

Pre-meeting Reports
6th October 2015

85. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jason Cowles who gave a brief summary of the crime figures for September (attached). Cllr Last requested that the Leiston and Aldeburgh response time be given on the report rather than the Beccles area as this would be more relevant. Cllr Nichols thanked Jason for helping to get funding for some further CCTV in the town centre and there was a general discussion on CCTV and whether it might be useful on the recreation grounds. PCSO Cowles cited the usefulness of CCTV in detection of crime in the Town Centre but was unable to really comment on the need elsewhere. Cllr Boast asked about the social media reports of stabbings and drug dealing etc. which, although alarmist in nature (leading to exaggeration at times), was a real concern. PCSO Cowles confirmed that Leiston had the same problem as every other town in the area with drugs and that there had been instances of violence associated with the problem in the past. Mrs Hawes had also heard that there was a problem with this as well as underage drinking on the recreation grounds late evening. In fact, if the Town Pastors do begin operations in Leiston, they will be asked to concentrate on the open spaces from 9pm to help vulnerable youngsters being drawn into this she reported. Mr Briggs was worried about further cuts to the police force and the inevitable impact that this would have on the already poor response times.
86. The Chairman introduced Emma Laflin, the Principal of Alde Valley Academy, who informed the meeting of the progress the school had made since its conversion to a Bright Tribe Academy in January. (Her report attached). Cllr Last asked whether the restructuring was now complete as he had heard it had been a painful experience. Emma confirmed that there was now a settled staff and the Academy was working with them to support them going forward. Cllr Morsley congratulated the academy on the new post 16 centre which had been recently opened and the raising of dress standards by the implementation of an Alde Valley Academy Uniform. Emma explained how the curriculum was quite fluid so that it remained relevant and met everyones needs. Cllr Ginger was pleased to hear that cricket was played in the summer and Cllr Cooper heard how the local governing body was set up under Bright Tribe. Cllr Taylor asked about school leavers and Emma confirmed that there was a good spread of young people going to university, to work and into apprenticeships. The last students to leave all got their first choice university too. Finally, Emma explained that the plans for new build were being bid for but were some way off. Bright tribe were currently just concentrating on maintenance of the existing assets.
87. County Council. Cllr Richard Smith reported that, from the last meeting, he had established that the D2 study had been part of the larger B1122 study and that that portion of the work had probably cost £30,000. He compared this with the £450,000 that was being considered for a *preliminary* report into the 4 Villages By Pass. He was pleased to have been able to present the awards and certificates to over 100 children and parents in the Long Shop for the summer reading challenge held in Leiston Library this summer. He paid tribute to Gayla Rowling, the Library Manager who does such a good job and all the volunteers who worked with the children. He was also pleased to see that, finally, works were about to commence to alleviate the flooding problem at the bottom of Sylvester Road. He highlighted the ongoing problem with motorists somehow regularly losing control on the north side of the level crossing in Station Road (coming from both directions oddly) and the dangerous way they damage

property there. Cllr Boast was pleased that scrutiny had called in the rural transport strategy as this was causing very real concern. Cllr Smith undertook to do his best to help CATS get through this difficult and uncertain process. Cllr Taylor felt CATS were needed more than ever now that First had withdrawn many services to rural areas. It was even worse that CATS had to take the initiative in consulting the community when SCC had officers who should and could have done it. Cllr Howard was very perturbed by the incongruity in the way spending at SCC was allocated at the moment with cuts to CYDS and rural transport and huge amounts being spent on transport studies. Cllr Harle reported that many cyclists were concerned about the cyclepath to Sizewell (hedgerow growth) and he also asked when faster broadband would be arriving in Lime Tree Avenue and other areas of the town that did not currently have it. The Clerk had seen plans for a DSLAM cabinet in Ashfield Drive and Cllr Smith would see what the timings were for installation. Mr Briggs referred back to the level crossing as he felt that the rails had sunk again and that this was a large part of the cause of many of the accidents at that location. It needed concerted effort from Highways and Network rail to sort it out. Mr Jenkins represented complaints from the many bus users who had been badly let down by SCC who had taken over three weeks to put the new timetables at the bus stops in the area causing a lot of aggravation and distress to travellers who relied on the buses. He also lobbied Cllr Smith once more to use his influence where possible to get a bus shelter in Saxmundham where Leiston residents had to spend an inordinate amount of time between connections for onward travel home.

88. **District Council.** Cllr Ian Pratt gave his apologies. Cllr Cooper reported that, currently, SCDC hoped not to introduce a charge for Brown Bins but a decision would be made in November. Cllr Ginger informed Cllr Cooper that the toilets in Sizewell Road were currently being left unlocked after 6pm. Mr Briggs was still aggrieved that the Caravan site in King Georges Avenue was derelict after so many years. He felt it should have been found a use for by now.
89. **Public.** Mr Libardi explained to the meeting how he was extremely worried about the speed of the vehicles both coming into town and leaving the town around the Level Crossing area. Yet again a vehicle had crashed through his front wall and damaged his house. It was not just this however, it was the very real danger that pedestrians walking the pavements in that area could be in jeopardy. He gave a list of accidents that had occurred at the site and explained how he had engaged with the Highways department to find a solution. The meeting heard how, ideally, Network Rail and Highways should be brought together and agree a course of action to address the situation. The meeting then heard from **Andrew Hawes** who gave an update on how the campaign he was running to target dog mess in the town was progressing. He and his team were doing an excellent job challenging and reporting those residents who engage in the anti-social behaviour of allowing their pet to mess in public spaces. He delivered a letter to Councillors which will be on the Agenda in November.

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, 6th OCTOBER 2015 at 8.22 p.m.**

PRESENT

**Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor A. M. Cooper
Councillor Mrs 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**

- 89. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1st September 2015 be signed as a true record.
- 90. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Jackson.
- 91. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with Mr Hackney from SCS Norse, one at the Film Theatre to consider the proposed alterations there and a Sizewell management meeting. Other invites he had taken up were a visit and a reception at the Woodbridge Tide Mill, the opening of the post 16 Study Centre at Alde Valley High and a talk by Leiston Forward. There had also been an invitation to the Civic Service at Kirton from the Chairman of SCDC.
- 92. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Cooper in 17 (all planning), Cllr Hill and Cllr Ginger in 7, 8 and 9. Cllr Howard in Cheque 516 (RBL).
- 93. Flashing Speed Sign –** Members were concerned at the short duration of the batteries and the need for the Clerk to keep replacing them each week. If a further, similar unit, was purchased this would become even more of a chore. There was a feeling that a solar powered and moveable unit would be better perhaps. It was agreed to investigate some other options before committing the reserve set aside for purchase of another unit is committed. Hold over until November
- 94. Film Theatre – award of construction contract.** Members noted the minutes from the committee meeting held on 10th September which considered the tenders received to build the approved new extension. The main recommendations were ratified thus. It was proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Levermore and agreed that the planned single storey extension be

commenced. It was then proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the contract, as tendered, be awarded to Duncan and Son of Southwold for the consideration of £188,000. (Cllr Ginger, Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor abstained.)

- 95. Film Theatre – application for loan from PWLB.** Members noted that there was a total of £67,000 in the earmarked reserve for the Film Theatre extension, accumulated over the last three years, and that this figure included a £6,000 grant from County Councillor Smith. SCDC has also awarded £6,000 toward the project but this was currently held by them and expires in February 2016. This leaves £115,000 needed to complete the project. Members noted that a contingency figure needed to be added to enable professional oversight to be employed should that be felt necessary and a more realistic figure would be £125,000. This was agreed and the various options for borrowing the money were discussed. The obvious source would be the PWLB (Public Works Loans Board) rather than a bank loan so members looked at the various rates and repayment periods available. It was agreed that a 5 year repayment (£26,000 per annum) could become a liability and reduce the Council's flexibility too much. It was further felt that, although 15 years would be the most manageable (£10,000 pa), a 10 year period (£14,000pa) would reduce the liability on future councils quicker and was also manageable. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that £125,000 be borrowed over a 10 year period on a repayment basis of £14,042 a year at the current rate of 2.27%. Cllr Howard was against and Cllr Ginger and Taylor abstained. Cllr Howard asked that funding also be applied for from elsewhere, especially SCDC. The report outlining the financial aspects of the project is available as an Annex to these minutes if requested. It shows that the loan agreed would not, in itself, require any increase in the precept.
- 96. Film Theatre extension – professional oversight of building works.** Members discussed whether an architect should be employed or not to set up the contract and oversee the building works. Although the Clerk had set up contracts in the past and Mr Burns would be perfectly capable of day to day management of the project members felt that, a project of this complexity (and cost) needed a professional employed to protect the Council from overspend and other unforeseen problems. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Mr Simon Merrett, the architect who had taken the plans forward to tender, be asked to manage the project for a fee of 5% of the contract value (£9,000 agreed). Cllr Taylor against.
- 97. Film Theatre – 40th Anniversary of Town Council owning the Film Theatre.** Members felt that something should be done in 2016 to mark the anniversary of the Film Theatre being saved from permanent closure by virtue of the Town Council purchasing it 40 years ago in 1976. The committee had investigated staging another Cinema in the Park which had been so successful last year. It was an event that had celebrated the Theatre with almost 2,000 residents enjoying a really memorable evening. They heard that EDF had promised £6,000 toward another event of this nature but that a further £2,500 was needed to put the event on. Members agreed that this should be seriously considered so, on a proposition from Cllr Nichols, seconded by Cllr Morsley it was agreed to put £2,500 into next year's Precept to be used for Cinema in the Park. Cllr Howard against.

A break was taken from 9.02 pm – 9.10pm

- 98. CCTV – consider installing CCTV on public spaces.** Members considered Cllrs Levermore and Nichols report on the possible installation of CCTV cameras on Victory Road recreation ground, including the Skatepark, on KGA Recreation ground and at Haylings Pond. Before the discussion began the Chairman made a statement which reminded members that, in future, the correct procedure for initiating meetings on Council property was to inform himself or the Clerk beforehand. Cllr Levermore apologised for any offence that may have been caused by her and Cllr Nichols initiative in this respect. The basis for the report was from a previous agenda item regarding the Safer Suffolk Fund (SSF) offering grants for projects to protect the community. They had embarked on a fact finding mission and, via the SSF, had made contact with the Constabulary Technical Support Officer to obtain advice on appropriate equipment and possible costs. They had gathered together various reports on CCTV effectiveness and had had an exploratory meeting, along with the Constabulary Support officer, with a CCTV provider on the recreation grounds. The basis of the report was that a local company had offered to supply, install and maintain a CCTV outfit at each of the Council owned open spaces in Leiston at no cost. The reason was so that some families, who do not do so at present, felt safer and more inclined to use the parks and also to deter vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. Cllr Bailey queried the need for CCTV as did some other members, there was also concern expressed about the motive of the local company and whether there would be any commercial benefit. Cllr Nichols advised that the company had approached him as they wanted to put something back into the community. Cllr Levermore reported that she had heard from many parents who were concerned at the rumours of anti-social behaviour on the parks and therefore didn't let their children go there. The CCTV would also protect the Councils equipment. There was further discussion on whether a CCTV camera, for example, trained on a Teen Shelter would mean that youngsters felt that their privacy was being eroded and would therefore meet elsewhere. This was felt to be unlikely as they would probably feel safer from having that assurance as well as the other parents who were mentioned earlier. There was a need for further debate however and everyone agreed to put it on the next Open Spaces agenda so all the issues could be discussed.
- 99. Leiston and District Community Partnership (LDCP).** Members heard that there was an opportunity to nominate a Councillor to be the Councils representative on the board of the LDCP. This would of course have to be ratified by the LDCP but it was felt that, having a Councillor as a board member, would ensure that members were in a position to work closer with the Partnership as they took forward the various projects they are currently considering. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed to take up the offer and, after discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hill and agreed that Cllr Hodgson be nominated for the boards' consideration. (A secret ballot was conducted as requested by Cllr Last and Cllr Ginger with the other candidate being Cllr Nichols proposed by Cllr Morsley).
- 100. Meeting with SCS Norse – from 10th September.** Members agreed that an onsite meeting with the SCDC's Estates Officer should be requested on the KGA Caravan Park to address all the issues brought up recently regarding its condition and possible use. Members also noted the cost of the Haylings Pond maintenance package submitted by Mr Tynan.

101. Sizewell Parishes Liason Group (SPLG) – Cllr Taylor circulated a report from the open meeting of 23rd September and explained to members his concern that the SPLG steering group was not currently wholly representative of the overall membership of the Group. He felt, and members agreed, that all meetings should invite all members and should also be held in public to ensure everyone's views and concerns were noted and taken into account. Members asked him, in the first instance, to approach the group's secretariat to see if this change would be acceptable. Hopefully this would be welcomed. The other route would be to use the constitution to call a meeting with the support of the requisite number of members support.

102. Finance and Personnel.

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £16,901.01p along with £19,650.47p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) **Auto-enrolment.** Members considered the report from the clerk on auto enrolment. With a staging date of 1st January 2016 it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the Council adopts NEST as its Pension Scheme Provider in November to meet the requirements of the regulations and be ready to implement the scheme.
- c) **External Auditors Report 2014/2015.** Members noted the external auditors report and also noted the small issue that they raised which had already been corrected. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the auditor's report for the 2014/2015 accounts be accepted and that the actions taken be approved.

103. Planning.

- a) **DC15/2636/FUL Conversion of existing "derelict" building to create 2 bed dwelling behind Smyth House Residential Home, 106 High Street, Leiston.** Hours of work to be specified. Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor against.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b) **DC15/3433/FUL Side extension to provide new sitting room at 27 Southfield Drive, Leiston.** Hours of work to be specified.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- c) **DC15/3616/FUL Proposed erection of 2 dwelling houses at The Old Vicarage, 2 King Edward Road, Leiston.** Hours of work to be specified. Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor against.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- d) **DC15/3018/FUL Change of use of south wing of Colonial House to form 10 flats with associated parking, bin store, cycle store at Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston.** Members were content with the plans as they were presented but wanted SCDC to carry out due diligence on whether enough effort had been made to let the office space, as they were against losing B2 space in the town. Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor against.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **DC15/3354/CLP Change of use of first floor only to form self-contained single bedroomed flat, replacement of 3 windows and insertion of new window opening on rear elevation at 41 High Street, Leiston.** Cllr Howard and Cllr Taylor against.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

104. Correspondence.

- a) **Leiston Citizens Advice Bureau.** Members were very pleased to support a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Bailey, that Leiston CAB be awarded £2000 toward their running costs for 2015/16.

During the above item, the time reaching 10pm it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended for 5mins until 10.05pm to allow that item to be completed.

The meeting finished at 10.05pm.

Chair

Dated
