

Pre-meeting Reports
6 March 2018

221. John McNamara, EDF

The Chairman welcomed John McNamara who gave the meeting an update on the Sizewell C Nuclear New Build project. He also gave a short overview on the progress being made on the Aldhurst Farm Wildlife site. During questions Cllr Ginger asked when Sizewell C could begin and Mr McNamara explained if permission is granted it could be within 3 years. Cllr Howard asked if the strike price for Hinkley would be revised due to inflation and Mr McNamara said this cannot be changed as it is in the contract. Cllr Last queried if EDF were exploring the Sizewell A land and Mr McNamara confirmed discussions with Magnox are ongoing. Cllr Betson asked why water voles are discouraged on the Aldhurst Farm Habitat and Mr McNamara will investigate and also arrange with the Clerk for a presentation update on the site for a future Council meeting. Cllr Harle queried how close to commission the other three sites were and whether they had similar strike price arrangements. Mr McNamara confirmed that they should be operational by the end of the year and explained that, in other countries, the governments tended to build the stations, ie the taxpayer paid for the building and therefore no strike price deal was needed like in UK where EDF has to fund the build.

222. County Councillor

County Cllr Rainger reported that a consultation on proposals for a new access point to the Suffolk Records Office is ongoing and details are on the website. He reported two drone devices will be introduced to allow access to fires and accidents as well as for surveillance. County Cllr Rainger confirmed 97% of students gained places to their school of choice and notifications have been sent. Due to the bad weather County Cllr Rainger advised that the NHS are calling for blood donors to come forward to donate blood. He also mentioned the dead sea-life currently being washed up on beaches which could affect dogs if they eat it and to be wary. Cllr Betson queried the response to the school transport consultation and County Cllr Rainger confirmed a report will be completed once all the responses have been processed and data analysed. Cllr Howard asked if the Records Office would still be open to the public and County Cllr Rainger said the aim was to put as many records as possible online with public access points. There would still be the ability to go to the storage though once it has been determined where this will be. Cllr Last asked if Highways would ask Government for further funding for the roads and County Cllr Rainger confirmed a loan process was being considered and priority would be given to areas with numerous potholes with the road being resurfaced rather than patched repairs being done. Cllr Ginger complained again about the potholes in Kemps Hill and County Cllr Rainger agreed to meet with Cllr Ginger on site.

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. District Councillor

A report from Cllr Cooper was tabled. Cllr Last was unclear how to apply for the brown bin as the communications online were unclear. Cllr Cooper explained a form will be sent with the Council Tax bill. He also explained disabled or elderly people can apply to Suffolk Coastal Norse for an exemption so their bin would be collected from their property. Cllr Hodgson mentioned the non-existent communications regarding bin collections due to snow and Cllr Cooper said mistakes were made and this was being addressed.

224. 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 6 MARCH 2018 at 7.43pm**

PRESENT

**Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor Miss F Casagrande
Councillor T Cooper
Councillor Mrs S Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T Hodgson
Councillor W H Howard
Councillor J N Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor C Nichols**

225. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6 February 2018 be signed as a true record.

226. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Morsley and Cllr Pratt.

227. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported that Leiston Surgery are making changes to their appointment system. The PPG, following a training session, will be assisting the GP practice to give out information on the changes which will be

introduced from Monday 16 April. Patients are invited to learn more about the changes at an information event to be held at the surgery from 2-4pm on 7 March. Further information on the appointment system can also be found on the surgery's website. The Chairman presented Wilf Goddard, on behalf of the Council, a card to mark his 100th birthday on 21 February. He was delighted to receive the card and agreed to have his photograph taken for the next issue of the Town Council newsletter. The event organised by the Ex-Serviceman's Club for Wilf last Saturday unfortunately had to be postponed because of the bad weather but this has now been rescheduled for this coming Saturday. Last month the Chairman, along with the Town Clerk, attend a Police Locality Meeting. Among the items reported by Inspector Jackson were the increase in theft related crime where power tools have been targeted which prompted the launch of a county-wide crime prevention campaign to stop these thefts. There had also been an increase in burglaries to commercial premises in coastal towns. Whilst these crimes were being investigated the Safer Neighbourhood Teams had been visiting businesses to offer crime prevention advice. They also publish a monthly newsletter for Leiston which is available on the Suffolk Police website. The Chairman invited everyone to come along to celebrate the daffodils at the Community Orchard on Saturday 7 April between 10am and 12noon. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for children and the Leiston Guides will be providing refreshments.

228. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper for item 13, Cllr Levermore for item 16 letter 1 and Cllr Hill for Leiston Film Theatre.

229. Leiston Together/CLT Steering Group

Cllr Hill explained that the next Leiston Together meeting on 11 April fell on the same day as a previous engagement. On reflection she was inclined to attend the Leiston Together meeting due to the business being discussed and asked for a fellow councillor to stand in for her at the other engagement. This was a meeting of the Galloper Wind Farm Fund Panel which would be deciding which applications the grant fund would be supporting on this current tranche. Cllr Cooper volunteered to stand in at the Galloper meeting and was thanked by Cllr Hill. There was little else to report from the previous Leiston Together meeting. The second draft of the Town Centre Scoping report had just been received which would be circulated to members as a pdf. It did not yet have the high level viability assessment incorporated but comprehensively examined all the aspects needed to develop the town centre.

230. CLT Steering Group - Update

Cllr Hill updated the meeting on the progress being made by the CLT Steering Group of Trustees Elect. She invited councillors to attend a public drop in event on Tuesday 17 April between 3pm and 6.30pm at the United Church. This will be an opportunity for the public to find out more about the Leiston CLT and proposals for the town centre.

231. Housing Group

Cllr Hill reminded councillors that a briefing on the Homechoice gateway system was scheduled for 8 March to which all members were invited. Cllr Betson also invited councillors to attend the Housing Group meeting following on from the presentation.

232. Commonwealth Day - 12 March

Councillors noted the invitation to join the Chairman at the Commonwealth Flag raising ceremony at 10am on 12 March at the Long Shop.

233. Suffolk Day – 21 June

Cllr Hill is in discussions with the Long Shop on how the Town Council can be part of the proceedings.

234. Inspire Suffolk – Sponsorship of “Community Engagement” Award

Members were pleased to be offered the chance to sponsor an award for the forthcoming Inspire Suffolk awards event in Ipswich. The team from Inspire Suffolk have done some excellent work in the town and continue to support, work with and inspire our youngsters. It was proposed by Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that £100.00 be granted to Inspire Suffolk to sponsor the “Community Engagement” award on the day. The Princes Trust were also doing a presentation on 12 April with their current group, similar to the one last year and Cllr Hill, County Cllr Rainger and Cllr Cooper would be attending.

235. Middle School Update

The Clerk gave an update on progress for converting the Middle School to community use and confirmed a meeting had been arranged for the working group on Tuesday 13 March, 4.30pm at the Middle School. Cllr Bailey asked to be added to the working group and this was agreed. Cllrs Cooper, Boast and Casagrande submitted their apologies.

236. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £13,268.02 along with £17,386.49 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment. A further cheque for £500.00 for a deposit for the Christmas Fair was discussed and agreed to be paid. This will be on the ‘paid since last meeting’ accounts sheet at the April meeting.

b) Allotment Rent Review

Cllrs Cooper, Last and Hodgson declared an interest. Members noted the Clerks report with recommendations and, on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Bailey it was agreed to raise the water rate 10p a rod this year and another 10p a rod next year. Cllr Howard felt the rent for Coldfair

should also be reviewed and proposed an increase of £25.00, which was seconded by Cllr Casagrande and agreed.

c) Review of Charges

Cllr Ginger declared an interest. Members noted the Clerks report and on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Levermore it was agreed to increase the Film Theatre daily hire rates to reflect the new enhanced stage and dressing room areas. It was further proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed to keep the status quo for 72 High Street. With regards to the kitchen facilities at the Community Centre, Cllr Ginger proposed an increase to £6.00, which was seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed. It was also agreed to keep the status quo on the hire for the hall.

The meeting took a break from 8.10pm to 8.15pm

237. Planning Matters

- a) DC/18/0577/PN3 – Change of use from Class 1 currently vacant former second-hand goods shop to Class A3 to create a new dining establishment linked to the existing pizza takeaway premises at 58 High Street, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) DC/18/0548/FUL – Two new dwellings, revised design to that approved under application ref DC/15/3616/FUL at The Old Vicarage, 2 King Edward Road, Leiston

Councillors were concerned regarding the height of the proposed dwellings and it was felt this would severely affect privacy and loss of amenity to other properties. They were out of context in the landscape and could not be supported.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- c) DC/18/0642/FUL – Proposal for a two storey extension in replacement of existing garage with kitchen/dining on the ground floor and master bedroom with en-suite on the first floor. A proposal for a new garage to be built behind existing driveway at 6 Woodlands, Leiston

Councillors were content with this although they felt it would be more appropriate if the applicant could consider using hipped roofs instead of gable to compliment the development.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) DC/18/0901/FUL – Redevelopment of the site for a single detached dwelling and bin store at Abbey View Lodges, Orchard House, 105 Abbey Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) DC/18/0901/FUL – Demolition of an existing dwelling and replacement with a new dwelling at Abbey View Lodges, Orchard House, 105 Abbey Road, Leiston

Members were very concerned that the two-storey dwelling being proposed was incongruous with the street scene and the surrounding dwellings. The

analogy of it being the farmhouse to compliment the courtyard development to the west was noted but, as they are private dwellings the two-storey structure was far too overbearing. It also overlooks the immediate neighbouring property in a very imposing manner and is completely out of context. The visual acceptance gained by the design of the other proposed properties on the site is totally negated by the block size of this proposal and would not complement them when viewed from the Abbey or northern entrance into the town. This would have an unacceptable impact on the landscape. A more appropriate design, more in keeping and style with the proposed plots 1-8, and certainly no higher, would be acceptable but this was completely out of keeping and unsupportable.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

238. County Matters

Cllr Harle asked if there had been any response from Highways regarding Sizewell Hall Road and the Deputy Clerk confirmed we are still awaiting feedback.

239. District Matters

Cllr Bailey raised concerns regarding use of emails and accessibility to computers, especially for the elderly to request brown bins. Cllr Boast felt there is some confusion over brown bins, with no information on how to continue having one. Cllr Cooper confirmed forms would be included with the council tax bills for people to complete and return. Cllr Harle asked if there was any update on the obstacles on the beach and Cllr Cooper will investigate. Cllr Casagrande asked if the bin on Valley Road would be replaced and Cllr Cooper confirmed a new one would be installed.

240. Correspondence

Grant Request from 1st Leiston Guides

Cllr Levermore left the room. Councillors noted the letter from the 1st Leiston Guides requesting a grant be considered toward helping them purchase a new Gazebo to be used at community events like the recent spring bulb planting. They wished to get a good quality one which could also be used at camps and other events. The price would be around £500.00. It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Casagrande and agreed to grant £200.00.

Men's Shed Request to use Middle School

Councillors noted the letter from the Men's Shed requesting that, in due course, a classroom be allocated to them for their project. Members agreed to bear this in mind as they made plans later in the year.

School Transport Consultation Response

Councillors noted the letter received from Cllr Gordon Jones, SCC Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, which responded to LTC's submission to the recent school transport consultation.

Grant Request from Leiston Town Pastors

Councillors noted the letter from Leiston Town Pastors requesting a grant of £1,000 for this year to help toward their costs of £10,000. A grant of £1,000 had been given to the organisation last May and Cllr Bailey felt another £1,000 was too much. He subsequently proposed a grant of £200.00, which was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed. Cllr Bailey also requested a breakdown on the £10,000 costs.

241. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Bailey queried the CCTV on the Victory Road park and if it was operational. The Clerk confirmed it is still awaiting commissioning and this will be an agenda item for the April meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.00pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----