membership of the group and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Harle it was agreed to pay the £150 membership fee for 2015/2016 (Cllr Ginger against) . Members also agreed that Cllr Taylor be authorised to promote an agenda of more open meetings again to ensure all the group members belonging to SPLG have their views taken into account when formulating priorities.
39. **SPLG - Young People Proposal for submission to EDF.** Members were in favour of the priority placed on education and skills by SPLG and hoped to be able to work on the draft proposal with them once they had got up to date on

the current position. Cllr Levermore updated members on where Leiston Forward were with their efforts to secure enhanced post 16 provision in the town and explained how the Alde Valley Academy Principal had met with EDF recently to discuss just this issue. Cllr Levermore hoped to post a short report on how the Academy was progressing later in the meeting. Members noted that Emma Laflin was coming to their October meeting and felt that it would be appropriate to ask a representative of EDF to come with her and expand more on what they are currently doing in the education and skills field in our area. This was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed with Cllrs Taylor, Ginger and Howard against.

- 40. Neighbourhood plan – Pre-submission consultation and discussion on renewable energy policy.** The Clerk informed members that the latest Pre-submission draft was now posted on the website and the newsletter would be inviting residents to comment upon it. The hard copy drafts would be received on Thursday and residents would be able to borrow copies to formulate any comments or sit in the Council Chambers where all the documents are laid out. He also informed members that he had received advice regarding Cllr Taylor's request to include a renewable energy policy in the Neighbourhood Plan. The advice was that it was considered highly irregular to include a policy after the pre-submission stage as the only way you could get the public's opinion of it would be at the referendum. The policy had not been put forward before at the other stages of consultation so it was recommended that, with the timing being as it is, this not be included. Cllr Taylor understood and asked whether it could become an agenda item in the future to discuss a Council policy which could be applied to its estates and assets perhaps.
- 41. Outdoor Fitness equipment.** The Clerk explained that the positioning of the equipment on Victory Road Recreation Ground, although not mentioned in the minutes, had been decided by Councillors based on the number of responses from the consultation with residents who had all been in favour of that venue.
- 42. Pumptrack.** The Clerk informed members that DT Leisure had committed to a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> September for construction of the pumptrack (should members wish them to still do the work). Mr Turner apologised for missing the July date but fully expected his circumstances to be such that he could begin honouring his contracts again soon. Members were all in agreement to continue with DT Leisure and looked forward to the facility being built.
- 43. August meeting.** Members agreed (on a proposition by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Boast) that, to keep flexibility during this busy spell, standing orders be suspended to allow a meeting to be held in August.
- 44. Planning.**
  - a) DC/15/2014/FUL – To knock down existing wooden porch with a flat roof and replace with a brick porch with a pitched roof at 28 Garrett Crescent, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- b) **DC/15/1933/FUL – Erection of a single storey extension on the side of the existing property. This will provide provision for a larger kitchen, a utility room, a WC and also a study at 15 Andrew Close, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c) **DC/15/1760/FUL – Use of land for the siting of 10 self-storage containers and installation of security lighting Sizewell Crossing Industrial Estate, King Georges Avenue, Leiston.** There was concern at the lighting proposal and whether this would be discrete enough to avoid disturbing nearby residents. There was also concern at the visual impact that the proposal would have. It is hoped that a requirement can be stipulated to keep the hedgerow intact and to paint all the road facing sides of the containers an aesthetic colour. Finally, the Clerk was asked to enquire about control measures to avoid hazardous material being stored in the containers, especially without correct signage should the Fire Service have to be called.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d) **DC/15/2207/CLP – Change of use from Job Centre A2 to retail at ground floor with display window and 2 residential flats above. Internal alterations to create 2 flats at first floor. 6 Sizewell Road, Leiston.** Members wished to highlight the inadequate entrance to the parking area and their concerns regards parking there. They realised however that this is a legacy issue with little scope for improvement. This application was also just giving notice under the new Government list of items that are allowed under General Permitted Development (CLP – Certificate of Lawful Development – Proposed Use).
- e) **Community Infrastructure Levy.** Members noted the new arrangements for CIL which comes into effect on 13<sup>th</sup> July.
- f) **Non – listed Heritage Assets.** This would be on the August agenda. The current consultation was on whether the criteria they had set for a building to be considered a Heritage Asset was appropriate. If members had no issue with this then members would be asked to consider potential buildings etc. for inclusion on the list at a later date. Cllr Taylor was keen to investigate whether there were some buildings that needed to be listed rather than go on this list.

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

#### **45. 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 £18,451.72p along with £12,297.96p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) **Investments.** Members considered the Clerks report on current investments and his proposal for maximising interest from the reserve capital by transferring it all across to buy shares in the CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund. His research had indicated that SCDC had recently moved capital into the Fund and felt that, the due diligence they had completed before

committing, was useful and confirmed his own opinion that this was a good move. The reserves currently attract no interest whatsoever whereas, with the absolute minimum of risk, the CCLA had potential for 4-6%. Of the £200,000 currently in earmarked and general reserve it was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed it all be transferred across to the CCLA. Cllr Taylor wondered whether there might be other projects which could be considered as “invest to save” which the Council might consider for some of the reserves in the future. Cllr Howard, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Ginger voted against.

**46. County Matters**

**a) Highways.** The Clerk answered a query (as time had run out) that the brief on previous one-way systems, handed out last meeting, would be discussed at the Highways meeting.

The meeting finished at 10.20pm.

Chair

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Dated

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