

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017 at 7.00pm**

PRESENT

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

191. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 17 January 2017 be signed as a true record.

192. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Geater, Cllr Last, Cllr Levermore and Cllr Nichols.

193. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman had nothing to report since the last meeting.

194. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper in planning.

195. Precept for 2017/18

Members noted the Clerks report and discussed the various pressures and aspirations that affected the amount that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council needed to continue providing the facilities and services it currently did. They also looked to the future to ensure they were responsibly making provision for projects that would enhance the town and benefit residents in years to come. It was agreed not to make provision for a PCSO this year as the Constabulary were currently asking for full funding (£32,000) as well as limiting the amount of work any sponsored PCSO could do in the Parish. Members agreed to continue supporting the Youth Club and the toilets in Dinsdale Road as well making provision for incremental contributions to the various earmarked reserves currently held. New items that were sponsored included £2,000 each

to reserves for three new projects. The eventual provision of toilets at King George Avenue recreation ground, a new sports pitch on the old Primary School Field which is now part of the KGA recreation ground and new lights for the BMX pump track which is currently unlit. These projects will have to be saved for slowly but may attract match or grant funding from elsewhere in due course.

The grant of £11,000 received from government last year to offset the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme was not forthcoming this year so members had to find this additional sum on top of the increases already identified.

Overall, with the increase and future provisions it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed to set the precept for 2017/18 at £260,000. This was an increase in council tax of 22p a week (for Band D).

Cllr Taylor raised the issue of decreasing support from the County Council for various charities and voluntary organisations and whether it would behove the town council to step in. Members agreed that each case would have to be considered separately but no provision could be made at this stage. The Clerk then gave a brief report on the CCLA long term investment held by the Council and explained that a fuller assessment would be included in the Financial and Management risk assessment in June.

196. Sizewell C Stage 2 Consultation response.

The Clerk informed members that he had recently attended a meeting with EDF Energy and the Partners at the Leiston Surgery. This was a very positive meeting and the Clerk learned that GP services and all health-related activities for SZC would be provided by an EDF contractor on site (as it is in Hinkley). No itinerant workers would use Leiston Surgery.

Members then worked through the suggested amendments put forward since the last meeting. Most were small changes that did not alter the meaning and generally just clarified the intended comment. There were a few items that needed discussion and debate though to ensure a collective view was voted upon. The main ones were;

- Reference to and support for a link road from the Saxmundham Road to the site, running alongside the Green Rail Route, was deleted.
- Some alterations to the paragraph on rail transport over the wider network.
- An agreement that option 2(ii) for the accommodation be supported but with the proviso that no unit should be over 4 storeys high.
- An enhancement to the request that SZA be considered for use during the construction (to relieve the land take in the AONB) and that the SZA site be cleared as quickly as possible to allow that.
- A decision to keep the paragraph on the Borrow Pits with the addition that, should they get permission to use the borrow pit principle, options 3 and 4 were the only acceptable ones (rather than preferable)

Once everyone was content with the final draft it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed that, with the amendments agreed above, the draft become the official Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council response.

Cllr Cooper informed members that SCDC were keen to keep Bridleway 19 open in some form too.

The Town Council Response forms part of these minutes.

197. Questions to Chairman.

The Clerk asked members if they would like to respond to an invitation to meet with the agents dealing with the Hopkins Homes development site off Red House lane. After being refused permission by the LPA for the 188 house development they were considering their options and wished to meet up to discuss the 70 house option outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan. Members gave the Chairman and the Clerk authority to meet with the agents and to report back in February.

Cllr Howard thanked the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk for the work done on the SZC response and requested that the response now be put on line and that a press release be issued.

The meeting finished at 8.10pm.

Chair

Dated
