

**At the ANNUAL MEETING of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
Held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2017, at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT

**Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor S. Betson
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor A.M. Cooper
Councillor S.M. Geater
Councillor C. Ginger
Councillor P. Harle
Councillor L. Hill
Councillor T.E.Hodgson
Councillor W.M. Howard
Councillor J N Last
Councillor S. Levermore
Councillor D. Morsley
Councillor C. Nichols**

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Nichols that Cllr Mrs Hill be appointed Chairman for 2017/2018. Cllr Cooper thanked Mrs Hill for the excellent way she had chaired the Council over the last year and hoped she would continue for a further 12 months. There were no other nominations so Cllr Mrs Hill read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman and thanked members for their support and confidence.

2. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4th April 2017 be signed as a true record.

3. Apology

There were no apologies.

4. Chairman's Report for 2016/2017 (Councillor Hill)

Cllr Mrs Hill addressed the meeting thus;

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their continued commitment to the town and for the support they have given me in my role as Chairman. I am also grateful to John Rayner, the Town Clerk and to Caroline Rinder the Deputy Town Clerk for all the help and advice they give to councillors to support us in carrying out our duties.

To mark the end of my term of office, a Chairman's Reception was held at the Community Centre. This was an opportunity to invite councillors, individuals and

representatives of groups and organisations in order that they can be officially thanked for the contribution they make to improve where we live and the lives of individuals and groups of all ages within our community. I also had the honour, on behalf of the Town Council, of bestowing the Honorary Freedom of the Town, which has only been given twice before, in recognition of Trevor Hawkins' long service as a councillor. Since 2009, a Chairman's Cup has been presented and I had great pleasure in following this tradition and decided to award the Cup to Steve Burch the 1st Leiston Group Scout Leader with over 30 years of service in the scouting movement.

It has certainly been a very busy year for the Council. As well as the monthly full Council meetings, it was necessary to hold a number of additional meetings in order to fully discuss and respond, in the time frame given, to the proposals set out in the Sizewell C Stage 2 Consultation document. Councillors also serve on a number of Committees and Working Groups to undertake the wide-ranging responsibilities and work of the Council.

I have welcomed the opportunity to represent Leiston and have attended many functions during the year. In June, the town celebrated HM The Queen's 90th birthday with 'Picnic in the Park'. In August, 'Cinema in the Park' was held to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Film Theatre being owned by the Town Council. A past event returned to the town when a 'Leiston Celebrates Christmas' event was held. Sincere thanks must go to all the organisers for putting on these events and to all those who came along and supported them. All these events have brought the community together and I am delighted that another such event 'Leiston's Big Weekend' is being held later this month.

I was extremely proud to represent Leiston at the formal opening of The National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art at Newmarket by Her Majesty the Queen. The invitation had been sent to all Mayors and Chairmen of the Borough, District and Town Councils in order that Suffolk was represented at this occasion in Her Majesty's 90th birthday year.

There have been many other local events and meetings I have attended but unfortunately, I am unable to mention them all. I would, however, like to thank all the organisations for inviting me. I have enjoyed meeting everyone involved.

I have been honoured to wear the distinctive Chairman's badge at civic functions. It depicts the Long Shop, a traction engine and an avocet. It has led to many compliments on the design and has enabled me to talk about Leiston and to raise the profile of our community.

Raising the profile of Leiston and improving our amenities is important to the Town Council. The new town signs have enhanced the entrances to Leiston and highlight some of the attractions Leiston has on offer.

We are very fortunate in having a Film Theatre which last year had an extension to provide new toilets and provided four new dressing rooms backstage. In fact, my first official function as Chairman was attending the opening of the new toilets by Mark Murphy. The Community Centre has recently been redecorated and will shortly have a dishwasher installed. Leiston is also very fortunate to have the green

open spaces of Haylings Pond, Victory Road Recreation Ground and King Georges Recreation Ground for all of us to enjoy.

The former primary school field, now part of the King Georges Recreation Ground, is being developed into a Community Orchard and has recently had new metal fencing erected on two sides with further trees, hedging and wild flowers planted to make the area more attractive. To develop the section of this area set aside for sport we will be consulting on what facilities residents would like to see there. New play equipment for the younger children's play area and an item for the older children has started to be installed.

After many years of working on the town's Neighbourhood Plan, Leiston voted 'yes' in the Referendum held in February. Following this result, Suffolk Coastal District Council made this part of their Development Plan. I sincerely thank everyone involved in putting this plan together.

A partnership group has been set up between Leiston Town Council, Leiston & District Community Partnership and the Suffolk Coastal District Council. To be known as 'Leiston Together' this partnership will support the delivery of four key objectives identified as priorities for the town – the town centre regeneration, young adults, health & wellbeing and business and enterprise.

Further information on the work of the Council can be seen on the Town Council website www.leistontowncouncil.gov.uk with copies of agendas and minutes of the full Council meetings. These are also available to view at the Council Offices. Members of the public are invited to attend Council meetings which are usually held on the first Tuesday in the month. As this is the Annual General Meeting the next full Council meeting is on Tuesday 16th May at the Community Centre.

5. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Betson and seconded by Cllr Morsley that Cllr Last be elected Vice Chairman.

6. Composition of Working Parties and Representation on Other Bodies

Members gave their preferences as to which Committees, Working Parties or Organisations requiring a representative from the Council that they wished to be involved with for the coming year. The Clerk noted the new compositions for the coming year and asked members to look at the completed list, attached to these minutes, to ensure all their wishes had been encapsulated.

7. Signatories for Cheques

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last, and agreed that, in addition to the Town Clerk, signatories for Town Council cheques should include any two of the following Councillors: - Cllr C.S. Ginger, Cllr T.E Hodgson, Cllr A.M. Cooper, Cllr W. H. Howard, Cllr Boast and Cllr Hill. It was also proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk become a signatory on the Council accounts to enable her to sign in lieu of the Clerk as necessary.

8. **Appoint member to be responsible for verifying bank reconciliations in accordance with Finance Order 2.2**

It was proposed by Cllr Geater, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that Cllr Levermore assumes the responsibilities required by Order 2.2.

9. **To approve use of variable Direct Debits in respect of all utilities, software contracts, NEST pensions, rates and photocopier hire for further two years**

It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Levermore and agreed that current bills signed up to direct debit contracts continue for a further two years

10. **To approve the continued use of BACS transfer for all wages, salaries, pensions and Film Company Invoices for further two years**

It was proposed by Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that BACS transfers be used for all wages, salaries, pensions and Film Company invoices for a further two years.

11. **Loan of Artefacts**

The Clerk reported that various artefacts, including a working model steam tractor in a glass case, a wooden model steam lorry, a Garrett bust on a plinth, a collection of Garrett hats and a trunk, were on loan at the Long Shop Steam Museum. He further reported that the School Bell from the former Church of England Elementary School in Waterloo Avenue was similarly on loan at the Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed that these loans should continue.

There being no more business the meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.

Chair

Dated

**LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN MEETING
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KING GEORGE AVENUE
TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2017 AT 8.00PM**

The Town meeting was attended by 17 residents and all 14 Councillors.
The meeting was chaired by Cllr Mrs Lesley Hill.

The meeting received reports from;

PC Charlie Lewis representing the Leiston Safer Neighbourhood Team.
Carol Cotton, the co-ordinator of the Town Pastors.
Mrs Judy Geater on behalf of the Leiston WI
Mrs Lesley Hill on behalf of the Leiston Film Theatre Support Club
Mr Bill Howard on the revival of the Fairtrade Committee.

There were written reports from

Nick Mayo, manager of the Leiston Citizens Advice Bureau
Dr Therese Coffey, local Member of Parliament.

Further items raised;

Susan Geater, on behalf of the Nursing Association, explained that the association was unable to lend wheelchairs anymore but were now fundraising so they would be able to purchase adapted items and other equipment not available on the NHS for local residents in need.

Liam Murphy made plea on behalf of the Lynx Basketball Club for someone to negotiate the use of the basketball court at the Middle School currently laying redundant and unused. The Council undertook to put this issue as an item on a future agenda.

All reports and a recording of the meeting are available from the Town Clerk.