

Pre-meeting Reports
5th January 2016

- 160. Police Report.** The chairman welcomed PCSO Sam Maples who gave a brief summary of the crime figures for December (attached).
- 161. County Council.** Cllr Richard Smith reported that from the last meeting, he had arranged for the Main Street Bus Stop to be returned to Old Post Office Square (from the trial stop at Barclays) and he would also now be progressing the request for a bus stop at Aldringham Court with the officer responsible. He then explained the challenge that the County Council faced in making savings of £73m over the next two years along with the dilemma posed by the Chancellor recommending that they raise their Council tax by 2% (£5.7m) to be ring fenced for Social Care. He also reported that the introduction of the National Living wage would cost £6-£7m which the Chancellor had declined to give them relief for. The total net budget looked likely to be set at £470m for 2016/17. Cllr Howard asked about the cuts that would have to be made and specifically asked about the threatened £350,000 cut to Suffolk Libraries budget. Cllr Smith confirmed that SCC were in negotiation with Suffolk Libraries on this point. Cllr Taylor asked about the recent Flood meeting and Mr Hawes asked when the promised HGV signs were going to be put up. Mrs Bloomfield highlighted some issues with the pavement, parking and street lighting in front of the new Valley Road development which Cllr Smith undertook to raise with Highways.
- 162. District Council.** Cllr Taylor asked Cllr Cooper for a brief report from the recent SCDC meeting of the Sizewell C Task Group. Cllr Cooper duly obliged the main point being the appointment by EDF of the Planning Aid Team to give independent advice to Parish Councils during the forthcoming consultations. Cllr Smith was able to answer a further query regarding the survey being done around the Yoxford junction and the B1118 route as this was SCC's survey not EDF's. Mr Hawes reported that the reporting system for fly tipping, broken glass and other litter at SCNorse worked very well with good response times. He also reminded members of the discussions at the recent public meeting about the difficulties that might arise should Public Space Protection Orders be considered for dog control or dog bans in various areas of the Town.
- 163. Public.** Mr Hawes urged members to go for good quality CCTV if they decided to take up Malbek's kind offer. He recommended optical remote zoom (rather than digital) and that they be remotely monitored. Members noted this and were also keen to ensure the cameras were fit for purpose. Mr Hawes then strongly recommended that a free run area for dogs be considered in future plans for the open spaces. He felt that responsible dog owners would really appreciate this and would keep it clean and that it might well reduce the dog fouling nuisance elsewhere.

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, 5th JANUARY 2016 at 7.35 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor D. E. Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor A. M. Cooper
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C. Ginger
Councillor P. Harle
Councillor Mrs L Hill
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.M. Howard
Councillor H. Jackson
Councillor J.N. Last
Councillor S. Levermore
Councillor C. Nichols
Councillor M.J. Taylor

- 164. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1st December 2015 be signed as a true record.
- 165. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Morsley.
- 166. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had been very impressed with the quality, turn out and support from the town at the Christmas Fayre on 5th December last year. He had attended a civic carol service in Beccles before Christmas and, on 2nd January, had attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Muriel Neale.
- 167. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Cooper in planning and the correspondence. Cllr Hill in item 7c. Cllr Howard in items 5 and 6, Cllr Ginger and Cllr Mrs Geater in planning.
- 168. Open Spaces.** Members noted the report from the meeting of 8th December and discussed the various issues raised. Regarding the CCTV Cllr Last and Cllr Hodgson were both very insistent that the outfits installed should be fit for purpose. Members were keen to explore the generous offer from Malbek to supply and install CCTV outfits in the towns open spaces and two resolutions were put forward to accommodate this. They differed only in semantics but the proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Nichols that the Council now meets with Malbek with a view to taking them on their offer best reflected the recommendation from the Open Spaces committee and was passed. (Cllr Howard, Taylor and Hodgson against). It was then proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that the "meadow" area of the Primary School Field be used to accommodate a community orchard and picnic area. Members then agreed to have a further meeting to explore the ideas put forward for a short and long term plan for the Primary School Field and to start detailing the work package necessary to implement them. Two further items

were confirmed; on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Jackson it was agreed to purchase picnic tables to be placed on the recreation grounds, picnic area and Haylings Pond and, on a proposition from Cllr Nichols, seconded by Cllr Jackson, it was agreed to purchase 20 extra brackets and hanging baskets for the town.

169. Public meeting on dog fouling held 14th December. Members agreed that the public meeting had been a very useful and informative one. The law was clear and the methods for reporting and prosecuting transgressors was discussed and clarified. From the meeting members undertook to use the Spring newsletter to pass on the information gathered to residents and to inform everyone how they can help control anti-social dog fouling by submitting witness statements. The article could also seek views on what sort of dog control townsfolk wanted to see around our open spaces should members wish to look at a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the future. This would depend on agreement from SCDC though so Cllr Cooper agreed to find out what the District's intention might be once the current Dog Fouling Act lapses in 2017 and what their policy might be on PSPO's.

170. 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 £17,551.07p along with £48,014.46p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) **Internal Audit Report.** The Clerk presented the report from the internal auditor's recent examination of the accounts. Members noted that it was a thorough and positive report and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper seconded by Cllr Ginger the report was accepted in its entirety.

c) **Setting the Precept for 2016/2017.** The Clerk explained the current situation regarding the reduction in LCTRS grant this year from £18,788 to £11,683. Next year there will be no grant at all. Members have used some of this grant to date to offset the precept. This has meant gradually increasing the Precept each year to compensate for this withdrawal of funding. For 2016/17 this necessitates at least a £10,000 rise. Members then discussed the items that they desired be added to the core funding required. There was a very comprehensive briefing from the Clerk on all the estimates and one on how the increase in Tax Base alleviated the necessary rise somewhat. Taking everything into account Cllr Ginger proposed that the Precept be set at £232,000 which would mean a rise of 17p a week on a Band D property (11p a week for Band A). He felt that this was a prudent increase (regarding the withdrawal of funding) but was the maximum he would be comfortable with as he was always extremely aware of the burdens any increase placed upon the residents. Cllr Howard seconded the proposition and it was unanimously agreed to set the Precept for 2016/17 at £232,000.

171. Planning.

a) **DC15/4625/FUL Proposed housing development of 6 new houses with associated parking and access to rear of 7 Main Street, Leiston (Engineers Arms).** Members noted that this application had just been validated but that the site notice had yet to be put up. It was felt that members needed time to visit the site to envisage the impact and that, considering the timescales, this application would be able to be discussed at the February meeting. It was also hoped that the delays in the associated application, that

the Town Council were sponsoring, for the Leiston Works Railway, would be deposited with SCDC shortly.

- b) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk invited members to attend a final briefing on the Town's Neighbourhood Plan on January 19 (in the Community centre). All being well, after this, the Plan would be deposited with SCDC.

172. County Matters.

- a) **Highways – High Street.** Members noted that the reconstruction work on the High Street was due to start on 8 February and would last around 3 weeks. Members hoped that the disruption to businesses could be kept to a minimum.

173. Correspondence.

- a) **Community Choir.** Members noted the intention of Rachael to expand her Community Choir to include a Youth Choir for Children in Leiston. They were unable to help with venues or the organisation but would help with promoting it in the newsletter if that was appropriate. It was agreed to send her a letter of support and to wish her success.
- b) **Police cuts and renewing the PCSO contract.** Members noted the letter from Suffolk Constabulary regarding the cessation of the contract for Leiston's match funded PCSO. They also noted a later letter which, at impossibly short notice, invited a representative of the Council to go to Landmark House to discuss taking on a contract for a fully funded PCSO. Members felt that this was unfortunately impossible to discuss without knowing the future landscape of policing in the Town. It appeared, to be confirmed, that there would be no police at all based in Leiston from April and that the Safer Neighbourhood Team would be decimated and spread very thinly across an unsustainable area. Members were hugely concerned at the proposals being put forward and strongly requested a visit from the PCC and the Chief Constable to talk through what the actual state of policing was proposed to be in Leiston in the future. The proactive and excellent work done over the last few years by Sgt Beresord and his team was unanimously praised and the Chairman asked the Clerk to write and thank him and his team for all the hard work they have put in keeping our community safe over that time. The improvement in the Town has been very noticeable and the interaction the team have had with the young people in Leiston has been excellent. Members could not see how this preventive and proactive policing will be able to be maintained in the future. It was proposed by Cllr Hill, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed that the PCC and Chief Constable be invited to meet members as soon as possible to clarify the situation.
- c) **Town Pastor project.** Members noted the letter from Julia Catterwell describing the intention to set up a Town Pastors project in Leiston. The letter informed members that, following on from a recent multi-agency conference in Leiston, to discuss community safety and various other issues, there was agreement that a Town Pastors project in the Town would be extremely beneficial and be useful for helping protect vulnerable residents during the evening when the night time economy and other nefarious activities happened. Members were generally supportive of the initiative and noted the request for contributions toward the start up costs of the project. It was felt that a bit more information was required before

deciding on the level of financial support however and Cllr Harle was asked to convey this the meeting of the Pastors due the next evening.

- d) Training.** Members were interested to note the training session being held in Bury St Edmunds in February on Public Space Protection Orders. The subjects covered were particularly relevant to issues currently on the Agenda so, on a proposition by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Boast, it was agreed to request that LCPAS do a bespoke training session in Leiston.
- e) Flooding.** Members noted the short brief from the recent Flood Group meeting and picked up two items of interest for further action. The first was to contact Highways to see what decisions had been made regards repairing the road over the culverts in Lovers Lane. The second was to put an article in the newsletter to give residents the opportunity to contact the group to discuss property level protection from future flooding. Cllr Ginger mentioned that Heath View still got flooded in heavy rain and Cllr Geater reported that Haylings Grove still suffered from standing water on the first corner.

During the above item, the time reaching 10pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that standing orders be suspended to allow business to continue for a further 15mins.

174. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Community Speed watch.** The Chairman was asked to include an article on how residents could get involved in and set up a community speedwatch scheme in the next newsletter.
- b) Leiston Forward.** The Clerk was asked to get any information that might be relevant in good time before the meeting scheduled for 19 January.
- c) Leiston Business Association and Christmas Lights.** Cllr Nichols, on behalf of the Business Association thanked everyone who had helped put up and take down this year's lights.
- d) Victory Road gates.** Cllr Last requested that the gates to Victory Road recreation ground were progressed as soon as possible.
- e) HM Queen's birthday.** Cllr Levermore asked that this be put on the February agenda.

The meeting finished at 10.05 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----