

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd February 2016

- 181. Police Report.** The Chairman passed on apologies from PCSO Sam Maples who was unfortunately unable to attend. A summary of the crime figures for January is attached.
- 182.** The Chairman introduced Tom McGarry who updated the meeting on developments regarding the Nuclear New Build programme. His brief is attached. Cllr Howard sought and received assurance that the letter to landowners was purely to make sure EDF had identified everyone who could be affected by the build and that the reference to compulsory purchase was to put their mind at rest that this wasn't being considered. Cllr Hodgson urged EDF to consider extending the length of the Stage 2 consultation to 12 weeks. This would be established shortly as the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) was currently being negotiated between EDF and the Principal Councils. Cllr Taylor asked whether EDF would divulge more of their plans to possibly avoid the major councils' spending taxpayers' money, particularly on highways planning, in advance of stage 2. Mr McGarry pointed out that EDF were doing what the planning system required and were not obliged to do anything in advance of a stage 2. Mr McGarry suggested Cllr Taylor take this up with the Principal authorities, unaware that Cllr Taylor had done so in December.
- 183. County Council.** Cllr Richard Smith reported that he was soon to meet with his officers to discuss the Middle School site now that it had been handed back by Bright Tribe. He explained that the broadband roll out in Suffolk had currently stalled whilst the contract is investigated by the EU. Hopefully this would be resolved shortly. He was asked about the PCC's ambition to devolve parking enforcement to the Council. Cllr Smith felt that the County would be very unlikely to take this on and that it would more likely go to Districts and Boroughs. He kindly offered the Council £250 from his locality budget to go toward HM Queen's birthday celebrations in the town which would be discussed later in the Agenda. Cllr Bailey reported a rather difficult lighting snag opposite the bottom of Crown Street and Cllr Howard wondered whether there was a road inspection programme which picked up faults that, if rectified quickly, could save money and time in the future. Cllr Harle was very disappointed that the SCC Cabinet had not taken the advice and recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee to not cut the Libraries funding this year. Cllr Smith explained that the Cabinet had had difficult decisions to make and were trying to spread the cuts that were needed. Finally, he gave his apologies for the March meeting as he was soon to undergo an operation on his knee.
- 184. District Council.** Cllr Ian Pratt and Cllr Cooper gave their apologies. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether Cllr Cooper had got a reply to the query on PSPO's for the March meeting.
- 185. Public.** Mr Harris thanked Councillors for reading his letter regarding Kingfisher Way and for responding. He also pointed out that the traffic in Red House Lane was already difficult and was not able to absorb the extra proposed for the new Hopkins site. Cllr Smith assured him that the County Council would do an assessment when the plans came in. Mr Briggs informed the meeting that the

NSSA Skills Centre in Halesworth was unfortunately going to close in summer 2017.

During the above item, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hill and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the public session to complete.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY, 2nd FEBRUARY 2016 at 7.47 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor D. E. Bailey (in the Chair)
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C. Ginger
Councillor P. Harle
Councillor Mrs L. Hill
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.M. Howard
Councillor Mrs S. Levermore
Councillor D. Morsley
Councillor M.J. Taylor

110. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5th January 2016 be signed as a true record. It was also proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater and agreed and those for the meeting of 19th January 2016 be signed as a true record.

111. Apologies. There were apologies from Cllr Cooper, Cllr Nichols and Cllr Last.

112. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman hoped members could help him host the Chairman's Reception which, this year, was scheduled for Friday April 15th. He reported that grant application for a rest area and bench in front of Sizewell B had been successful and the bench would be installed this week. Finally, he had received a copy of the Suffolk Community Foundation Annual report which he offered to members should they be interested.

113. Declarations of Interest. Cllr Ginger in 12a, 12b, and 12c.

114. Leiston Surgery PPG. Cllr Ginger explained that the Leiston Surgery PPG were keen to offer a place on their group to a representative from Leiston Town Council. He was currently a lay member and may be standing down soon after many years working with the group. He explained that it was a forum for communication between the patients and the practitioners that met every 3 months. Members felt that this was a worthwhile group and, on a proposition from Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Hill become the Council representative.

115. Fairtrade. Cllr Howard updated members on the Town's Fairtrade status and

reported that the Fairtrade Committee in the town had regrouped and were busy organising two events to help mark Fairtrade fortnight which, this year, was from 29th February to 13th March. There would be an information stand in the Co-op and, date to be confirmed, a concert in the WI Hall.

116. Community Orchard. Cllr Levermore explained that the trees had been delivered and were kindly being stored by Geater's Nursery until the Guides and Cubs could plant them on 27th February. They were quite big specimens with very robust stakes and would be spaced appropriately around the "wildlife area" of the primary school field. Both the Guides and Cubs hoped to donate a tree themselves and there was also a possibility of two further trees from the AONB project. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate civic event for the Chairman to attend and help with the publicity.

117. Magnox socio-economic plan – consultation. Members noted the current consultation being undertaken by Magnox on the socio-economic aspects of the decommissioning of Sizewell A power station. Cllr Taylor had visited Sizewell A recently and had met the new Closure Director and discussed the process. Sizewell was a low priority and was on track for a low number of forced redundancies and was also not in a remote area. There was a lot of interest in the possibility of investing in training all the same as this could be for the wider energy based industry and could be through a local retraining centre which could attract other partners as well as the Magnox Socio-economic effort. Members asked Cllr Taylor to use the SSG to shape the reply to the consultation and to respond on their behalf.

118. HM Queens Birthday celebrations. Members discussed ideas for an event to commemorate and celebrate HM Queen's 90th birthday in June. It was agreed to form a small group of councillors to take this forward with the main proposition being a family event on Victory Road Recreation Ground. Cllr Mrs Hill, Cllr Levermore, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Morsley and, in his absence, Cllr Last agreed to take up the challenge.

119. Finance and Personnel.

a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £63,798.86p along with £16,413.89p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) **Financial Standing Orders and safeguarding arrangements.** Members noted the need to overhaul Financial Standing Orders to incorporate all the recent changes to legislation and to properly safeguard public money where BACS and other digital transactions were becoming more common. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed to instruct the clerk to conduct a review, seek advice and present a draft in due course.

The meeting took a break from 8.37p.m. – 8.45p.m.

120. Planning.

a) **DC/15/4625/FUL Proposed housing development of 6 new houses with associated parking and access rear of 7 Main Street, Leiston (Engineers Arms).** Members were very concerned about this development. They felt very strongly that this was a complete overdevelopment which would have been unacceptable even if it had not been in the middle of the town's conservation

area. The houses were far too close to the Public House, both for the future residents' amenity and for the pub to operate properly in the future. The other, detached house, was out of context, fitted very poorly into the landscape and detracted from the development overall. Being in a conservation area however the whole development, as presented, had a severe and adverse impact on the setting of the surrounding buildings, many listed, and completely removed an important green space from the centre of town. The conservation area had only been reappraised in 2014 so policies were relevant and up to date. The height of the terrace houses had been reduced but members were still concerned that if any development were to be allowed on this site then it should be single storey for very few in number, preferably none at all. The access onto Main Street was poor and members were pleased to see that Highways had commented as such in their response. They felt the parking was limited and more should have been provided for the Public House in the scheme. It was however noted that the scheme took into account the railway line and that it would not be adversely affected by it should that project get permission (albeit accommodation would have to be made for access on event days). Members unanimously recommended refusal for this application.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b) **DC/16/0007/FUL Change of Use of land formally comprised part of the Leiston Works Railway returning it to that of a railway line, thus replicating its former use which was abandoned sometime in the late 1960's and for that purpose to lay railway track and erect any necessary associated gates and fencing. 7 Main Street, Leiston, Leiston.** Members felt that this application would be a positive enhancement to the conservation area and also bring possible socio economic benefits to the town once the railway was working again. Members noted the low impact assessment for noise and vibration on adjacent properties (including for any possible new build in DC/15/4625) and felt that the aesthetics for extending the tramline element would also be acceptable if carefully landscaped.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **DC/16/0201/TCA - To fell 4 conifers and 1 apple tree on boundary of 5 Main Street and Engineer's Arms. 5 Main Street, Leiston.** Members agreed that Mr Newton would be best placed to determine this one.

RECOMMEND REFERRAL

- d) **DC/16/0195/FUL – Rear extension to the existing house to comprise of a kitchen/diner and a separate living room with attic above. New vehicle access to provide a second access to a newly formed driveway, requiring removal of two small trees. Erection of a new garage at the end of the new driveway and new fence beside the new driveway at 28 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.** Members were content with the scale and scope of the application and would recommend approval if Highways felt the new entrance was acceptable.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

121. County Matters.

- a) **Highways.** Cllr Morsley reported to the meeting that the lampposts in the middle of the footway at the entrance to Red House lane had finally been moved. The work done to make good their original footings had, however, left some temporary slurry in the area.

122. Correspondence.

- a) **Suffolk Police.** Members noted the letter from Mr Passmore and undertook to discuss it in more detail at their meeting with him the next evening.
- b) **Town pastors.** Members noted the details and requirements for funding the start-up costs of the proposed Town Pastors initiative in the Town. They were very supportive of the scheme and hoped that it would be able to attract enough suitable volunteers to get it operational. Members hoped that they could help with a small contribution from the Partnership Fund and, on a proposition from Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Bailey it was agreed to give the Town Pastors £1,000.

123. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **SPLG.** Cllr Taylor asked the Chairman to be allowed to explain the current predicament facing the Town Council's membership of the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group. Despite members request for a general meeting of all the members of the SPLG be held it was now clear that the small steering group had elected not to do so and had, in fact, arranged another steering group meeting to talk through issues on an agenda which, itself, had not been circulated to member parishes. Members felt that at least this would have given members a chance to comment and would have informed them what their steering group was doing on their behalf. Cllr Taylor wondered whether another Cllr would be willing to go along to the latest steering group meeting on 23rd February as was not sure he could attend. Cllr Hodgson agreed to attend with the Clerk as reserve.

The meeting finished at 9.37pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----

Thank you – Happy New Year

Last week's speculation on a Final Investment Decision in National / Local Coverage:

“Good progress continues to be made so that Hinkley can provide clean, affordable and secure energy that hardworking families and businesses can rely on now and in the future.”

- In November it was set out that FID would be reached in coming months – EDF have never said the decision would be taken on 27 January.
- Only a fortnight ago planning consent was granted for the National Grid connection to Hinkley.
- Lease on Bridgewater House is another indicator of progress.

Vincent de Rivaz, chief exec of EDF Energy said:

“The UK has an ambition for a low carbon generation mix, and for nuclear to play a key role. It has consistently demonstrated confidence in EDF and France in the delivery of this ambition. EDF will deliver.

A few days ago our Chairman Jean-Bernard Lévy said in public that the project was ready for a final investment decision to be taken very soon.

The French Minister for the Economy reaffirmed very clearly the commitment of the French Government to Hinkley Point C and its support for EDF

I can tell you that I am absolutely confident that Hinkley Point C will be reaching a final investment decision soon.”

Reaching HPC FID would be good news for Sizewell C and would move us towards the next stage of consultation.

New Staff:

- Jason Cowles started with Sizewell C last Monday as our full time security officer. He joins us from the local constabulary where he was the local PCSO.
- Thank the team of Ghurkhas from G4S who provided security support over the last six months as we worked to find the best candidate to join our team.

Upper Abbey Farmhouse:

- Works are progressing on site with roof coverings to the main roof area of the main building well advanced.
- The mechanical & electrical first fix of the main area of main house is complete. All the new beams and floors are in and plastering works are progressing in the main house as well.
- Works are well advanced installing the new main oak frame between the main house and the rear cottage and the extensive repairs required between the two buildings are also progressing.
- Project is still on target for completion in April.

- Once works are completed, we would be happy to host Councillors for a tour.

Aldhurst Farm

- Demobilised before Xmas. Blackwell will be remobilising on site in March to complete the last of the works – expected to take about 4 to 6 weeks.

Technical Assessments

- Archaeological Trial Trenching at Pill Box Field, Sizewell Gap completed in December.
- GI Campaign SSSI works – work was completed just after the New Year.
- Remotely piloted aircraft flights surveying the coastline (monthly) for geophysical survey of the shoreline over a 12 month period.
- Mini-landers deployed on the seabed in mid-January to monitor wind, wave and tide activity.
- Sound Monitoring – back up surveys and completion of sites not visited in the autumn due to bad weather.
- Geomorphological walkover and photographic surveys at main and AD sites.
- Winter bird surveys on main and AD sites.
- Autumn survey of walkers around the Sizewell Estate and neighbouring land.

Some people living in the local area may have received letters from one of EDF Energy's contractors over the last few days. This letter was sent seeking details about property or land ownership in specific locations.

EDF Energy instructed letters to be sent to confirm who owns the land or property in question as we have a statutory duty to directly consult any land owner or occupant of property that could be affected by the development of Sizewell C. The purpose of the survey is to confirm that we have the correct contact details and ownership information for each property. In supplying this information you are ensuring that if you have an interest that may be affected we will be able to consult you on the proposals going forward.

We are sorry if the letter caused any worry and we certainly did not intend to bring about any uncertainty. All the maps which accompanied the survey are in draft form and in no way should it be considered that these properties will be affected by the proposals to build Sizewell C. We are at a very early stage in our plans and everything is subject to further public consultation.

We are on hand to answer any further queries.

Tom McGarry

Head of External Affairs - Sizewell C

EDF Energy - Nuclear New Build