

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd August 2016

46. County Councillor. Councillor Smith apologised that he would not be able to attend the September meeting so he was very pleased to be able report at this meeting. He reported that he was now the cabinet member with responsibility for Culture, Libraries and Heritage as well as Finance and was pleased to be heading up some of the new projects being undertaken. Since the last meeting he had attended a Trustees meeting of the Long Shop and the CAB AGM. He had also been in Knodishall on 20 July when the storm hit that caused the flooding in Leiston. He explained that the current road closures around Buller and Valley Road were part of the ongoing examination and mapping of the sewers in the town as part of the Flood Groups efforts to improve the situation. He had recently attended the Vice Presidents Lunch at the LTAA and had given £750 from his locality budget toward new floodlights at the venue. He looked forward to meeting members at the Middle School on 19 August and gave his apologies for the Highway Committee meeting on 22 August. He explained that the County budget planning was now starting for next year against a continued requirement to save money. Cllr Howard was concerned that Suffolk were still considering cuts when the new Government was making noises about a possible change in direction on “austerity”. Cllr Smith explained that, until the new Chancellor had set out how he would settle with local councils, the need was still there. There was also a discussion on the proposed devolution of East Anglia and, with that having been Mr Osborne’s project, whether there would be changes to the deal there too? The County had their final vote on whether to fully sign up to the deal on 20 October. Cllr Ginger asked about the sort of housing being proposed in the deal. Cllr Smith thought that the £30m in the deal was scheduled for Ipswich and Norwich in the main and that there would be a lot of shared ownership options included. A resident asked for Cllr Smith’s views on the Hinckley C situation but he confirmed that he only knew as much as anyone else and any views were his alone and certainly not based on any insider knowledge.

During the above item, with the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended for the public session to be completed.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 2nd AUGUST 2016 at 7.40pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
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 Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor C Nichols
Councillor M J Taylor

Before the meeting started the room stood for a minute's silence in respect for the passing yesterday of Mr Frank Barker. Frank had been a well known and involved resident who had served on the Urban District Council before becoming a member of the Town Council for 10 years on which he had been the Chairman in 1976 and 1987. On completion Cllr Howard paid a personal tribute, speaking for many, about his community contribution and how he had been very instrumental in the forming of what has now become the CAB.

47. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5th July 2016 be signed as a true record.

48. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Bailey and Cllr Last.

49. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported that a member had recently become ineligible to continue to serve as a Councillor and that, after a notice of vacancy had been posted, a sufficient number of residents had come forward to request an election. A By Election will therefore be taking place on 29th September. The Chairman then reported that she had attended the first Police Locality meeting in Saxmundham and had met the new Locality Inspector, Mark Jackson. On the 20th July she had attended a meeting of the Leiston Surgery Patient Participation Group and on the 21st, with other Councillors, she had attended the opening of the Summer Theatre season at Aldeburgh. Finally, on 28 July, with two other Councillors, she had attended a briefing session on the proposals to employ a Local Area Co-ordinator in the health and wellbeing sector in Leiston and Saxmundham.

50. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper agenda item 13 (planning), Cllr Hill in item 9, Cllr Ginger in item 9, Cllr Levermore in 13d and Leiston Forward Project, Cllr Boast in Community Event Fund and Cllr Howard in 11 as member of TASC.

51. Proposed relocation of Post Office in Leiston.

Members noted the consultation to relocate the Leiston Post Office Counter Service from Londis in Sizewell Road to Coopers this October. Accessibility was a concern although the counters would all be downstairs and Coopers were {apparently} taking steps to improve access to the upstairs for their own customers. It was parking that caused all the concern though and the Clerk was asked to respond pointing out that a disabled bay 200m away was unworkable and that issues would be bound to arise with inappropriate parking near a busy junction. A dedicated space is required near the store, possibly in partnership with the Co-op. Members also asked the Clerk to write to the current postmaster, Mr Minhas, and thank him for his service and efforts in providing the Counter Service so well for so long.

52. Devolution and East Suffolk Council mergers.

Members talked through the various issues currently challenging local government; the chief one being the current offer from the government for the principal councils of East Anglia to get together under a “devolution” deal. Most had signed up to investigate this further and there was currently a consultation on the proposed model (which includes a new authority with a Mayor). Alongside this SCDC and Waveney were consulting on a merger which would bring both Districts together as one authority with fewer councillors (and staff). The general feeling was that there were too many changes being made at once (new government, Brexit etc.) and there needed to be a clear overall strategy if possible. This was unlikely however as each had their own momentum now and members were unclear how a new devolved authority would operate. A Mayor appeared to be unpopular and it remained to see if this was a deal breaker. After airing their concerns and ideas members were encouraged to engage with the online consultations to each of the proposals to ensure their thoughts were registered.

53. Ground Maintenance meeting of 13 July.

Members noted the actions from this meeting and were content with the progress.

54. Community Centre Committee meeting of 19 July.

Members noted the report and the recommendations. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that either of the two preferred decorators who had quoted £1,600 to do the work (re-decoration) be employed depending on their availability. This would be by negotiation around the busy bookings schedule to minimise disruption and income.

Cllr Boast declared a personal interest.

55. Film Theatre Working Party meeting of 18 July.

Members noted the report from the meeting and heard that the issues with the curtain contract were currently being worked upon and that the re-organisation of the staff and the introduction of a new post was revenue neutral and did not affect the wages budget.

56. Leiston Surgery.

Members noted the letter from Leiston Surgery which kindly and clearly addressed the very wide misconception amongst residents that the Surgery would not be able to cope with any more patients as a result of the extra 700 homes currently being proposed for the Town. Dr Simmonds was very clear that the surgery could cope and had the capacity to do so with no effects on the current waiting times which were, albeit one to two weeks, better than other practices in the area. Even the local and national recruitment problems in General Practice had been overcome with new doctors and staff taken on to future proof our surgery against the expected challenges development around Leiston might bring. Members were pleased to have received such positive reassurance which they could pass on to residents in future discussions. They

also noted that this had been reported in the EADT and the message would now be put in the next newsletter.

57. Sizewell C – Stage 2 consultation.

Members agreed a press statement which they could all use once/if the second stage of consultation for Sizewell C is announced. Although this was dependent on the Final Investment Decision which has now been taken by EDF the consultation is delayed while the government considers their strategy. The statement is worded to allow members to field any press queries over the next few months in a neutral and factual way as members will not be able to form any opinions until the full detail has been presented, absorbed and discussed. This will take time.

58. Finance and Personnel

- a) Accounts for payment – It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Nichols and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £32,396.40p along with £12,503.57p paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment. Cllr Hodgson declared an interest in cheque 312911 to Sandlings Cycling Campaign.

59. Planning

- a) **DC/16/2885/TPO – T1 cupressus macrocarpa at drive entrance, fell to plant new boundary hedge at The Laurels, 1A Haylings Grove, Leiston.** Members agreed to respect the decision of Mr Newton the SCDC Trees Officer.
- b) **DC/16/2742/VOC – Variation of condition(s) 3 and 6 of planning permission C/12/2002 – demolition of existing lean-to, change of use of shop to residential, alterations to existing flat and formation of 3 two bed maisonettes with three on-site parking places at 31 Haylings Road, Leiston.** This changed fenestration aspects and the parking layout to accommodate the application below (DC/16/3113/FUL)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **DC/16/2694/FUL – Proposal for the installation of 5m x 10m swimming pool with an enclosure over the top made from aluminium frame and plastic perspex that can be retracted to one end of the pool at Reckham Lodge, The Common, Leiston.** Comment that lighting needed to be restricted due to its proximity to the AONB.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **DC/16/3027/FUL – Three bay garage block at 73 Abbey Road, Leiston.** Members were very concerned at the footprint and height of the proposed garage due to its situation at the front of the property and its effect on the street scene. The building was oversized for its stated use and members felt it was an overdevelopment for the site proposed. If allowed restrictions on its use should be put into the conditions to ensure it remains purely garaging for domestic vehicles.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- e) **DC/16/3037/FUL – Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 4 Haylings Grove, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) **DC/16/3113/FUL - The building in question was a shop with a flat above. Planning consent has previously been granted (Application C/12/2002) to convert this section of the empty building into a 2 bed maisonette. This proposal seeks to retain the existing 1 bed flat above the shop and create a new 1 bed flat below. The net result will be 2 x 1 bed flats (i.e. the existing first floor flat and and new flat on the ground floor) instead of 1 x 2 bed masionette. Both flats will have 1 x on-site parking space. - 31 Haylings Road Leiston.** Members noted the proposed changes and the redesign to allow one extra car parking space but offered no comment.
- g) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The clerk informed members that the Plan had now been put out for consultation by SCDC until 31st August.

60. **Correspondence**

East Suffolk Travellers' Association

Members noted the letter from ESTA which offered assistance over and above the excellent work they do for our actual and potential train and bus users. They have provided professional scrutiny of the transport network to SCC and the operators on our behalf and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to renew our membership and voluntarily increase our subs to £20 in recognition of this.

Sports and Social Club Family Fun day

Members noted the letter from Mr Cracknel outlining his intention to organise and run a Family Fun Day for the town at the Sizewell Sports and Social Club in August. They were pleased to release £1,000 from the Community Event Fund to help with the costs and welcomed Mr Cracknell's undertaking to return any proceeds from the draw and donation into the fund to help in future events.

During the above item Cllr Geater declared an interest.

Leiston Multi-Agency youth group

Members were concerned to receive a letter from the Multi-Agency group who, at their last meeting, had discussed the adverse effect the Town was seeing now that the PCSO's had been withdrawn from their proactive and advocational role with our young people – especially after 6pm in the evening. Members shared their concern and felt that this needed to be taken up at the highest level. They noted the PCC's intention to have a public meeting in Leiston in late November but were adamant that they needed to meet with him in September at the latest. Cllr Cooper assured members that SCDC shared these concerns too and he had written to the Chief Constable on the subject but had just been told that the Constabulary knew about the issues and were dealing with it. Members instructed the Clerk to do his best to secure an audience with the PCC as soon as possible.

61. **HGV's in Valley Road.**

Members noted the letter from Mr Broom describing the increasing and worrying incidences of HGV's following their sat nav down the most inappropriate roads in the Town. They heard that the Clerk had assured him that the Council's support to close Kemp's Hill to vehicular traffic was still in the Neighbourhood Plan. Members asked for this letter to be discussed at the Highways meeting on 22 August. They also suggested that the suggested signs on the A12 be raised and the Victory Road Zebra crossing be an agenda item for repainting.

62. **Questions to the Chairman**

Employment booklet

Cllr Howard asked the Chairman to authorise the purchase of the SALC employment booklets advertised in their latest newsletter (at £2.25p each).

The meeting finished at 9.10pm.

Chair

Dated
