

**Pre-meeting Reports
17 January 2017**

173. County Councillor

Cllr Smith reported that the Suffolk County Council budget was announced yesterday and is in the public domain. The basic council tax frozen but an increase in social care precept by 3% for 2017/18, 3% increase 2018/19 and 0% 2019/20. Cllr Smith felt he personally could not support Sizewell C project with the astronomical costs, which could lead to it being half built and the poor design with a bare concrete finish. The build time has increased to 12 years at least and Cllr Smith felt the environmental damage would be horrendous. Cllr Smith was concerned regarding the accommodation location and reported that SCC had commissioned research on eight other potential sites which they will ask EDF to examine. He supported the D2 route which will leave a long-term legacy for the area but if this is to succeed residents need to push hard for it and suggested residents should send a personal response instead of the EDF consultation form. Cllr Smith reported the strike price for Hinkley is around £91.50mw/hr and he understood there are possible negotiations with EDF and the Government on the strike price for Sizewell C. This could mean there will not be much money for local community projects. Cllr Smith confirmed SCC Cabinet meeting on 31 January to agree their final response and said there would be no joint response from SCDC and SCC. Cllr Howard welcomed Cllr Smith's change in views. Cllr Taylor asked if 3% for funding social care is enough and Cllr Smith confirmed that is the maximum amount they can have this year. Cllr Harle commented that the cladding would make all 3 domes look the same and Cllr Cooper said it had been suggested using coloured cement but this was dismissed by EDF. Cllr Ginger was pleased more money was being used for social care and asked if money from the SCC reserves could be used and Cllr Smith reported that £48m was the total amount available to cover budget shortfalls in the next and future years. Cllr Betson was disappointed that a SCC report on Sizewell C accommodation had not been made available for parishes to consult on. Cllr Smith said it was in the public domain on the website and FOI was mentioned.

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.

174. District Councillor

Cllr Cooper had circulated a report for the meeting. He highlighted Leiston Leisure Centre would be revamped in 2019/20. Cllr Morsley queried when this had been decided and Cllr Cooper replied it was agreed at SCDC Cabinet on 3 January 2017. Cllr Hill thanked Cllr Cooper for his report.

175. Public Forum

No questions were raised.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2017 at 7.50pm**

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 J Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor M Taylor

176. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 10 January 2017 be signed as a true record.

177. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Geater and Cllr Nichols.

178. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman was pleased with the redecoration of the community centre and thanked Cllr Hodgson for removing and erecting new cupboards in the small kitchen. These will be used for the storage of equipment by regular clubs/groups of the community centre. On 13 January the Chairman and Clerk attended the Suffolk Chamber Business Partnership meeting with EDF Energy at Trinity Park. The introduction was by John Dugmore, Chief Executive of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce with a presentation by Jim Crawford which was followed by the launch of the Suffolk Chamber's Sizewell C Supply Chain website. Businesses were encouraged to sign up on this site to register their company's interest in the project. The Chairman congratulated Bright Sparks and everyone involved with this year's production of Aladdin. They had 6 sell out shows and two performances for schools. Leiston is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of people and supporters prepared to commit to such a large project and the venue to showcase these talents. Plans are already in place for next year's production. Councillors also noted an EDF meeting at St Margaret's Church tomorrow 10am-12pm.

179. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper item 10, Cllr Howard for TASC and item 9a, Cllr Hodgson item 9a.

180. Leiston First – Report from First Meeting of Leiston First Partnership Working Group – 14 December 2016

Minutes of the meeting previously circulated. Cllr Hill reported Elspeth Gibson had taken up her role as Leiston Change Manager and Terms of Reference and Board representatives had been agreed. The next meeting has been scheduled for 10 February. Cllr Taylor asked if Suffolk County Council should have representation and Cllr Hill confirmed they are part of the partnership but did not attend the meeting. The Deputy Clerk to enquire who the representative for SCC is.

181. Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company

A report with suggestions for community payback groups to assist with work and projects in the town had been circulated. The Council must provide public liability insurance and access to toilet facilities near to the site, which could be an issue. It was proposed by Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed for the Deputy Clerk to contact the company and investigate this further.

182. Chairman’s Reception – 7 April 2017

Cllr Hill asked councillors to note the date in their diaries.

183. May Council Meetings

Dates had been proposed for the AGM (and Town meeting) on 2 May and the Council meeting on 16 May. Councillors all agreed to these dates being confirmed.

184. Finance and Personal

a) Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £30,743.90 along with £38,865.58 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) Internal Auditors Report

Report previously circulated. Cllr Hill reported there were no outstanding matters and thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to accept the auditor’s report.

c) Precept for 2017/18

Cllr Hill suggested as the Clerk, who is the Responsible Finance Officer was not present this item should be deferred to the extraordinary Council meeting on 24 January. Councillors all agreed to this proposal. Cllr Taylor requested further information on the CCLA investment for the meeting.

185. Planning Matters

DC/16/5096/FUL and DC/16/5097/LBC – Upgrading of internal heating, new boiler behind bar, new blow heaters and roof punka fans to re-direct warm air downwards, new internal insulation to north and south gable without disturbing existing external elevations, new balanced-flue outlet to side, north elevation away from abbey ruins, improvements to means of escape for disabled, new

disabled toilet, in adjoin Gueston Hall for auditorium use, new proscenium gantry to stage with stage curtains, new insulting movable screens to walls for audience comfort and appreciation at Gueston Hall, Leiston Abbey, Abbey Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/16/5035/OUT – Use of land for erection of two dwellings at part side garden, 2 Abbey Road, Leiston. Cllr Last queried if this had come before Council quite recently, which it had and was refused on the grounds of safety of an egress onto the B1122. Councillors felt this was a dangerous black spot area with several traffic accidents in the past and agreed to recommend refusal. Cllr Taylor abstained from the vote.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hill reported the referendum will take place on Thursday 9 February 2017 and the front cover of the newsletter will give information on what residents are being asked to vote on. The newsletter is due out at the end of January. Several residents have asked about the referendum and it is very disappointing that they do not know or understand what it is about.

186. County Matters

Cllr Howard said the Highbury Cottages footpath has been damaged due to workmen putting metal box on the footpath, this has now been moved but it has damaged the footpath. Cllr Last was concerned with plant equipment on the site carrying out surveys on the land/soil and there should be measures in place to protect the public walking along the footpath. It was noted that orange tape fencing had been placed alongside the footpath. Cllr Harle raised the issue of high street resurfacing repairs and the paving blocks near the Engineer's Arms. The damaged bollard on the corner by the traffic lights was recently hit by a lorry and it was removed due to health and safety issues. Cllr Nichols and Cllr Hill had previously met with a Highways Engineer and been informed two new bollards with reflectors would replace this bollard and work would be done on the paving blocks near the Engineer's Arms. The Deputy Clerk will contact Highways for an update. Cllr Harle was pleased to announce faster broadband was in Ashfield Drive! Cllr Levermore raised concerns regarding cars parking on the junction at Seaward Avenue and Sylvester Road. This has been reported to the police on a number of occasions but nothing has been done. The District Council will be taking over parking issues from the police but no date has yet been set and the police seem unwilling to sort the problem out.

187. District Matters

No issues were raised.

188. Correspondence

Letter from Mr Glen King

Cllr Hill referred to the letter from Mr King requesting a meeting with councillors to discuss his concerns. The Deputy Clerk confirmed a second letter had been sent to Mr Crawford at EDF on 20 December asking for evidence of their risk assessment calculations and unfortunately no response had been received. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed for the Deputy Clerk to arrange a meeting for councillors to meet with Mr King and to chase a response from Mr Crawford.

Letter from Leiston Patient Participation Group

A request for funding the printing of a paper health care directory for Saxmundham, Leiston and Aldeburgh had been received which Cllr Hill supported. Councillors were concerned that the information would quickly be outdated and would be of limited value to people. Cllr Hill stated she would be attending a meeting tomorrow with the PPG and after further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Cllr Hill would mention our interest in supporting this idea but question the viability of the directory and request further details at the meeting tomorrow.

Tree Safety Survey

A report was received from Norse regarding the trees on Victory Road recreation ground, Haylings Meadow and Ashfield Drive. Cllr Cooper mentioned the trees on King Georges Avenue near the school should have been included in the report. It was suggested we request the poplar trees on Victory Road recreation ground be pollarded as noted in the report.

Letter from Snape Parish Council

A letter had been received asking if local parishes would be interested in sharing a PCSO, but would only fund £5-6,000 themselves. Councillors felt as there were still no firm decisions on PCSO working hours we would decline the invitation. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the Deputy Clerk would send an acknowledgement.

189. Questions to the Chairman

Housing Group

Cllr Betson reported the Housing Group had its first meeting today and allocated responsibilities. A further meeting has been arranged in a fortnight and Cllr Betson will report back to Council.

Car Park – Sylvester Road

Cllr Levermore raised concerns on the state of the car park area at the top of Sylvester Road. There was uncertainty if this was owned by Flagship or the District Council but Cllr Cooper will check with the Estates Team at SCDC. The Deputy Clerk will then write and ask for the car park to be cleared up.

CCTV

Cllr Harle asked if the CCTV on Victory Road recreation ground was up and running and Cllr Morsley confirmed it was. Cllr Boast asked if any complaints had been received to which the Deputy Clerk confirmed they had not. The Police and the Clerk are the only people to have access to the feed.

Break 8.55pm – 9.05pm

A confidential item was then discussed – see separate report

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Chair

Dated
