

Pre-meeting Reports
4th August 2015

47. Public. Mrs Bloomfield drew attention to the debris and weeds in the road at the bottom of Crown Street. Mr Hawkins thanked all the volunteers that have been out trying to address this problem. A resident wished that the Clerk pass on concerns about the overgrowth each side of Goldings Lane and Cllr Nicholls reported that Mr Cooper and his team of volunteers were currently working on the footway alongside the Theberton Road going toward Old Abbey. Mrs Hawes was annoyed that volunteers were having to do the clearance in the first place as she strongly felt that they were addressing safety issues that the County had a duty to address themselves. The Police report was noted and members asked the Clerk to get the response times that, disappointedly, were not included. The Clerk was also asked to invite Inspector Aitken from the response unit to come and talk about response times (or Sgt Beresford if Inspector unavailable). Mrs Borrett asked that the number of tickets issued for parking on double yellow lines also be noted.

Cllr Howard paid tribute to Mr Barrie Skelcher who had passed away at the weekend. Barrie had been active in public life for many years and had given an enormous amount of his time and expertise, in various voluntary roles, for the good of Leiston. He was most recently involved in the SSG and had also led on the Neighbourhood Plan for the infrastructure proposals. Cllr Taylor paid respects on behalf of the SSG.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY, 7th AUGUST 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
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

- 48. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7th July 2015 be signed as a true record.
- 49. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Cooper, Cllr Jackson and Cllr Mrs Geater.
- 50. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the SALC training evening, the AGM of the Leiston Business Association and the Film Theatre Support Club BBQ. He had also attended the Sizewell Communications evening held on behalf of JLAG. He informed members of the forthcoming Remembrance event due to be held at 11am on 15th August at the

Long Shop museum to commemorate VJ Day. He then paid further tribute to Mr Russell Cooper and the other volunteers who had done such a tremendous job in clearing Bridge Path and Church lane. He also paid tribute to all the other residents who had tidied up their immediate area in response to the County's failure this year to provide weed control.

- 51. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor as members of TASC and CANE. Cllr Howard in cheque No312515 as a member of RBL. Cllr Boast in the item on Bowls. Cllr Hodgson in letter 1 and Cllr Ginger in affordable housing as a Flagship representative.
- 52. Bus Route 64/65.** There was concern over the reduction in service and the lack of connectivity with the rail timetable at Saxmundham. The Clerk was asked to write to the bus company to explain that, in the Council's opinion, they were letting down residents of East Suffolk and to ask that, after so many years requesting it, that they provide proper connectivity for onward travel at Saxmundham. A copy was to be sent to SCC.
- 53. Sizewell C.** Members acknowledged receipt of all the historical minutes and responses that Leiston Town Council had generated since 2009. These provided the base for future discussion as the Nuclear New Build programme moved toward Stage 2 consultation. Members noted that Cllr Smith would give a report on the D2 link road investigations at the September meeting. Cllr Hill was concerned that the notes and presentations promised from the JLAG communications event of 14th July had not yet been put out.
- 54. CYDS.** Members noted the report from the members who had visited CYDS but heard that there was, since then, an evolving strategy taking shape which would make it prudent to delay deciding on the level of support for the organisation until September. More clarification was needed from CYDS as well. Cllr Taylor pointed out that the substantial withdrawal of financial support from the County Council was making it very difficult for the organisation to provide the service they once did. He also explained that moving from a venue somewhere in the town centre would be counterproductive as they needed to be centrally based.
- 55. Affordable Housing.** Cllr Taylor expanded on the concerns he had about what was considered affordable and asked how the Town Council could influence the provision of socially rented properties in the town where they were so desperately needed. He also had concerns about building anymore houses in Leiston in the first place due to his worries about the Sizewell Emergency Plan. His written comments were taken as a response to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation. Cllr Morsley gave his opinion that Leiston needed rejuvenating and that the Neighbourhood Plan, which includes the proposed town centre development, would achieve this as well as providing more socially rented accommodation than the current Core Strategy and Government policy allowed. Cllr Taylor then highlighted a page from a recent Flood Risk Assessment done by EDF for Aldhurst Farm which showed some historic flooding records for Leiston which he thought needed attention. There was more discussion before Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Morsley proposed moving on to next business.
- 56. SPLG –** Cllr Taylor informed members that publicity was now out for the public meeting being held by the SPLG in the Community Centre on 23rd September.

57. **Allotments.** Members noted that there were some unattended allotments which needed sorting and that there would be a walkround at 2pm on 26th August.
58. **Finance and Personnel.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £22,711.59p along with £22,142.53p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) **Risk Assessment review.** Members discussed the report presented by the Clerk on the Council's risks. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hill and agreed that members accepted that a proper and thorough risk assessment had been carried out covering all physical, financial and governance risks which the Council could reasonably be expected to encounter and that appropriate measures were in place to cover or reduce those risks where possible
- c) **Internal Auditor Review.** Members noted the report on Internal Controls and the Clerks recommendation for appointment of Internal Auditors for 2015-2016. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed that Heelis and Lodge be appointed as Internal Auditors to the Council for 2015/2016

The meeting took a break from 8.50pm – 9.00pm

59. **Planning.**

- a) **DC15/2354/FUL – Construction of new detached house at 53 King Georges Avenue, Leiston.** Members noted that the site had been deemed suitable for this project from a previous application and that this was, in effect, reserved matters. The proposed building was deemed to be suitably positioned and aligned to fit in with the street scene with a reasonable access. Two points mentioned however were the state of the current boundary wall (which could usefully compliment the project by being renovated) and that working hours be stipulated for the amenity of the neighbours. Cllr Howard was against as he believed the current Sizewell Emergency Plan was not fit for purpose and there should be no more building in Leiston. Cllr Taylor was also against and Cllr Ginger abstained.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b) **DC15/2933/TPO – T1 Norway Maple in front garden to be felled to prevent damage to power lines and built structures. T2 Silver Birch to be felled to prevent damage to overhead cables and built structures. 30 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.** Members were sympathetic to the concerns of the residents but, overall, felt that the trees should be assessed for appropriate pruning before felling was considered. Cllr Boast against.
RECOMMEND AMENDMENT
- c) **Non – listed Heritage Assets.** Members considered whether the criteria that SCDC had set for a building to be considered a Heritage Asset was sufficient. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Hill and agreed that the criteria and supporting statement were appropriate and that they looked forward to compiling the list.
- d) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk informed members that there would be a public meeting on Tuesday 18th August (which he hoped to advertise through the EADT) to allow residents to give their views on the Plan and then a day in the Solar as a final push to hopefully elicit more feedback.

60. Highways. Members noted the report on the table which had been circulated to the committee earlier. The Clerk apologised for missing Cllr Boast's apologies in the minutes. Cllr Last asked that the 1st week in September be noted as the date the VAS would be erected. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard the report was accepted. Members then discussed the weed situation and the possibility of purchasing more hours from the grounds maintenance team and street sweeper for the benefit of the town. The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting with a Refuse Operations manager to discuss the problems.

61. Correspondence.

a) Home Start. Members were aware of the excellent work carried out by this organisation. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Levermore and agreed that £50 be donated to the Home Start.

b) Revitalise. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the Council donate £100 to Revitalise to help with their work in the town.

c) PISCES swimming club for the disabled. Members noted that SCDC were no longer supporting the club which was a concern. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that £200 be granted to the club to help with their excellent work.

d) Malala Fund. In response to the initiative shown by the Year 6 group at Coldfair Green School Cllr Hill suggested that a letter be sent thanking them for their efforts in raising money for such an important cause. This was seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed.

e) Leiston Primary School Field – use by SKYFC. Members noted the request from SkyFC to use the primary school field for occasional matches this coming season as they have three or four teams of young people now and, when two of the teams have home matches, there is not the room at Sizewell Sports and Social Club. Members were pleased to be able to offer them the facility but they were not prepared to allow them to park cars on the field. Members also declined to install a permanent portaloos just for the odd match. With these proviso's it was proposed Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that SkyFC be offered the use of the field until the end of the season next June.

62. Garrett Bowls Club – application to make it a Community Asset. Members noted the application to make the bowls green behind the Con Club a Community asset. It is no longer being used for bowls as the landowner has not renewed the lease with the club but the Garrett Bowls Club have aspirations to use it again one day. Members agreed that the history and position of the green were important enough to support the application so, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to support this. Cllr Boast abstained.

63. Questions to the Chairman.

a) Calendar of Meetings. Cllr Howard again requested that a calendar of meetings be produced.

b) Adders. Cllr Levermore was concerned that visitors to Sizewell who were not familiar with the beach ought to be informed of the possibility of coming across adders. She wondered whether SCDC might wish to put up signs.

- c) **Flags.** Cllr Hill had been requested by the Leiston Business Association to recommend possible events in the town that would benefit from having the flags put up. She had put together some dates for the next year and asked members to look them over to see if there was anything controversial or if there was anything missing.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Chair

Dated
