

Pre-meeting Reports
1 March 2016

186. Police Report

The Police were not present at the meeting but a report had been submitted and circulated. No questions were raised. A summary of the crime figures for February is attached.

187. County Council

Cllr Richard Smith had given apologies due to his recent knee operation but is recuperating well and hopes to attend the April Council meeting.

188. District Council

Cllr Pratt and Cllr Cooper both gave their apologies. A report from Cllr Cooper had been circulated prior to the meeting.

189. Public

Mr Hawes was pleased with the article in the Spring newsletter regarding dogs and the public consultation. He would like consideration to be given to a 'dog area only'. Mr Fawdry expressed his concerns over the planning application at Mandor House, especially over the parking issues and hoped the Council would recommend refusal. Mrs Betson mentioned SCDC have a scheme to buy land to enable small business developers/builders to build properties. She commented the Neighbourhood Plan requires the housing for the town centre to be affordable and will be appropriate for Leiston. Mr Briggs commented that the NSSA Skills College in Halesworth will only be offering hairdressing courses after the summer. He also reported the land behind Carr Avenue which EDF own has had waterflow issues with the ditch and SCDC planning are involved. Mrs Bloomfield expressed frustration that the street light on Valley Road/Crown Street corner still has not been fixed, ongoing now for 12 weeks. Cllr Bailey assured Mrs Bloomfield that Cllr Richard Smith is aware of this problem and the Deputy Clerk will write to the responsible SCC Highways Manager for their intervention.

A member of the public reported complaints regarding the resurfacing on the high street which had been on social media and would like to raise these issues with the Council. Cllr Bailey responded that the Town Council can forward any concerns to Highways.

During the above item, the time reached 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger and seconded by Cllr Harle 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 1 MARCH 2016 at 7.50 pm**

PRESENT

Councillor D E Bailey (in the Chair)

Councillor D Boast

Councillor C Nichols

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

Councillor J Last

190. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2 February 2016 be signed as a true record.

191. Apologies

There were apologies from Cllr Cooper and Cllr Geater.

192. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman, and several councillors, attended the planting of the community orchard on Saturday 27 February at the King Georges Avenue Recreation Ground. This was well attended and involved planting by the Leiston Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts. He thanked Cllr Levermore for all her work in organising this event and the councillors who also assisted with the tree planting.

On Sunday 28 February the Chairman and his wife attended the blessing of the RAF Air Cadets New Squadron Banner and the 75th anniversary celebration at St Margarets Church. He thanked all the staff for the work they carry out for the youth and wish them every success for the future.

The Chairman has sent County Councillor Richard Smith best wishes after his operation which went well and he is now recuperating.

He reminded councillors of the RBL Junior Band Concert on Wednesday 2 March at the WI Hall, Johns Street to celebrate Fairtrade fortnight in the town and also the CCTV meeting with Darren Ilston of Melbek on Thursday 3 March, 7pm in the Council Chambers.

Cllr Levermore asked about the meeting Cllr Bailey and Cllr Hill had with Chris and Sammy Betson and the Cabinet Members and officers at Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding the town centre proposals in the Neighbourhood

Plan. Cllr Hill responded that this particular meeting had been in the process of being arranged for quite some time and was not the meeting that she had proposed at the previous Council meeting. A meeting with Cllr Ray Herring and Suffolk Coastal officers will be arranged with the Town Council in due course.

- 193. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Boast 11b, Cllr Taylor 11b, Cllr Last 11h, and Cllr Levermore 10a.

194. Update from Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group

Cllr Taylor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Hodgson felt this group are not achieving what it should and Cllr Taylor commented that we have given them plenty of time and opportunity to change their approach. Cllr Ginger felt that LTC should not be part of this group. It was proposed by Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed for the Town Council to withdraw from SPLG and to discuss options at the April Council meeting.

195. Planning Aid Sessions

It was noted several councillors and the Clerk attended the drop-in sessions on 25 and 26 February and Cllr Taylor also attended the training session on Saturday 27 February and felt LTC should have its own session to be guided through the second stage consultation process. It was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the Clerk write to Tom McGarry at EDF requesting a further session just for LTC.

196. Community Centre Management Committee Report

Chairs - The Deputy Clerk confirmed there was no restriction on capacity as there were three fire exits in the main hall area. There are approximately 65 chairs which are used regularly and the cost of new chairs, of the same style, is approximately £40.00 each. There is £2,000 in the reserves which has been allocated to buy a dishwasher so there are no funds available for replacement chairs. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed to put funding into the budget for next year.

Kitchens – The light switches in both kitchens are not in ideal locations and there is also a wall socket in the main kitchen which needs raising to counter level. It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed to have another light switch placed at each kitchen entrance and to move the socket up to counter level.

Various - It was agreed to have brushes put on the bottom of the swing doors to alleviate the draught problem and to also replace the square table. It was also agreed to restrict business/taxi notices to a business card only and to engage a window cleaner to clean the internal windows above the annexe area. The Deputy Clerk will obtain quotes for painting and decorating. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Levermore and agreed for the Clerk to investigate Wi-Fi and obtain quotes.

197. Open Spaces Committee Report

Former Primary School Field - Council agreed to keep the current name for the area as King Georges Avenue Recreation Ground. Cllr Hodgson raised concerns regarding having one pedestrian access to the sports area which he felt would get well-worn and that the fencing is not adequate. After further discussion it was agreed the sports area should be a dog free area with fencing installed between the community orchard and sports field. The fencing on the east side, Kiln Lane, is in a poor state of repair and this will need replacing. The Deputy Clerk had obtained quotes for fencing between the community orchard and sports area of £5,000-£6,000 and the cost of self-closing gates would be £800.00 each. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed to investigate funding from Galloper Wind Fund with the aim to replace the fencing along Kiln Lane, install fencing between the community orchard and the sports field with 3 self-closing pedestrian gates, a large lockable gate (for maintenance vehicles to use on the King Georges Avenue side) with a self-closing pedestrian gate beside it. Cllr Hodgson was against this proposal.

Dog Enclosure – Cllr Ginger mentioned that a survey had been conducted by LDMN&S which indicated quite a few residents did not want to have a dog area. Council will await the outcome of the survey from the Spring newsletter before making a final decision.

198. The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

Cllr Bailey presented recommendations from the working party proposing to celebrate the Queen's birthday on Sunday 12 June, 12pm-5pm and invite organisations and residents to a 'Picnic in the Park' event on the Victory Road recreation ground with stalls and entertainment provided by the Royal British Legion Band. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed to accept this recommendation. Cllrs Howard and Hodgson voted against. The Deputy Clerk confirmed there was £1,000 in the budget for this event together with £250.00 from Cllr Richard Smith.

199. Finance and Personnel

Accounts for payment – It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £73,632.40 along with £14,376.42 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

The meeting took a break from 9.05pm until 9.13pm

200. Planning

- a) DC/16/0186/FUL – Proposed pair of semi-detached one bedroom houses on site of previously approved single dwelling reference C/04/1782 Mandor House, 16 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

Members were concerned about this application and felt this was an overdevelopment which is not suitable for a pair of semi-detached houses.

The height and form of the application is too big and will adversely affect neighbours' amenity as well as parking issues.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b) DC/16/0259/VOC – Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission C10/2061 to allow use of self-contained annexe for short term letting use (holiday makers or Sizewell contract workers)
Annexe, 36 Buller Road, Leiston

Members felt this would bring too many vehicles to an area where parking was already difficult, even with the hardstanding already within the property.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- c) DC/16/0150/LBC – Internal alterations (removal of later partitions), replacement windows, scantlings to match existing, alterations to 19th century lean-to and internal refurbishment and restoration
Upper Abbey Farm House, Eastbridge Road, Leiston

Members all agreed to approve this application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) DC/16/0552/FUL – Proposed side extension to offer the existing house a spacious entrance hall, directly linked with the living space, a new detached garage with storage area. The project also includes internal alterations, change of windows and timer cladding on one of the existing elevations
2 The Bungalows, Red House Lane, Leiston

Members all agreed to approve this application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) DC/16/0374/FUL – New access and formation of new driveway/parking area. The current sloped garden will be dug out and a retaining wall will be built using 9" hollow core concrete blocks and a red brick skin to edge the new driveway. There will be a slope and steps for access to the house and the driveway will park 3 vehicles
104 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

Members all agreed to approve this application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) DC/16/0541/FUL – Form new vehicular access, parking and associated retaining garden walls
37 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

Members all agreed to approve this application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- g) DC/16/0647/FUL – To alter the wall between the premises and footpath so that parking can be provided for disabled visitors and a ramp can be installed for wheelchair access
Leiston Baptist Church, John Street, Leiston

Members all agreed to approve this application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- h) DC/16/0630/VLA – Modification of S106 Agreement to revise the table in Schedule 5 of the original S106 to change plots 99-101 from 4 bed units to 3 bed units
Land opposite 18-30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston

Members all agreed to make no comment on this application.

NO COMMENT

- i) DC/16/0807/FUL – Extension to existing property
70 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

Members all agreed to approve this application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

201. County Matters

Cllr Levermore raised concerns that security guards on the Middle School site were not allowing the Youth Club to use the playground area or the field which was affecting their ability to run the youth club effectively. The Deputy Clerk will write to SCC and raise our concerns.

Cllr Harle enquired where the survey figures for the Highbury Road development were sourced. It was noted the developer will take affordable housing into consideration which is detailed in our Neighbourhood Plan and Cllr Bailey suggested waiting on the submission of the final plans.

Cllr Last raised concerns on the infrastructure for the town over the next 3/4 years with all the future developments. This will impact on the town as there is no programme in place and the Council needs to plan for the future.

202. Correspondence

Chelsea's Choice – Cllr Taylor felt the school had been offered this play free of charge earlier in the year and hadn't taken it up. Cllr Ginger and Cllr Howard agreed and even though this is a great idea, seems unfair it falls on the Council for funding. Cllr Levermore explained the school had missed the opportunity in the past but hoped the Council would be able to contribute. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hodgson to give £200.00 towards this production.

Letter from Pauline Burrell-Saward – Mrs Burrell-Saward gave notice on the lease of the property at 72 High Street, Leiston and the property is now empty. The Deputy Town Clerk informed the councillors that Mr Chris Newson would like to rent the property (at £280.00 per month) as an art gallery to display his and other artists work. This could be done on a six month short-term lease

agreement enabling the Council time to decide its future use and to still have an income from the property. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that a six month lease agreement be given to Mr Newson and that Mrs Burrell-Saward can have an advertisement in the window detailing her new premises. Cllr Howard abstained from the vote. Cllr Bailey felt it appropriate to write to Mrs Burrell-Saward to thank her for her tenancy of the property and to wish her well in the future.

203. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Howard mentioned there will be a new bus timetable in March and it is hoped they will now co-ordinate with the trains at Saxmundham.

Cllr Morsley wanted to congratulate those involved in the Spring newsletter as it was very informative of events/projects over the last 3 months.

Cllr Ginger felt that the article in the newsletter regarding the new Police structure did not reflect the recent Police and Crime Commissioner meeting that was held in early February and had hoped there would have been a report to Council. The Deputy Clerk will request a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

The meeting finished at 10.02pm

Chair _____

Dated _____