

**Pre-meeting Reports
3 July 2018**

55. Mr John McNamara – EDF Energy New Nuclear build.

The chairman welcomed Mr John McNamara who gave the meeting an update on SZC. He reported that Mr Rossi had visited Suffolk recently and had met with the Chamber of Commerce. In his address he had re-affirmed EDF's positive attitude and outlook on the future of the SZC project. He reminded members of the Community Forum scheduled for 26 November and the visit to Aldhurst Farm on 16 July. He also reported that the first EPR reactor in China had now gone on line with others in France and Finland to follow in the next 12 months.

Councillor Howard felt Mr Rossi might have agreed to meet with various local groups while he was in Suffolk. Mr McNamara explained that Jim Crawford was always available to meet with the groups (and did) as the head of project and that Mr Rossi may well visit again once the plans are at a more advanced stage of the planning process. He also answered the query on when Stage 3 might take place. It needed a 3 month window next year which meant that it would have to be before SCDC ceased to exist on 31 March or after June once all the elections and the new East Suffolk Council had formed.

Councillor Howard then gave some questions to Mr McNamara for his environment team to answer on the forthcoming walkround.

56. County Councillor

County Cllr Rainger submitted his apologies and a report covering items including Kemps Hill and Shining Stars. Cllr Betson was disappointed he couldn't make it as the timing of the forthcoming Scrutiny Committee on School Transport was to take place very soon and it was essential he helped the Council make a representation about the devastating effect the policy would have on Alde Valley Academy. It looked like the Council were minded to bring in this policy on 1 September 2019 which did not give the school enough time to prepare. Cllr Betson explained how well the Academy was doing in all areas and how this new transport policy threatened everything. Indeed, it threatened the very survival of a secondary school being in Leiston. If the policy was not changed then it needed to be delayed until 2020 at least to allow the Academy to get business support to run its own transport.

57. District Councillor

Cllr Cooper and Cllr Geater both had nothing to report.

58. Public Forum

Dan Mayhew, the Principal at Alde Valley Academy, re-iterated what Cllr Betson had said earlier. The school was doing very well indeed and was now attracting pupils from other catchment areas. The new transport policy would mean that it would cost each pupil outside the very limited Leiston catchment area (due to Saxmundham Free School) around £750 to travel to school each year. Parental choice will be destroyed at a stroke and the future of New College on the Coast would also be put in jeopardy. He explained that the

business support needed would be to purchase and run minibuses to collect pupils as required from outside the area.

Residents from around Long Row addressed the Council regarding the poor quality of workmanship on the new development in Long Row, the poor oversight of the building inspector on the build and their own objections as to why the new planning application should be refused. The soil levels and water runoff from the site into Long Row were of particular concern.

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 JULY 2018 at 7.52pm**

PRESENT

**Councillor T M Cooper (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor Miss F Casagrande
Councillor Mrs S M Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor W H Howard**

59. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5 June 2018 be signed as a true record.

60. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs Hill, Cllr Last and Cllr Hodgson.

61. Chairman's Communications

Cllr Mrs Hill submitted her apologies and tabled the following report:

Due to a longstanding commitment, I was not able to attend Leiston's Big Weekend held on 9th/10th June. I understand from a number of organisations and local people that this was a very successful event, building on from the success of last year and I sincerely thank the Events Group and all those involved in putting on this major event for Leiston. Cllr Last kindly agreed to represent the Council and has given me his report on the event:- " I was pleased to say a few words on behalf of the Town Council , at Leiston's Big

Weekend congratulating the Leiston Events Group for putting a on wonderful weekend of events. The Leiston Big Weekend had something for everyone over the two days. The weather was lovely and the people of Leiston and local communities, supported it incredibly well. Well done Leiston."

Following an invitation from the Chairman of the Men's Shed, Cllr Last and myself went to the Long Shop Museum on 20th June to meet George Vestey the High Sheriff of Suffolk, who had requested a visit to see the work undertaken at the Men's Shed.

At the Leiston Surgery PPG AGM on 20th June I was re-elected as Chairman. Following a campaign to recruit new members to the PPG three people have indicated they wish to join the PPG and will be invited to attend our next meeting in August. The Surgery with other interested parties are also planning a birthday celebration tea party later this month to mark the 70th birthday of the NHS.

On the 21st June, I went along to the Suffolk Day celebrations held at the Long Shop. As well as showcasing the museum it was good to see it supported with a variety of stalls and I found it very informative to talk to many of the people manning them and also have the opportunity to talk to people visiting the event. I was introduced to Cllr Matthew Hicks the new leader of Suffolk County Council, who visited the Long Shop Museum on his tour of Suffolk Day events. I contacted Russ Rainger congratulating everyone involved with organising this successful Suffolk Day event.

Along with some other councillors, I attended the opening of an art exhibition at St. Margaret's Church on 25th June. The exhibition entitled 'Transformation' showcased work from Leiston Primary School and Alde Valley Academy. Staff members and the student artists from the two schools attended and the acclaimed local sculptor Laurence Edwards, a former pupil of Leiston High School, gave a brief talk on how he became an artist with a view to inspiring others that this could be a career choice.

On the 26th June I attended the CATS AGM at the LTAA. The Annual Report 2017 – 2018 and Audited Accounts were adopted and officers and members elected for the year. I have a copy of the Report and Accounts if councillors wished to view them.

Following an invitation from Elspeth Gibson the Leiston Change Manager, I attended a Leiston Business Masterclass on 27th June at the Leiston Enterprise Centre entitled 'The Importance of Knowing Your Brand and How it Communicates'. Chris Chenery of Chenery Creative gave a talk on the importance of knowing and promoting your brand and there was an opportunity for those present to ask questions.

I was pleased to be informed by Sharon Cuthbert, the Leiston Dementia Project Officer that all councillors and our officers had completed the Dementia Training. I was presented with an official sticker which has been placed in the window of the Council Offices to advise the public. This is part of working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council and a Dementia Friendly Town.

62. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper for item 10 and 13, Cllr Harle for cheque 313758, Cllr Casagrande for cheque 313759, Cllr Boast for item 13 (CATS), Cllr Morsley for item 9e, Cllr Levermore for item 9e and 10b and Cllr Ginger for item 7.

63. Leiston Together Update

Mrs Gibson ran through the Leiston Together Managers report which would be presented to the next board meeting. She congratulated the Leiston Events group on behalf of the Partnership for the superb job they had done organising the Big Weekend. She reported that Lorraine Baker had been appointed as the Business Development Co-ordinator to help businesses in the town and to work toward them possibly forming a Business Association again. Lorraine would also provide a little bit of admin support to the CLT. Leiston had now been officially recognised as a Dementia Friendly town after the efforts of Miss Cuthbert and a Park Run was soon to be introduced at Sizewell.

64. CLT Steering Group - Update

In the absence of Cllr Hill Cllr Betson updated members on the progress being made by the CLT steering group. 2 more supporters and another potential trustee had come forward at the Suffolk Day event in the Long Shop. The group were looking forward to having a little bit of admin support from Lorraine and were making progress with plans after a positive meeting held recently with SCDC. The meeting had discussed the plans for the town centre and SCDC had agreed to provide a value for their land included in the plans.

65. Middle School Steering Group

Members noted the minutes from the latest meeting of the Steering Group and on a proposition from Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to hire a room to the Long Shop (as discussed previously) but not to give a room to the Men's Shed (although an offer of a container on the site in the future could be a possibility). It was further proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that the hire fees recommended by the committee be adopted. Finally, members considered naming the centre either "The Leiston Recreation Centre", "The Waterloo Centre" or "The Victory Recreation Centre". It was resolved with a proposition from Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to refer to the site in future as the The Waterloo Centre.

66. Sizewell SSG

Members noted the report from the meeting of 19 April and the date of the next meeting (19 July) at Saxmundham Market Hall. Cllr Howard was unable to attend however.

67. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £16,438.11p along with £15,804.88p paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

- b) Financial Management and Risk Assessment for 2018-2019
Councillors noted the report from the Clerk on the Council's risks. It was proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that members accepted that a proper and thorough risk assessment had been carried out covering all physical, financial and governance risks which the Council could reasonably be expected to encounter and that appropriate measures were in place to cover or reduce those risks where possible.
- c) Appointment of Internal Auditor 2017/19
Councillors noted the report on Internal Controls and the Clerk's recommendation for appointment of Internal Auditors for 2018-2020. It was proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that Heelis and Lodge be appointed as Internal Auditors to the Council for 2018/2019. The Clerk was asked to try and obtain three quotes for next year for quality control and oversight purposes.
- d) Budget Review and Finance update
Members noted the report from the Clerk with a full breakdown of the budget to date and a thorough review of the earmarked reserves currently held. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the report be accepted and that the earmarked reserves be retained as presented.
- e) Leiston Big Weekend Accounts
Cllr Cooper, from the Chair, thanked the Leiston Events Group on behalf of the Town for such an excellent event and for all the hard work done by the committee to make it happen. Cllr Levermore, in her capacity as a member of the Leiston Events Group, gave a report to members on the financial aspects of the recent Leiston Big Weekend. The money used from the Community Events Fund, held in the Council's earmarked reserves, had been returned and a further substantial sum had been added to the fund by virtue of the event being so popular and well attended. Some items were noted regarding future medical cover arrangements that would be beneficial if a similar event took place again.

The meeting took a break from 8.47pm to 8.57pm

68. Planning Matters

- a) DC/18/2288/FUL – Installation of a wet underfloor heating system at Leiston Abbey Barn, Abbey Road, Leiston
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b) DC/18/2420/VOC – Variation of Condition 2 of DC/14/2788/FUL – proposed pair of semi-detached dwellings. To vary the condition to replace the approved site plan with drawing reference LDA-116-101J Land Opposite 17 Long Row, Leiston.
Members noted that the initial mistake in levels had consequently led to a host of issues regarding soil levels and the height of the building. They were unanimous that the height of the building and the floor levels were too high and therefore could not be supported in this request for variation.

Members not only recommended that the application be refused they also wanted the Planning Authority to investigate and correct any breaches in building regulations on the site. There was particular concern that the water run off had to be correctly engineered.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- c) DC/18/2208/FUL – Extension of Exhibition Hall Block. Internal alterations to current Exhibition Hall and Tally House and associated landscaping. New internal connection between Water Tower and Garrett Room. Modification of Long Shop loading doors for pedestrian fire exit. Placing of solar panels on Archive Store and link roofs at The Long Shop Museum, Main Street, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) DC/18/ DC/18/2438/LBC – Listed Building Consent – Conversion of ground floor to residential (2 bed flat) with planning application DC/18/1900/FUL at 42 Sizewell Road, Leiston . Cllr Harle and Cllr Howard against.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) SCC/0048/18 – Change of use of vacant Leiston Middle School premises (D1) to office space for class A2 at Former Middle School, Waterloo Avenue, IP16 4HF

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

69. County Matters

Cllr Betson wished to record her disappointment that the County Council had not listened to the responses from the school transport review and intended to forge ahead with their cuts. Members were in agreement that the Clerk should contact the scrutiny committee and record the Councils dismay that this was being brought in too quickly and that a further years delay should be considered. The Clerk was to copy in Cllr Rainger and Dr Coffey.

The Clerk was asked to write to Highways to try and make an exception of the potholes in Kemps Hill so that they get filled in albeit they do not meet the intervention levels.

It was agreed that a dog bin be ordered and arranged to be placed in a suitable location at the end of footpath 18 by Carr Cottages.

70. District Matters

Nothing raised.

71. Correspondence

Letter of Resignation from Councillor Christopher Nichols

Members were sorry to see that Cllr Nichols had resigned. The Chair informed members that Cllr Mrs Hill had written to Chris to thank him for all the work he did during his time, especially as a member of the Highways Committee. If no by election is called by 5 July members will be invited to consider co-option although it emerged that some residents may have requested an election. The Clerk informed members that there was £2,000 in contingencies to pay for this although it may be more this time as would not coincide with any other poll.

Request for use of Victory Park by Stocks Fair.

Members noted that the fairground had used the park successfully last September (dates requested again for 2018) and that they were an integral part of the recent Big Weekend event.

It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed that permission be granted and that the same fee (£150 a day) as last year be requested.

Request for Grant Aid from Bright Sparks

Councillors noted the letter from Bright Sparks requesting a donation toward the hire fee of the Film Theatre for this year's pantomime. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed to donate £500.

Request for Grant Aid from Coastal Accessible Transport Service (CATS)

Members noted the letter from CATS and were sympathetic to the current challenges the organisation were facing, especially the reduction in grant funding from the County Council. It was proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Casagrande and agreed to donate £2000 (to be taken from the divestment contingency reserve.)

72. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Harle asked whether the Clerk could look at the footpaths down the south side of KGA and outside the old "Days Butchers" shop as a resident had reported them to be uneven. Cllr Bailey asked the Clerk to continue to try and resolve the CCTV issues on the rec.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----