

Pre-meeting Reports
4 April 2017

239. EDF – Nuclear New Build Update

Mr Tom McGarry updated the meeting on the Sizewell C project. His briefing is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Taylor asked whether EDF had been consulted by Suffolk County Council on their ongoing accommodation site survey. Mr McGarry had heard that it was being undertaken but had no knowledge of what was being done. Apparently, they were scoping 8 alternative sites for the campus but no details had been made available in the public domain. SCC confirmed it would not be published until at least mid-May. Cllr Ginger asked Mr McGarry to confirm that the 40 acre field would not be considered again by EDF. Mr McGarry confirmed that it was no longer a reserve site and the proposed development site campus was the option that EDF were consulting and taking forward. Cllr Ginger also asked about plans for Kemps Hill but Mr McGarry was unable to give any information on that. Cllr Last asked if the number of workers at Hinkley six months after the financial agreement could be the same expected for Sizewell C (1600). Mr McGarry explained that Hinkley had had a very long lead in to this point, including site preparation which was already complete and as the two projects are different it should not be regarded that the same would happen here. Cllr Taylor asked about potable water and Mr McGarry confirmed that EDF were in discussions with Essex and Suffolk Water and, by Stage 3, the detail would be available. He also undertook to get details of the of the shift pattern being worked at Hinkley for Cllr Taylor. Cllr Harle was pleased to note that EDF intended to put the same solidarity agreement in place with the unions at Sizewell as they do at Hinkley. Finally, Cllr Ginger asked when the project would start but Mr McGarry there was no timescale for Sizewell C at present..

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.

240. District Councillor

Cllr Cooper tabled a report for the meeting. Cllr Ginger sought assurances from Cllr Cooper that brown and blue bin collections would remain free. Cllr Cooper confirmed at the moment they would continue to be so but after the merger with Waveney he was unable to give any guarantee. Cllr Last asked when the refurbishment of the Leisure Centre would begin and Cllr Cooper confirmed within 18 months/2 years.

241. Public Forum

Mr Pemberton informed the meeting that the new regime installed at the Co-op car park had driven regular and casual shoppers away from the town and the High Street was now deserted most days. Two shops had not had one customer for two days. Residents and visitors had been frightened to use the Co-op car park due to the insistence that they had to enter their registration

number. The aggressive and predatory nature of this system and the totally inappropriate fine of £100 for forgetting to register your car EACH time you visit the car park had resulted in shoppers no longer coming into town. The Chairman read out a letter from the Co-op explaining how they were trying to resolve the problem but unfortunately the damage had been done and the town traders were suffering immeasurably. Mr Pemberton enquired whether Suffolk Coastal would consider making their car park free for the first hour and Cllr Cooper confirmed he was looking into this. The irony was that the Co-op gave free parking for four hours but it was the tablets/ipads that were driving customers away.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2017 at 7.52 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 J N Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor M Taylor

242. Minutes

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

243. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nichols, District Cllr Pratt and County Cllr Smith.

244. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman thanked the Fairtrade Group for organising a concert and coffee morning last month and spent an enjoyable evening listening to the Royal British Legion Leiston Youth Training Band. On 13 March the Chairman was pleased to represent the Town Council at the flag raising ceremony which

took place at Sizewell Beach to mark Commonwealth Day. The Chairman, who is on the panel for the Galloper Wind Farm Fund, reported that at a meeting on 20 March, four local projects were supported by the fund on this occasion with £1,500 being awarded to the Sizewell Village Sign Project. With monies remaining in the Fund there is likely to be a second round for applications this year. On 22 March the Chairman was invited to attend a visit by the High Sheriff of Suffolk, William Kendall, to the Leiston Shed and Long Shop Museum. She was delighted to welcome him to Leiston where he met representatives of the Long Shop Museum and Sheddars. A lot was achieved in the time with the Museum Trustees and staff being able to give an update and tour regarding their Transformation Project and the Sheddars also had the opportunity to talk about the projects they were involved in. Further work to enhance the Community Orchard took place on 25 March with councillors, representatives of youth organisations and individuals planting trees, hedges and wild flowers. It was heartening to see everyone working together to make a difference to this area and seeming to enjoy themselves. The Chairman thanked Cllr Levermore for planning this work and organising the day. Regarding the remedial works to the High Street, a site meeting with the Assistant Director Operational Highways, Mark Stevens and Lee Merces, Keir's Head of Operations was held last week with the Chairman and Cllr Nichols in attendance. An indication was given at this meeting by Mr Stevens as to how this situation might be resolved. Also on viewing the condition of Cross Street at the junction with the High Street, Mr Stevens indicated that the resurfacing work, which is scheduled to be carried out this year, be undertaken at the same time as the High Street works. A recent email forwarded by Mr Stevens from Kier's confirms that at this stage it is envisaged that the transverse kerbs situated at the top and bottom of each ramp will be removed and subsequently reinstated with bituminous material. There will also be some localised re-profiling of the speed tables to improve the 'table tops' but not to the point that they become ineffective. They will work closely with councillors and local traders to plan repairs and ensure that they minimise disruption whilst the works are in progress. The Chairman had been informed by a resident that a letter from the Senior Trading Standards Officer had been sent to residents on roads in or near the 7.5 ton weight restriction area. They were seeking observers for the Lorry Watch Scheme. She was pleased to report that 5 new people have expressed an interest, plus two observers that carried out observations previously had agreed to continue with one offering to act as a Co-ordinator. The next step is for training to be provided and councillors have also been invited to attend when a date has been agreed.

245. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ginger item 7, Cllr Howard correspondence item 2, Cllr Levermore correspondence item 4, Cllr Last 13(d) and correspondence item 3, Cllr Bailey correspondence item 2, Cllr Cooper item 13 and 18, Cllr Hill Leiston Film Theatre, Cllr Morsley item 12(a).

246. Leiston Change Manager

Mrs Elspeth Gibson introduced herself as the Leiston Change Manager recently appointed to the post to work for the Leiston Together Partnership. Mrs Gibson outlined her role and gave an overview of the work currently being undertaken. Cllr Ginger was concerned that young people expelled from school have nowhere to go during the day. Mrs Gibson agreed this was a serious problem and is working with Suffolk County Council on these issues. Cllr Howard asked how this works with the Academy system we have in the town. Mrs Gibson acknowledged the role had changed and working with youth groups/organisations is essential. Cllr Hill mentioned that the youth groups attend a multi-agency meeting regularly with the police and other agencies to support and assist young people in problematic situations. Cllr Taylor asked if engineering support for post 16's with Sizewell could be utilised. Mrs Gibson confirmed this was in the delivery plan for apprenticeships to be encouraged which would harness opportunities for young people.

247. Housing Group Update

Cllr Betson gave an update on the work being carried out by the Housing Group. They had continued to research prefab options and were looking at other councils doing similar things. They were also awaiting the outcome of a review by SCDC of their estates which included how they wished to use the Caravan Park. Cllr Cooper was keeping his eye on this and Cllr Betson was ensuring our wishes were known. There was positive news from Housing 21 (Charles Miller Court) who were interested in expanding in the town and there was also positive feedback from the Ogilvie Charities (Ogilvie Homes) who were considering expanding their offer to young people and disabled groups. Orwell Housing had confirmed their interest in the Town Centre project and their CEO was attending the next Group meeting. The Clerk explained that the Leiston Development Plan, being overseen by Leiston Together, had the Town Council down as lead on the Town Centre regeneration. The first phase of this was being led by the Housing Group so, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Morsley, it was agreed to accept the report from Cllr Betson and to give the Group authority to seek out funding streams and grants that might be able to be used to make the project a reality.

248. Community Centre Management Group report – 15 March 2017

Councillors noted the report from the meeting.

249. Galloper Update

The Clerk had previously circulated a report. Cllr Boast was impressed with how the project was progressing.

250. SSG Report – 16 March 2017

Councillors noted the report from the meeting. Cllr Bailey will circulate the full minutes when they become available.

251. Allotments Walkround – 22 March 2017

The Deputy Clerk confirmed the allotments were all in order and only a handful of letters had been written to those with untidy plots. The broken tap box will be repaired by one of the Shedders in due course. Cllr Last asked for a date to be arranged to look at the allotments on Haylings Road.

252. Sizewell Hall Road

Drainage options on the Sizewell Hall Road had been circulated. After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed to request Highways to pursue option 1 – surfacing overlay and drainage. They should also be asked, whichever options is used, to dig out and restore the ditch to the north of the C228.

253. Finance and Personal

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £11,034.84 along with £55,222.75 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) Consider Opening a Business Account with HSBC

The Clerk gave an update on the report informing councillors the Barclays Community Account is still active so a further account with HSBC is not now required. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that the RFO has the authority to move funds from the Co-operative account to Barclays as necessary.

The meeting took a break from 8.50pm to 9.00pm

254. Planning Matters

DC/17/0424/FUL – Erection of a small summerhouse in the back garden, probably within 1.0m of wooden boundary fence – 4 Woodland, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/0923/VOC – Variation of condition 2 of DC/16/2320/FUL – Application to renew the permission of the overspill car park, new expiry date of 30.04.2018 – Galloper Wind Farm, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1040/FUL – Proposed first floor extension above existing garage – 13 Redhouse Lane, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1149/FUL – Erection of brick boundary wall with steel fence on SW boundary together with chain barrier on pivoting posts, paving to parts of front garden. Pruning back of laurel hedge on NE boundary and installation of close board timber fencing no more than 1800mm high on boundary – 2 Woodlands, Leiston

Councillors felt the design was out of character and destroyed the ambience and aesthetic quality of the area.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

DC17/1167/FUL – Two storey extension to side of dwelling – 16 Grimsey Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

256. County Matters

Cllr Hodgson reported the King Georges Avenue barrier had been badly vandalised again. The High Street bollards have finally been installed but all agreed the workmanship was appalling. Cllr Last suggested writing to Highways to complain about the standard of work from their approved contractors.

257. District Matters

Cllr Cooper tabled a report regarding support for the Town Council and the local community from EDF. After a lively discussion, it was agreed Cllrs Cooper, Betson, Levermore, Last, Morsley and Hill would form a Working Group to investigate further. Cllr Taylor paid tribute to District Councillor Russell Geen who had recently passed away.

258. Correspondence

Festival of Remembrance 2017

Members welcomed the letter from the Royal British Legion requesting the use of the Leiston Film Theatre for their concert and Service of Remembrance on 8 November. Members were also asked if they would be so kind as to waive the fee. On a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Morsley, it was agreed to donate use of the theatre, as requested, for the Festival of Remembrance.

Shared Suffolk Fire and Police Station Facility

Members noted the invitation to attend a public 'drop-in' event on 10 April.

Co-op Car Park

Further to the email from Mr Grosvenor at the Co-op which was read out earlier and lively discussion it was agreed to write to the Co-op again insisting on the removal of the tablets which it is felt is the main problem, even if this meant buying out of the contract.

259. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Taylor paid tribute to Cllr Russell Geen who had recently passed away. Cllr Geen had been a good friend to Leiston Film Theatre when he sat on the District Council at the time the Town Council were trying to save it

Cllr Bailey raised concerns from a resident regarding 3 trees at Haylings Road allotments. The Clerk confirmed the Tree Surgeon had given a clean bill of health to those trees in December. Cllr Levermore asked about the Jubilee Gates and the Deputy Clerk hoped to have a quote for the work soon.

It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that, 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.

260. Personnel

Members discussed an item of business regarding personnel with items identified in the report from the Clerk being resolved.

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

The meeting finished at 10.10pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----