

Pre-meeting Reports
3 October 2017

110. County Councillor

County Cllr Rainger reported he is the Suffolk County Council councillor representative on the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Steering Group and attended the first meeting this week. He stated the post 16 school transport service is currently under review due to overspend and confirmed the new Highways structure was in place and any feedback welcomed. County Cllr Rainger also attended a site visit at the middle school last week and encouraged the town council to move forward on this offer. Cllr Howard was pleased to hear of the school transport review and pleaded to try and avoid further cuts in the Fire and Rescue Service. Cllr Boast queried safeguarding referrals having significant delays and problems completing forms on-line. County Cllr Rainger agreed to look into this matter with Cllr Boast. A resident queried the housing development on the old Gas Works with visibility issues from the large lime trees and County Cllr Rainger will investigate further. The resident also raised concerns regarding historic information on the Aldhurst Farm site held by the Flood and Water Team at SCC, County Cllr Rainger agreed to investigate further.

111. District Councillor

A report from Cllr Cooper had been previously circulated. Cllr Betson raised concerns regarding the management of the East Suffolk Commercial Investment Strategy and was keen to protect the town council's plans for future social housing. Cllr Bailey highlighted problems at the bottle banks in the High Street car park with lots of small broken pieces of glass around the containers. Cllr Casagrande said she has also had complaints from residents regarding this issue. Cllr Cooper will investigate if the collection company are at fault. A resident asked Cllr Cooper for a meeting regarding the Aldhurst Farm site, complaining that SCDC had not dealt with his complaint sufficiently. Cllr Cooper replied that the legal department had investigated all his issues and no further action can be taken by SCDC and the resident had been advised to write to the Local Government Ombudsman as the next stage of the complaints procedure.

112. Public Forum

No further questions were raised.

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.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 at 7.40pm**

PRESENT

Councillor J N Last (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor Miss F Casagrande
Councillor Mrs S Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T E Hodgson
Councillor W M Howard
Councillor J N Last
Councillor D Morsley

113. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5 September 2017 be signed as a true record.

114. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Hill, Cllr Mrs Levermore, Cllr Nichols and District Cllr Pratt.

115. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman had submitted a comprehensive report which was on the table in her absence. Cllr Last highlighted the cycle race and thanked all those involved. He mentioned the unveiling ceremony of the defibrillator in Waterloo Avenue and congratulated Linda Hawes on achieving her goal. Cllr Last mentioned the 'spring bulb planting' event on 28 October, encouraging everyone to come along and help.

116. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper for item 20, item 6 and letter 1 in correspondence, Cllr Howard for item 19(a) RBL cheque and letter 1 in correspondence, Cllr Morsley for item 11.

117. Leiston Together

Mrs Gibson joined the meeting and gave a brief update on the various initiatives Leiston Together were currently involved with. She informed the meeting that Sharon Cuthbert had been appointed as the Dementia Project Officer and Rachel Nightingale as the Social Prescribing Link Worker. Mrs Gibson mentioned dementia sessions are being held at the United Reform

Church on 24 October which are open for everyone in Leiston and the surrounding area who may be interested to learn about it. She also advised councillors about a dementia friends training course, which could be arranged. Mrs Gibson then answered various questions raised by councillors and on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed to invite Vicky Hutchinson from Age UK to give a presentation at a future Council meeting on dementia and someone to talk about social prescribing.

Members noted that Cllr Mrs Hill was unable to attend the next Board meeting of the Partnership on 17 October so Cllr Betson volunteered to attend as substitute.

118. SCDC Local Plan Review

Members noted the different options SCDC and surrounding authorities were considering to accommodate the required increase in housing needed in the district over the next 10 years. The Neighbourhood Plan is part of the Local Plan and would itself be looking at being updated in due course although this review could necessitate an early review. Members noted the sites put forward for consideration and again, indicated a strong opposition to the field by Grimsey's Lane as being unsuitable for future development as detailed in the site assessment for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed a letter be sent to Suffolk Coastal requesting the sites not in the Neighbourhood Plan be taken out.

119. Housing Group Update

Cllr Betson informed the meeting of recent activity. A response on the housing review was sent to Suffolk Coastal last week.

120. Community Centre Management Group meeting - 12 September

Members noted the minutes from the Community Centre Management Group meeting. Two recommendations had been put forward for Council approval, the first was regarding a sound system for the centre and on a proposal by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Morsley it was agreed to utilise the equipment from the cinema once it is available and give a donation to the Support Club. The Group had also recommended to Council that other organisations and clubs could use the kitchen facilities, ie dishwasher and cooker. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed to have a two-tier system for the hire of the centre with options for just the hall hire or to have the kitchen facilities as well. Councillors noted that no written apology had been received from the Conservative Group. Cllr Harle asked if there had been any progress with the Energy Saving Trust regarding the lighting at the community centre and the Deputy Clerk said they no longer carry out site visits and is looking for alternatives. County Cllr Rainger will forward details of another company who does this.

121. Sizewell Management meeting - 14 September

Members noted the items raised at the meeting and they also noted the papers and procedures Mrs Rinder attached to the notes explaining how the District Council deals with illegal encampments.

122. Allotments Walkround - 13 September

The Deputy Clerk gave a brief report from the recent walkround of the Valley Road Allotments and that actions had been taken on redundant and unworked plots.

123. Leiston Events Group

Members noted the letter from Cllr Levermore enquiring as to whether the Leiston Event Group could be adopted as an advisory committee of the Town Council. The group operates independently but has increasingly become a de facto advisory committee due to the convenience this has given the Council to administer the Leiston Events Fund which is currently in its care. Cllr Howard wanted reassurance a representative from the Town Council would be on that committee and that we have no financial commitment apart from holding the funds. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed to adopt Leiston Events Group as an advisory committee.

124. Jubilee Gates, Waterloo Avenue

Members acknowledged that, after extensive and lengthy investigations the best solution to refurbishment would be an onsite one. The nature of wrought iron makes the operation quite tricky, especially the areas which have "blown". The quote for the work to sandblast and repaint on site was £12,577 which was much more than had originally been allocated (£8,000). Members considered whether the retention of the gates was desirable or whether new gates could be installed or even removeable bollards. After further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed to accept the quote and to take £4,500 from the LCTRS reserve.

125. Open Spaces – Notes from Walkround on 27 September

Members noted the notes from the Open Spaces Committee walkround of the King Georges Avenue site. The main items that needed Council attention were:

- Lighting - The Council had received a quote of £7,000 from SCC but is still awaiting a quote from Curles for installation of lighting on the recreation ground. Two columns had been specified to cover the BMX track (albeit not to competition standard) which would also cast light across the play area. Members on the walkround wondered whether a rethink was required on this whereby, possibly, just one column was needed to just cast illumination around the park from the centre just for safety.
- Toilets - Members noted the design submitted by Mr Merrett which incorporated a small toilet facility that could be put up on either or both

recreation grounds for around £64k per location. The Clerk will include this in the precept report for December. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger and on an amended motion by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Casagrande to have, in principle, toilets installed on both recreation grounds.

Cllr Hodgson asked if the redundant telegraph poles on the path by the primary school could be removed.

126. Middle School Update and Ongoing Projects

The Clerk gave a brief report on the meeting he and the Chairman had had with the Property Manager from SCC regarding the Middle School offer. Members were aware of the building being offered and SCC confirmed that the offer also included the playing fields, the playground and the fenced multi use sports area. SCC were keen to get a firm answer and gave a deadline of 7 November, which is our next Council meeting, for a decision. Cllr Cooper felt this needs to be looked at with other ongoing projects in the town to identify which direction we take. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Morsley for a meeting to take place to discuss all the projects on 17 October, this was not carried. It was further proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Casagrande and agreed for a meeting on 31 October at 7.30pm. A further detailed report on the middle school site will be circulated prior to the meeting.

127. SSG report

Cllr Howard gave a brief update and stated there is still no secretarial support.

128. SALC Area Meeting

Cllr Hodgson gave a report of items of interest covered at the recent SALC Area meeting including the recent Highways restructure and support for volunteer workers clearing hedges/pathways with training or equipment. He reported that civil parking enforcement transfer to the District Councils will undoubtedly be put back due to delays in Parliament.

The meeting took a break from 9.30pm to 9.35pm

129. Civil Parking Enforcement Consultation

Members noted the request for feedback from SCDC with regard to the future devolution of car parking enforcement from the Police to the District Council. Ideas were requested on ways to improve car parking in the area. Suggestions had already been received from other market towns like Aldeburgh and Framlingham who have specific and aggravating problems. It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed for the Clerk to respond requesting free half-hour slots in the car parks, transferrable tickets to all car parks and firm enforcement of double yellow lines.

130. 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 £30,854.17p along with £16,892.57p paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) Review of Charges

The Clerk apologised for not having completed a timely review of charges and hoped members would be supportive of a more rigorous and detailed review in March which would allow plenty of time to inform allotment holders of any increases before Michaelmas.

131. Planning Matters

DC/17/3773/FUL – Erection of 6 one bed flats on Land at Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND NO OBJECTION

DC/17/4115/TPO – T8 (TPO number) Lime – to reduce crown by 6-7m and reshape to bring it in line with the rest of the avenue of other limes. Leiston Hall, The Gables, Leiston

RECOMMEND REFERRAL TO TREE OFFICER

DC/17/3785/FUL – Removal of existing fence line and replacement with a brick wall of less than 2 metres height for c.12m, then replacement of existing dilapidated fencing beyond to c.1.8m height around the boundary, cleaning up existing overgrown ivy and brambles at Crown Lodge, King Georges Avenue, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

132. County Matters

Cllr Harle was annoyed that the cycle path to Sizewell is always left for volunteers to clear. Cllr Morsley asked if a schedule for clearing roadside rubbish is in place to which the Clerk advised Norse are contracted to do this work by SCC but only on main roads. Cllr Ginger raised concerns of a car parked in Crown Street which hangs over the path. The Clerk will report this again. It was noted that the 'keep clear' warning sign outside the surgery needs to be repainted as a resident witnessed an ambulance had trouble exiting the car park.

133. District Matters

Cllr Hodgson is not able to attend the SALC AGM on 9 November and asked for a representative. Cllr Howard agreed to attend as substitute.

134. Correspondence

Grant Request from CAB

A letter had been received from the CAB requesting funding for their organisation. It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to grant £2,500. Cllr Boast against.

135. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Betson asked if there was any progress on the Community Land Trust. Cllr Hodgson confirmed the LDGP had agreed to actively pursue this. Cllr Betson requested a meeting of the Steering Group, including a representative from the Council, be arranged.

The Clerk advised Council of a public consultation event by East Anglia Wind Farm 2 taking place in late October or early November. A meeting has been arranged for Monday 16 October at 11am at the Council offices to show their proposals on the public consultation event for councillors to attend.

It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that, the time being 10pm, Standing Orders be suspended for 5 minutes to permit continuing discussion of Council business.

Cllr Hodgson raised concerns on the ambulance response times and felt we should ask for detailed information on this. The Clerk will write to the Ambulance Service. Cllr Betson suggested inviting the Chairman of the Friends of Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital to address the Council at a future meeting.

Cllr Cooper thanked Cllr Last for chairing the meeting.

The meeting finished at 10.05pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----