

Pre-meeting Reports
15 May 2018

12. East of England Ambulance Service

Mr Glenn Young, the Sector Head of Suffolk and North East Essex, and a colleague, updated members on current operations and the implementation of the new Ambulance Response Programme (ARP) and recent Independent Service Review. The Response Programme introduced new ways of classifying calls and recording response times. The review had identified a resource gap that would see the introduction over the next few years of around 550 staff and over 150 new ambulances. The powerpoint presentation is attached to these minutes for the full facts and figures.

During questions Mr Young clarified that a First Responder attending an incident (in the new ARP) no longer stopped the clock with regard to response times, this now occurred when an ambulance arrived, that the service used private ambulance services to supplement their own resources, mainly in winter, and that they also used well vetted agency staff as necessary. He tried to re-assure Cllr Hodgson that the call handling procedure was well audited with the standard of correctly triaged assessments coming out at over 95%. He offered members the chance to visit the call handling centre in Norwich for them to see this procedure for themselves.

The other concerns regarding the rural location of IP16 were raised and Mr Young explained how the service still keeps an ambulance 24/7 at Saxmundham with another near Woodbridge and that they backfill as and when these are used. The problem the resource gap had created however was that the crews were operating hot for around 95% of their shift and the availability of ambulances to backfill has historically been a problem. The new Independent Review and resource acquisition programme will go a long way to address this. He cautioned that recruitment of the new staff would take time. It takes 3 years to recruit and train a paramedic and they are mostly graduates, with the University of Suffolk being a good partner in the training programme. There are moves to make graduate entry the only route into the service by 2020 but people are being careful as, when the nursing profession decreed this, the approach caused shortages. The new staff will be on top of the attractional recruiting that goes on for retirement etc.

Cllr Geater gave Mr Young a heartfelt thank you for him to pass on to his team and this was echoed and repeated from other members. The Chairman thanked Mr Young and Belinda for coming to address the meeting and wished them a safe journey home.

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.

13. County Councillor

County Cllr Rainger reported that Cllr Mathew Hicks was the new Conservative Group leader and, therefore, was very likely to be the new Council Leader at the forthcoming AGM next week. The new CEO Nicola Beach also arrives next week so there was potential for a new approach possibly as the year goes on.

He mentioned the concerns that County, District, Towns and Parishes had with the Scottish Power Renewables windfarm consultation and members all highlighted their deep concerns with that and how the cumulative effect of the future major infrastructure projects seemed to be being ignored by Government. The planning system did not seem robust enough to address this issue. He reported on a recent visit to Hinkley where the problems being experienced by the neighbours there from that build were noted and how it was hoped to avoid a repeat here should SZC go ahead. Two items were raised regarding roadworks and the diversion strategy for them from a member of the public. Cllr Rainger then encouraged everyone to support Suffolk Day and to visit the Suffolk Day Website.

14. District Councillor

A report from Cllr Cooper was tabled. Three items were raised. The toilets on Sizewell Road Car Park were sometimes left unlocked overnight and that incidents of “Boy Racers” were beginning to reappear on the car park. These will have to be watched. An incident of a dog attacking another dog on the recreation ground was highlighted and Cllr Cooper agreed to investigate what actions could be taken in incidents like this should they reoccur (the Police will not get involved unless a dog attacks a person).

15. 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 15 MAY 2018 at 8.22pm**

PRESENT

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

16. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1 May 2018 be signed as a true record.

17. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Boast.

18. Chairman's Communications

Cllr Mrs Hill read out the following report:

Unfortunately, due to illness, I was not able to attend the Celebration of the Daffodils and Easter Egg Hunt held at the Community Orchard on 7 April. I am grateful to Cllr Levermore for organising the event and Cllr Last who thanked those who attended.

On 11 April the Galloper Wind Farm Fund Panel met. Cllr Cooper kindly attended on my behalf as a Leiston Together meeting was scheduled at the same time. Four local projects were given grants and these are listed in an article by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB which will appear in the next Town Council newsletter to be delivered later this month. Funds are still available to support further community conservation based projects and details of how to apply are also contained in the article.

On the 12 April I was delighted to present certificates at the Inspire Suffolk Leiston Team Graduation Event held at the Community Centre. It also came as a surprise to be presented with a framed copy of the certificate for the Leiston Team who were nominated for the Community Engagement Award at the Inspire Suffolk Awards Evening held in Ipswich in March.

Cllr Last and I attended the ceremony for the Laying Up of the Standard of the Leiston Branch, Women's Section of the Royal British Legion at St Margaret's Church on 15 April.

It was brought to my attention that a meeting regarding the future of the United Church was being held on 17 April. Having been advised that I could attend I went along. Representatives from the Methodist and United Reform Churches introduced themselves and the Rev Julian Pursehouse chaired the meeting. The small group of people who attended were advised that the meeting was triggered by the fact that the United Church has only two Trustees and attempts to find the constitution agreed in 1980 when the two churches formed a partnership has not been found. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that a feasibility group be set up who will look at the governance issues and a further meeting would be held in October. In the meantime there was also a need for helpers to come forward at the United Church to carry out the day to day tasks.

A new telephone booking system at Leiston Surgery was introduced on Monday 16 April at Leiston Surgery. I am advised by the Practice Manager that this has been working well with positive feedback from patients and staff.

19. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper for item 15 and letter 3 as a trustee, Cllr Hill for Film Theatre and Cllr Nichols for item 15g and the Film Theatre.

20. Leiston Together Update

Mrs Gibson gave councillors a review of the good work that had been done during the recent 4 weeks of Pop-Up events held in the United Church. Members were then shown a tourist type map that had been commissioned for Framlingham for the Women's Tour this year with the query as to whether a similar item might be useful to promote Leiston. Members generally agreed that this would be a good idea and could be used in a welcome pack for new residents too. Finally, Mrs Gibson gave details of the recruitment of a Business Development Co-ordinator who would be employed by SCDC to work with Leiston's business community to reenergise the Business Association and also to assist the CLT, where they could, with administration. They would be able to build on the recent business networking event that Leiston Together had organised and encourage more of our business's to get involved. The next business network meeting was scheduled for 5.30pm on 30 May at NWES (Eastlands).

21. CLT Steering Group - Update

The Chairman updated the meeting on the progress being made by the CLT Steering Group of Trustees Elect. The group were still progressing incorporation and were in contact with SCDC through Leiston Together regarding the High Street land with a meeting organised for June to investigate this further. The recent public information sessions had attracted 30 interested residents to get involved at various levels and they would be kept informed of progress too.

22. Middle School – authorisation to sign lease for Buildings and Playing Field

The Clerk had previously distributed copies of the lease for members to examine and he explained the relevance and likelihood of the covenants contained in the deeds being activated. He explained there were two leases, one for the building and one for the playing fields, playground and entrance. After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr Morsely, seconded by Cllr Casagrande and agreed that Leiston Town Council enter into a lease with SCC for 50 years to take on the Middle School buildings offered for community use. (Cllrs Bailey and Ginger against). It was further proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that a lease for the playing fields be entered for the same term. The Middle School Steering Group agreed to look at dates for a meeting to start making plans.

23. Suffolk Day - 21 June

The Clerk informed members that there was some good publicity in the imminent Council newsletter showcasing the Long Shop's plans for Suffolk Day. The Town Council will have some representation at the event being involved with Fairtrade and, of course, championing the CLT.

24. Open Spaces (walkround of 11 April)

Members noted the points and the need for a new sign.

25. Grounds Maintenance – meeting of 18 April

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that Norse be contracted to plant more crocuses along Park Hill verge. The Clerk was asked to look at the footway beside Crown Lodge as this was becoming overgrown and members noted the need to activate the winter contingency plans with Norse rather than (as was thought) them coming into play when it snowed!

26. Film Theatre Working Party meeting of 19 April

The Clerk briefly outlined the items discussed at the Film Theatre Working Party Meeting. The performance and quality of the films over Easter had given the venue a good start to the year. The new car park signs were courtesy of EDF.

27. SSG meeting of 19 April

Cllr Howard informed members that the secretariat for the SSG was short staffed and that notes and minutes consequently did not get out into the public domain, or to members, in any relevant timescale unfortunately. The NDA are not leading or supporting SSG's at present and this is causing concern.

28. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £8,714.37 along with £48,702.82 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

The meeting took a break from 9.05pm to 9.15pm

29. Planning Matters

- a) DC/18/1316/FUL – Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with new single storey lean-to garden room at 69 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) DC/18/1459/FUL – Installation of a dropped kerb to allow vehicle access to the development, as outlined in the red square on the drawing at Eastlands Industrial Estate, Unit 6 Cullen Place, Eastlands Road, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) DC/18/1428/FUL – Front entrance porch and new rendering (renewal of expired permission notice DC/14/2269/FUL granted 08/09/2014) at 42 Paradise Place, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) DC/18/1747/TCA – 2 x conifers (Leylandii) fell to ground level – out growing location at front of Old School Close, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) DC/18/1787/FUL – Erections of garage with car port together with creation of additional vehicular access at 55 Abbey Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) DC/18/1674/FUL - Erection of 5 houses and conversion of existing buildings to 4 houses, with new shared access off Red House Lane - The Red House, Red House Lane Leiston. Members were concerned about the felling of the trees for the entrance but also wanted to ensure that the entrance was a really good one with good visibility. The layout was acceptable although it was difficult to identify the 23 proposed parking spaces on the plans. Members were more concerned with the cumulative effect individual developments were having on the traffic in Red House Lane and asked the Clerk to address this separately with the Planning Authority. Cllr Last asked that appropriate and enforceable working hours be demanded in the permissions. (Cllr Howard against)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- g) DC/18/2761/FUL – Creation of vehicular access at 24 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Cllr Nichols declared an interest and left the room for the above item

- h) DC/18/1943/FUL – Existing sectional concrete garage with asbestos cement roofing to be demolished and 2 storey side extension with 2 bedrooms, 1 ensuite on 1st floor and double garage on ground floor. Existing kitchen and external WC to be demolished and replaced with new kitchen and garden room at 14 Westward Ho, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

30. County Matters

No questions were raised.

31. District Matters

Councillors had all received complaints about the extremely poor grass cutting regime this year to date. It appeared that Norse have introduced new procedures to oversee the grass cutting regime and that these were not as robust as we have been used to for the last few years. The Clerk has addressed this with Norse and is confident this will improve. The Clerk was asked to enquire what stage we were at regarding the naming of streets on the new estate off Red House Lane.

32. Correspondence

Request for grant aid from Long Shop Museum

Members noted the letter from the Long Shop Museum requesting a grant for 2018/19 and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to grant £1,500.

33. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Betson drew attention to the e-mail from Dr Coffey’s office regarding the Women’s Vote Centenary Grants Scheme. Due to the short notice a motion was allowed from Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that Cllr Betson be allowed to investigate and put together a suitable application to celebrate and plan something for inspiration to our young women in the town. Cllr Levermore asked for help to put the flags up at 6pm on Thursday and asked Big Weekend volunteers to confirm their availability for 9 and 10 June.

The meeting finished at 9.47pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----