

Pre-meeting Reports

5th July 2016

29. Mrs Amber Brinkley – EDF.

Mrs Brinkley gave an update on the current situation regarding the proposals for Hinckley C and Sizewell C. Her report is attached to these minutes.

After her briefing Cllr Howard sought clarification of the French Union's position and Cllr Taylor asked if the EU legal challenges currently being made against the strike price deal were affecting the decision to go ahead with Hinkley. Mrs Brinkley re-iterated that the unions had now given their position to the board and that the legal challenges did not affect the Hinckley decision. Members thanked Mrs Brinkley for the invitation they had received to attend the opening of Upper Abbey Farmhouse which EDF and Morgan Sindall had restored to a superb standard.

30. District Council.

Cllr Cooper put a report on the table outlining the current position regarding devolution. He pointed out that the devolution proposals were now out for consultation and that any comments made would be sure to be passed on to the government. Cllr Hodgson had reservations about the devolution process whereby the Mayor would be directly elected but his powers now appeared to be watered down giving him a "light touch" only – this did not really add up. Cllr Cooper then passed on one of his District colleagues offer to come to any meeting that the Town Council holds with Mr Passmore in the future. Cllr Steve Gallant is the cabinet member dealing with Police change programme and shared members' reservations about the new policing model. Finally, he asked for comments on the District's plan to turn convert their street lights to go off at midnight and confirmed that there were still some lamps that still needed to be converted to LED.

31 County Councillor. Councillor Smith gave his apologies

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 5th JULY 2016 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT

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

32. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7th June 2016 be signed as a true record.

33. Apologies

Cllr Jackson absent.

34. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported that, along with the clerk, she had recently met with the new Principal of Alde Valley Academy. This was an informal meeting with a view to making introductions and forming a relationship for the future. This was followed by the official opening of Picnic in the Park, held to mark HM The Queen's 90th birthday. She had been pleased to attend the opening of Upper Abbey Farmhouse and the CATS AGM. Finally she thanked Cllr Last for laying the Council's wreath at the First World War memorial at the service commemorating the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

35. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper agenda item 10 (planning), Cllr Hill in 9b (LFTSC), Cllr Hodgson in letter 7 (Sandlings cycling), Cllr Levermore in Leiston Forward and Cllr Howard in 2 cheques and TASC.

36. Nuclear New Build.

Members were given the opportunity to discuss the items covered by Mrs Brinkley in her presentation. Nothing was forthcoming but Cllr Taylor wished for a personal opinion to be recorded in the minutes. He felt that the senior engineers and unions at EDF France did not support Hinkley C. He understood that they were concerned that they had 55 reactors in France needing maintenance which, along with other issues being looked at by the French Nuclear Regulator, meant that the company might be considered to be over extending themselves to meet their commitments at home. Cllr Ginger, on behalf of the Council, formally thanked EDF for the restoration of Upper Abbey Farmhouse and their invitation to the opening event to view the finished building. It was a superb restoration.

37. Standing Orders.

Members noted the report from the Clerk which put together all the comments he had received from members regarding the new draft Standing Orders distributed in June. Members talked through and agreed the various amendments, the Clerk made notes and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Nichols it was agreed that the Orders, as amended, be adopted as the new Standing Orders for Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council.

38. Sizewell C – Stage 2 consultation.

Members noted the report from Cllr Taylor which suggested a number of actions that the Council could consider leading up to and during the expected Stage 2 consultation on Sizewell C. Members talked through the paper and agreed to formally request that SDCDC provide information on the SOCC, the LIR and any s106 agreements being considered. They also discussed how to approach the forthcoming consultation and would consider whether to form a working party or not closer to the time. It was also agreed that it would be beneficial to facilitate a public meeting during the consultation too to ensure as many residents as possible were engaged on the issues.

39. Leiston Forward.

Members noted the report that Mrs Rickard, SCDC Head of Communities, had prepared for the SCDC cabinet which recommended support for the joint funding of various posts to help administer the Leiston Forward project. This amounted to an initial contribution of £13,500 for a six-month trial followed by funding of £27,000 a year for three years. The Town Council were being asked, as partners, to contribute 10% of the costs. Members were still sensitive about the appropriateness of the name for the initiative and passed a motion for that to be reconsidered. They did however, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Nichols, agree to contribute an initial £1,500 toward the project with, in principle, a commitment to fund £3,000 a year thereafter (for three years) if it is successful.

40. Finance and Personnel

- a) Accounts for payment – It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £21,446.76p along with £14,640.96 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment. The accounts were accompanied by the final breakdown of the accounts for Picnic in the Park. Cllr Cooper, on behalf the Council, thanked the Chairman and the working party for the excellent organisation and hard work that had made the event such a success.
- b) Financial and Risk Assessment for 2016-2018. – Members noted the report from the Clerk on the Council's risks. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger 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) Appointment of Internal Auditor 2016/17. – Members noted the report on Internal Controls and the Clerks recommendation for appointment of Internal Auditors for 2016-2017. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that Heelis and Lodge be appointed as Internal Auditors to the Council for 2016/2017.
- d) Review and Budget Review. – Members accepted the Clerks report and his review of the budget and earmarked reserves. They also noted the s106 funds held by SCDC for playspace investment. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that the report and review be accepted.
- e) CCLA Investment. In light of the current uncertainty the Clerk was reminded to review the risk assessment for this investment when the financial situation became more stable. Currently funds could not be withdrawn for at least six weeks and the volatility of the market was already steadying so things would be clearer soon.

The meeting took a break from 8.50 pm until 9.00pm

41. Planning

- a) **DC/16/2320/FUL – Overspill car park to support the construction phase of the consented Galloper Wind Farm. Galloper Wind Farm, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston. (Cllr Harle against)**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **DC/16/2087/FUL – An extension to an existing building onsite is required to provide an additional work area for the future decommissioning of redundant equipment associated with the operation of the power station at Sizewell A, Sizewell Power Station**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **DC/16/2463/FUL – Stair and lift extension to south elevation of Long Shop, new door and window to west elevation of Loggia, new ramp to education area, new glazed exit doors and internal alterations at The Long Shop Museum, Main Street, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The clerk outlined the timescales for the final passage of the Neighbourhood Plan through the legislative process leading up to a referendum. The plan will now be put out to consultation by the District Council for six weeks and members will be consulted on choosing an inspector to review the plan after this period. If the inspector calls for a public hearing, or not, the timing of the final referendum will not be until January 2017 unfortunately. Cllr Taylor reported that the government were considering including renewable energy policies into future Local Plans.

42. County Matters.

- a) **Middle School Site.** The Clerk outlined the initial proposals now being put forward for the future use of the Middle School site by the County Council. Part of their plans currently include an offer to the Town Council to transfer the gym and new classrooms to the Council for community use. Members were pleased to be considered for this but were unfamiliar with the part of the site being discussed so had little idea of what might be involved. It was requested that a site visit be organised to get a feel for the building which would allow a much better discussion on the possibilities and liabilities that the venture might entail. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger that the Council considers taking ownership of the buildings offered but that a site visit be organised first to get a better feel for the project. Members were also interested in the possible use of part of the school field for recreation and possibly even tennis courts. Cllr Taylor was keen to see the planning brief for the whole site as it evolved.

43. District Matters

Cllr Cooper undertook to look into refuse collection difficulties in Valley Terrace and members also expressed concern about overgrown brambles in the cemetery hedgerow and the Catholic Church hedge. Cllr Taylor asked for more detail on how many SCDC lights still awaited conversion to LED. He also asked Cllr Cooper whether the District were looking at and monitoring which EU legislation, with regard to environmental and nuclear issues, that could affect the Parish on exit from the EU. Cllr Cooper replied that this would certainly be the case as the process moves forward.

44. **Correspondence**

SCDC Engagement Forums

Members noted Cllr Haworth-Culf's initiative to hold bi-annual engagement forums for the districts' parish and town councillors to network and discuss the priorities and issues of the day. Members agreed that the idea was a good one and would only comment that the forums might possibly be better if they were more localised rather than the whole district attending.

Sandlings Safer Cycling Campaign

Members noted Sandlings initiative to erect signs alongside appropriate roads in the area to warn motorists of the presence of recreational cyclists. These signs would be put up for the summer months and would cost approximately £5 each. It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that £50 be granted to the Campaign to enable this initiative to proceed.

During the above item Cllr Hodgson declared an interest.

Memorial Tree Planting

A resident requested that they be allowed to plant a tree in the community orchard in memory of their parents. The circumstances were such that it would be beneficial to conduct the ceremony sooner rather than later so permission was sought to make a decision at Council rather than wait for Open Spaces. It was proposed by Cllr Nichols, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that this be facilitated. Cllr Levermore was asked to be the point of contact.

45. **Questions to the Chairman**

Town Pastors

Cllr Last asked the Chairman what was happening with the Town Pastors project. The clerk undertook to get a report for the next meeting.

CCTV

Cllr Nichols asked how the CCTV on Victory Park was progressing. The Clerk reported that the electrics were ordered and would hopefully be installed very soon.

Town Signs

Cllr Harle asked how the new town entrance signs were being progressed. The clerk reported that, unfortunately, the Saxmundham highways department had been depleted and Mr Warne, who was working on the project, had been seconded elsewhere. No news.

Kiln Lane

Cllr Ginger asked for the undergrowth at the top of the Primary School field to be cleared.

August meeting

The Chairman asked members to keep 2nd August clear for a planning or Council meeting should one be needed and reminded members of the Cinema in the Park event celebrating 40 years of the Town Council owning the Film Theatre.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----

EDF - Leiston Town Council update – 05 July 2016

Project Update since April

- On 22 April the EDF Board of Directors was presented by EDF Group Chairman Jean-Bernard Levy with a plan to secure its long term financial trajectory. This plan has been approved by the main shareholder of EDF, the French Government.
- At the same Board meeting, there was a decision to proceed with a consultation process on Hinkley Point C through the Company Works Council (CCE) with the French EDF Trade Unions which began on 2 May. The full period of consultation required by law has reached its end and the opinion of the CCE is now considered as having been given.
- EDF reconfirms its confidence in the HPC project which has now reached the stage for the Board's final investment decision.
- HPC remains mobilised in this pre-FID phase on the project itself. The project teams in the UK and France, together with our main suppliers, have made a tremendous collective effort to be ready for a final financial investment decision.
- After FID for Hinkley Point C is reached, further details on Stage 2 consultation for Sizewell C will be published.
- Furthermore, EDF confirmed its commitment to the Hinkley Point C project in Somerset following the EU Referendum result, EDF Chairman, Jean Bernard-Levy said "We believe that this vote has no impact on our strategy, and the strategy for our UK subsidiary [EDF Energy] has not changed. "Our business strategy is not linked to Great Britain's political affiliation with the European Union, so we have no reason to change it."
- Here in Suffolk, we continue engaging with communities and businesses. In June, we sponsored the Suffolk Show again with a focus on promoting the work we and Sizewell B carry out in skills and education.
- We hosted the new executive head of Alde Valley Academy at Sizewell B to discuss the educational opportunities now on offer at the station as well as how to ensure that local people have the best opportunity to gain employment and skills from Sizewell C in the future
- We will also continue to support initiatives around the Suffolk Skills Show, Raising the Bar and Young Enterprise Awards and keep abreast of the progress being made with Enterprise Adviser and Suffolk County Council's ICanBeA campaign.
- As well as education, we have engaged with parish councils, community and business groups and environmental organisations including Suffolk Wildlife

Trust, East of England Energy Group, the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group, Theberton & Eastbridge Parish Council, Yoxford Parish Council, Suffolk Coast Business Group, Suffolk High Sheriff, Suffolk Coastal Destination Management Organisation and the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce.

Aldhurst Farm

- Aldhurst Farm Habitat Creation Scheme is now complete. Six hectares of wetland and two kilometres of ditches have been created, with over 120,000 reed beds planted in the basins. The surrounding fields have been cultivated and grass-seeded. The contractors are now finishing off fencing works and new signage prior to demobilising and leaving site.
- The whole site will now be placed under conservation management as per the Ecology & Landscape Management Plan, in accordance with relevant planning conditions. The wetland habitats will be left to develop naturally.
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- We will now begin preparing proposals to open up parts of the site for quiet recreation, once the habitats have had time to establish, as required by the Planning Permission.
- Until then, public access is welcome along the original and new footpaths between Valley Road and Lover's Lane, but not in any other areas of the site. Dogs are also welcome along the footpaths if kept on a short lead.
- We would like to thank the community for embracing this project and recognising its lasting legacy for Leiston. We have engaged with neighbours every step of the way as their support for this habitat creation scheme is integral to its success, and we will rely on this support in the future so that collectively we can make this project as successful as possible.

Upper Abbey Farmhouse

- I want to thank those councillors who joined us to mark the completion of the restoration of Upper Abbey Farmhouse.
- We employed a team of specialists to undertake the restoration work on the listed building and the project has showcased the work of many talented craftspeople across Suffolk and Norfolk.

Ongoing studies and assessments

- Since the beginning of April we have also continued with technical assessments and surveys which will inform further stages of the consultation. These include: outage worker surveys, outage traffic surveys, seasonal wildlife surveys, coastline and plankton surveys. public footpath surveys and lighting and visual landscape assessments. Next month, we are carrying out another marine traffic survey off the Sizewell coast.

Office Staffing

In the information office, we welcomed Tracy Hateley to the team last week. Tracy is a Leiston local whom some of you already know from her work at the Children's Centre. She's going to be a great asset to our team and will be job sharing with Ruth Hardy.

Amber Brinkley