

Pre-meeting Reports 7 March 2017

220. Healthwatch.

Kerry Overton explained to the meeting what the Healthwatch organisation did and how everyone could interact and use the service. Healthwatch is an independent watchdog for all Health and Social Care services and relies on the public to give them feedback, good or bad, so they can work on citizen's behalf to investigate the issues raised. Answering questions Kerry explained how Healthwatch was different from PALS (which worked on an individual basis), how people could contact and talk to Healthwatch and what powers they had to enter premises. Basically, Healthwatch is publicly funded and has the power to enter any premises in the health and social care sector to investigate issues that have been brought to their attention, they are not the Quality Care Commission (CQC) but can refer things to them. They do dentists and can enter private care homes as long as there is one publicly funded resident in the premises.

221. County Councillor

Cllr Smith began by apologising for the very poor attempt that had recently been made to repair the High Street. The whole thing was not good enough and he was taking it a lot further in the County to sort out the situation. He then praised Mr Russell Cooper and his team for their incredible work in making the footways and verges in the local area look so good. He reported on the County budget debate where the budget for £472m had been passed. He then informed the meeting that purdah for the County Council elections in May would begin on 23 March. He explained that he would not be standing for Aldeburgh and Leiston this time as he had been asked to fight the Blything Division after the retirement of Michael Gower. Cllr Howard asked questions on how the budget reductions would affect the Libraries and Childrens Centres. Cllr Smith explained that the reduction of £200,000 to the Suffolk Libraries IPS would be for them to manage but that the Children's services would not be affected. Cllr Taylor asked about the Sizewell C accommodation study funded by the County and whether it was yet in the public domain. Cllr Smith explained that the study had been commissioned to look at alternative sites for EDF to consider as they move to stage 3. It was not in the public domain and wouldn't be until it was published. No consultation was taking place with any of the possibly affected parishes and Cllr Ginger was extremely concerned that Cllr Smith had nominated the 40 acre field to be one of those sites. He then answered questions regarding school places and the possibility of compensation for the businesses in the town after the road works debacle. Cllr Betson asked about school transport and Cllr Ginger got confirmation that the highways budget had indeed increased to £55.6m for the coming year. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Cllr Smith very much for the service he had given to the Town Council over the seven years he had represented Leiston.

222. District Councillor

Cllr Cooper had circulated a report for the meeting. He reported that there had been no compulsory redundancies at either SCDC or Waveney to date but could not rule it out as the Councils continued their merger. Cllr Ian Pratt

reported that there was work being done to locate a heritage centre in Thorpeness and that there had been 700 responses to the current beach hut consultation. Cllr Howard asked Cllr Pratt if he could find out how much the work was costing in Aldeburgh on the Thorpe Road Car Park.

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.

223. Public Forum

Members of the public asked the Council to use their best offices to implore the Co-op to change the way they regulate parking on their car park. The situation in town had got quite toxic as the way the tablet system worked was confusing and unclear. The fines were being given to disadvantaged and undeserving residents who do not understand the system as the signage is not clear at all. They do not even send out a warning letter on the first transgression. Tourists in the summer who miss the signs will get a bad impression of the town when they get fined and it was hoped that the Co-op could be persuaded to just install a system like Tesco's and other retail outlets whereby the Number Plate Recognition device only sent a ticket if you stayed longer than 4 hours. The Co-op had loyal members in the town who were turning away because of this and it was hoped that the co-op would realise that their retail offer was now tainted.

Mr Hartley just raised a concern he had with a planning application. Cllr Cooper undertook to investigate it.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2017 at 8.03 pm**

PRESENT

**Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor T Cooper
Councillor Mrs S 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 Taylor**

224. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7 February 2017 be signed as a true record.

225. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Last.

226. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Geater in 15 Haylings Grove, Cllr Cooper in planning, Cllr Ginger in the Co-op, Cllr Hodgson in 5d and Levermore in 5d. Cllr Hill in Leiston Film Theatre.

227. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported thus;

As you will know Leiston voted 'yes' in the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum on 9th February. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in putting this plan together and getting it to the referendum stage for residents to vote on.

I understand to fully complete the process and to give our plan its full statutory weight, Suffolk Coastal District Council will be recommended to formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan. Once 'made' this will become part of the Development Plan.

Last week I attended a meeting of the Leiston Surgery Patient Participation Group. The PPG were grateful to the Town Council for agreeing to fund the publication of the Health and Care Directory. To encourage the use of the patient online system which enables patients to book appointments, request repeat medication and test results, members of the PPG will, following training, be holding promotion days in the surgery.

On 3rd March, I attended with some councillors, The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk a Police Locality Meeting with Inspector Mark Jackson and Sgt. Mark Beresford. The Police together with Trading Standards are organising Crime Prevention and Crime Reduction drop in sessions. They are still trying to recruit Special Constables. The work of the Town Pastors in Leiston was praised by the Police. I raised the issue of HGVs coming through Leiston and the Police have agreed to take the matter to their Road Traffic Team and to contact Trading Standards.

On Monday 13th March at 10.00 a.m. at Sizewell Beach there will be a flag raising ceremony to mark Commonwealth Day. I invite councillors to join me.

I have been invited by the Leiston and District Community Partnership to attend the Long Shop Museum on Wednesday 22nd March. The High Sheriff of Suffolk will be attending having expressed an interest in learning about the concept of a Men's Shed and meeting the Sheddors. There will also be a short tour of the Museum.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillor Morsley for the work he has undertaken in getting the new town signs erected. The idea for the signs was put forward by Cllr Morsley and following council approval, he has continued to see the project through. They enhance the approach roads in to Leiston, indicating some of the attractions Leiston has to offer and will be a great asset to the town.

228. Open Spaces

Minutes from the meeting of 14 February, previously circulated, were accepted as a true record. Members considered the following recommendations:

a) Members considered the revised schedule and quotation for the installation of new play equipment on the King George Avenue Recreation Ground. It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the new quotation, which included the addition of an new cradle swing and safety surfacing, be accepted at the figure of £36,629 – this would mean using £12,629 from the play equipment earmarked reserve.

b) Erection of two lampposts (4 lanterns) on King George Avenue Recreation Ground. Members noted the rough estimate from County to achieve this of £6,400 and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Nichols it was agreed to go ahead with the project.

c) Community Orchard. Members noted all the initiatives and planting plans agreed by the Open Spaces Committee and, on a proposition from Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Betson it was agreed to spend £820 to implement the preferred planting plan. Planting would take place on the morning of Saturday 25th March. Youth organisations would be assisting and Councillors were invited to take part.

d) Members noted the request from the Leiston Events team to use Victory Road Recreation Ground on 27 May to stage a 40's themed event. This was unanimously approved.

229. Highways Committee

Members noted the minutes from the meeting of 21 February and agreed to accept them as a true record. The Chairman gave an update on the Deer signs and the 40mph speed limit in Lovers Lane. She also reported that the new barrier had been put in on the ramp beside King George Recreation ground. The 3 options for improvements to Sizewell Hall Road had not been received from Highways for the council meeting.

230. Housing Group.

Members noted the report from Cllr Betson on the topics and work currently being undertaken by the Housing Group. There were recommendations in the report which members discussed and Cllr Betson thanked her fellow Councillors for the work they had put into them. On a proposition from Cllr Nichols seconded by Cllr Morsely, it was agreed that the Housing group continue their work on investigating the use of King George Avenue Caravan Park, either partly or as whole, for affordable homes. Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Betson proposed that they also be authorised to continue working on the implementation of the desired housing on the town centre site, which was agreed, and propositions also endorsed them to continue working with existing providers to see if there were areas in the town where we could encourage and support any expansion plans that they might have. Members were asked to consider identifying any suitable Rural Exception Sites around the town.

The Housing Working Group will update on progress at the monthly Council meetings.

231. Leiston Together (previously Leiston First)

Members noted the report from the Leiston Together Partnership meeting held on 10 February 2017. The most noticeable outcome from the discussion on the Partnerships Terms of Reference was the agreement to change the name to Leiston Together. Members were asked to consider nominating suitable candidates to become an independent chairman of the Partnership and Cllr Harle and other members also asked that the Leiston Change Manager be invited to the next meeting to introduce herself and give an update.

232. Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group

Members noted that Cllr Bailey and Cllr Howard would be representing the Council at the meeting on 16 March.

233. Finance and Personal

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £20,015.08p along with £15102.66 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) Chairmans Allowance and Members Allowances

Members noted the report from the Clerk on setting the Chairman's and Members' allowances for 2017/18. It was agreed that no-one should be out of pocket for representing residents on the Town Council and it was also noted that members did not have to take it up should they not wish to do so. There were increasing demands being made on members to use computers and printers to conduct business these days (printer ink is quite expensive) so this needed to be considered alongside the other short journeys, phone calls and sundries that go with the role. It was therefore agreed, on a proposition from Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Morsley, to raise the allowance from £100 (where it had been for 8 years) to £250. It was also agreed, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper, that the Chairman's allowance be increased £100 to £1,100.

c) RBS Rialtas Financial Software.

Members noted the report from the Clerk on the demonstration he had received from RBS on the Rialtas Financial Software which is specifically designed for Town and Parish Councils. Many had also had the opportunity to look at the type of reports and budgeting information that the package produced. (e-mailed to them earlier). Members were happy that the package had a good reputation and, on a proposition from Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Betson it was agreed to purchase the package and pay for one days training and the first years licence.

The meeting took a break from 9.00 pm to 9.10 pm

234. Planning Matters

DC/17/0723/FUL – Single and two storey extensions to existing residential dwelling 15 Haylings Grove, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/170843/FUL – Change of use from A1 retail to A5 hot food takeaway 58 High Street, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Other applications

The Chairman and Clerk reported that they had met with the developers working on plans for the Constitutional Club for a pre application discussion. The proposals included maintaining and preserving the club itself as accommodation and using the bowls green to put in two blocks of flats with parking below. They were informed that members would be looking very carefully at the parking allocated and how the site was accessed.

235. County Matters

Nothing raised

236. District Matters

Cllr Taylor referred to the previous meeting (held 7th February) where he asked Cllr Cooper to find out how SCDC were addressing SZC. Cllr Cooper confirmed officers were negotiating with EDF. He also confirmed there had been no member meetings about SZC. Cllr Taylor referred to a press report that Lord Deben (John Gummer) had been unable to secure access to a second consultation response made by a publicly funded body, in this case CEFAS, (they are responsible for the work on coastal process) who are funded by Department of Food and Rural Affairs DEFRA. Lord Deben was reported to be trying to get a response. Cllr Taylor was aware of another public body not supplying a consultation response to interested members of the public but it would not be right to divulge which organisation that was. (The matter is still under investigation) Cllr Taylor believed this planning process was unfair in stacking the odds against the public and in favour of EDF. (Unlike a standard planning application where all consultation responses are on a public register).

237. Correspondence

Leiston Events Group

Members discussed the request from the Leiston Events group to use up to £1500 from the Community Event Fund for the forthcoming 40's event on 27 May. No-one was aware of any other event being proposed or organised this year that might wish to use some of the fund and all agreed that this would be a really good event for the town as it was part of a themed weekend (including a performance of the Swing Band at the Film Theatre). It was therefore agreed, on a proposition from Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Boast, that £1500 be released from the Fund to support this event.

Request for sponsorship of portable toilets

Further to the request above, the Events group also requested that the Town Council consider sponsoring portable toilets on the recreation ground to help make the day a success. Members agreed that toilet facilities were essential for an event like this and, on a proposition from Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Boast agreed to sponsor the toilets up to a sum of £450.

Replacement PSPO for the current Designated Area

SCDC requested members views on replacing the current designated areas (formed under current ASB legislation) with a new new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) coming into force in October 2017. The PSPO is a device under the anti-social behaviour, crime and punishment act 2014 to introduce measures in a parish to combat ASB. Members noted the response from the Safer Neighbourhood Team giving unqualified support for this to happen and they themselves were also adamant that the restrictions needed to be kept in place. They had proved demonstrably effective to date so, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to recommend that the Order be kept in place.

Footpath 16A – Grimsey Road to Sylvester Road

Councillors noted the letter from a resident drawing their attention to a large puddle in the footpath with stretches right across the path making it impassable for periods after any rain. It is a popular path for access to the Primary School and members agree this needed to be brought to the attention of the County Council.

Co-operative Car Park

Members noted the correspondence in the file which complained about the current regulatory regime at the co-op car park. It was firmly in accord with residents' concerns raised at the beginning of the meeting and matched members own experience. It was agreed that there was no issue with the introduction of a 4 hours free parking limit and it was good to see an increase in disabled bays. What was becoming quite toxic in the town was the way the parking limit was being regulated. The insistence on entering a registration number into tablets in the co-op was the problem. If the number plate recognition camera was used just to fine people if they overstayed the 4 hour limit, which it could do as that is what its currently set at, then everybody would be happy. Residents (and co-op members) were confused and caught out by the system as there was no clear, understandable signage and no reminders or large signs informing them of the procedure. The fine was extortionate for its purpose and the whole thing was an ill thought out scheme – a sledgehammer to crack a nut basically. Members were concerned about the elderly and more vulnerable residents who could not understand or afford a mistake (even though they did not overstay 4 hours), they were worried by the loss of trade to the small traders who are the life blood of the town and if tourists get a fine then Leiston will inevitably leave a sour taste in their mouth. The I-Van and Breast Screening service which the co-op kindly hosts would also be potentially affected if patients became victims of the aggressive firm administering the scheme. Members asked the clerk to write to the Co-op and request that they consider just using the same system as Tesco (in Beccles for instance) and other retail outlets whereby there is just one big sign warning of the 4 hour limit and an automatic fine if you drive out over that time. Trying to

hinder trade at smaller businesses does not help the Co-op and certainly does not help the town. It was hoped the East of England Co-op would reconsider their position as soon as possible.

238. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Howard advertised the Band Concert and Coffee Morning coming up in aid, and to raise awareness of, Fairtrade Fortnight. In answer to questions from Cllr Harle the Chairman informed him that, to date, there had been no reply from the Norwich and Peterborough and that there was no town dairy that she was aware of. Cllr Cooper informed him that the rough sleepers reported previously had been identified and were itinerant with no desire to change.

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed the, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that, the time being 10.00pm, Standing Orders be suspended for 15 minutes to permit continuing discussion of Council business.

There was a report the table from the Personnel Committee held on 22 February. Members discussed an item of business regarding personnel with the report from the Clerk being accepted. On a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed to action the report.

On a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Geater, a further item of a confidential nature was determined and agreed.

The meeting finished at 10.15pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----