

Pre-meeting Reports 8 January 2019

170. County Councillor

County Councillor Rainger reminded the meeting that the Sizewell C consultation had started and that Scottish Power would be conducting their next consultation from 11 February. He reported that the AONB had launched new business plans at a meeting in December where National Grid Ventures (NGV) presented the possible proposals for locations of two continental interconnector substations in the area. He explained that NGV were different from National Grid Transmission (a different part of the company) and that they, like Scottish Power, were restricted by the power connections that National Grid Transmissions offered them. Unfortunately, all the offers at the moment were for the line out of Sizewell. In answer to a question from Cllr Howard, Cllr Rainger explained that the County and District were trying to get NGV to bring forward their informal consultation with the planning authorities so that all the current energy projects could be considered together. He also offered to assist Cllr Howard with his current dealings with social services.

171. District Councillor

Cllr Geater tendered her apologies. Cllr Cooper tabled a report. Cllr Last asked Cllr Cooper to comment on the new draft Local Plan as to how it affected Leiston. Cllr Cooper reported that the plan recognised Leiston's Neighbourhood Plan and required Leiston, when it next updated their NP, to consider adding 100 homes to be accommodated before 2036. Our plan currently goes up to 2029. Questions were asked on whether the free half hour parking slots in the High Street car park had been requested. There had been no official reply to the Town Councils letter yet but Cllr Cooper informed members that it would not be considered. He also said that the situation outside the chemist could be addressed later this year once Civil Parking Enforcement was passed down to the District Council. Cllr Betson commended the District on recently fining someone for not picking up after their dog and hoped this would happen more often. Cllr Cooper was asked whether the District would be continuing to give a grant to Citizens Advice. He was able to confirm that the new authority would be intending to do so, at least at the current level, with an aspiration to increasing this but this would be a decision for the new authority after May.

172. Public Forum

Nothing was 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 8 JANUARY 2019 at 7.38pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor F Casagrande
Councillor A M Cooper
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T E Hodgson
Councillor W H Howard
Councillor J N Last
Councillor S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor S O'Reilly

173. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4 December 2018 be signed as a true record.

174. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Geater.

175. Chairman's Communications

Cllr Mrs Hill reported as follows:

On 5 December, I together with other councillors and the Town Clerk attended the Opening Ceremony of the Leiston combined Fire & Police Station. A plaque was unveiled by The Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore and Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection Richard Rout. Deputy Chief Constable Stephen Jupp and Chief Fire Officer Mark Hardingham also attended with members of the local police and fire teams.

I was unable to attend an event in December and Cllr Last kindly attended and I read his report. 'On Friday 14 December I attended the launch of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Management Plan for the Years 2018-23, at the Discovery Centre, Minsmere. The meeting was attended by all partners with the partnership laying down its objectives for the next five years. This also included the challenges and uncertainty that the AONB faces, with the plan being a guidance document for decision making'. I understand Cllr Hodgson also attended.

Although I have written on behalf of the Council and the community to congratulate the Events Group on the highly successful Leiston on Ice event held over the weekend of 8 and 9 December, I feel it is important that as a Council we record our thanks at this meeting. I was delighted to be invited to

open the event and even more delighted when asked to do it on both days. Many of you were part of the event whether it be in organising, helping over the weekend or coming along and witnessed the festive atmosphere and the large number of people, including many family groups that attended. I would like to propose that a vote of thanks to the Events Group be recorded in the Minutes, seconded by Cllr Betson – **a vote of thanks to the Leiston Events Group was unanimously passed and recorded.**

Following an invitation by Scottish Power Renewables to Leiston Town Council, Sizewell Residents Association and members of Save Our Sandlings, I and a number of councillors attended a meeting on 13 December. The purpose of the meeting was to inform us of SPRs decision to proceed with the Grove Wood, Friston site and how this decision had been arrived at. There was an opportunity to ask questions and we were advised that the Stage 4 consultation would take place from 11 February – 26 March. I note from SPRs website that their public information days have been published and there are two dates for Leiston 20 February and 9 March both at Sizewell Sports and Social Club.

All Councillors should have received a hard copy of the Sizewell C Stage 3 Consultation Summary Document and a USB containing electronic copies of other consultation documents. The consultation commenced on 4 January and continues until 29 March.

In concluding my report, I would like to convey to councillors and to our Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk that I fully appreciate that the next few months will involve a significant amount of time, over and above our usual workload, in reading documents and attending meetings on key proposals that affect our community.

176. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hill for Leiston Film Theatre, Cllr Cooper in item 14 and 11, Cllr Last in 11a, Cllr Hodgson in letter 1.

177. Leiston Together Update

Cllr Hill gave apologies from Mrs Gibson and the Clerk gave a brief update on the work being overseen by Leiston Together. The main item currently being progressed is the discussions with EDF to develop ways of improving transport options for young people to access skills and further education. The Dementia Project is doing very well and there is now efforts being made to secure funding to be able to continue it in the town. The next Leiston Business Association meeting is on 30 January and Mrs Corbett has agreed to continue the work done by Lorraine Baker in setting it up while the funding for that post lasts.

178. CLT Steering Group - Update

Cllr Hill updated the meeting on this item thus:

The CLT's first Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 11 December was well attended with 41 people and very positive. The attendance of Cllr Herring, Leader of SCDC who was able to confirm the purchase of the properties in Sizewell Road and the Council's support for plans to regenerate the town made a significant contribution to the meeting. The Trust gained further members at the meeting and membership is currently 113.

The meeting elected Trustees to the Board. I was elected as representative of the Town Council, Barry Norman for Leiston Together, Russ Rainger for The Long Shop Museum, Bing Boast, Sammy Betson, Jim Florance and Simon Merrett. Subsequently, at the Board's first meeting Sammy Betson was elected as Chair.

In the short-term Suffolk Coastal District Council intends to invest in refurbishing the retail units at 20-22a Sizewell Road in order to bring them back to use. This will improve the streetscape in the area, while a more comprehensive longer term plan can be worked up. Work has already started and it is hoped this will be completed by the end of the month. Following discussions with Suffolk Coastal the CLT have been offered the use of the former Barnes Roshier Office Supplies shop, by many referred to as the book shop. The aim is to use this as a meeting place to conduct CLT business, to be an office base and to display and provide information for the community as plans progress. Possible offers of office furniture and equipment are being looked into and a member has offered to undertake internal redecoration of the shop.

The draft Housing Needs Survey report has recently been received and will be distributed to councillors and other interested parties when it has been checked.

Going forward, Trustees will be meeting with Mr Lefever of Hastoe Housing Association tomorrow. The Board need to produce a Business Plan and a workshop has been arranged for 30 January. Julie Patel, Deputy Director of Suffolk New College on the Coast has kindly agreed to act as facilitator to assist the Trustees.

179. Waterloo Centre Steering Group Meeting of 12 December

Members noted the minutes from the recent Steering Group meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the items in the report which needed future funding should be left until the discussion on the Precept later in the meeting.

180. Newsletter

The Clerk asked councillors' opinion on when the next newsletter should be distributed. With no really prominent events coming up members agreed that late March early April might be a good time to inform residents of the Precept decisions and to encourage participation in the forthcoming local elections.

181. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £24,888.80p along with £22,739.42p paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

182. Setting the Precept 2019/2020

Members noted the report from Mrs Rinder which covered the increased tax base of 1.4%. The tax base is effectively a summation of the equivalent number of Band D properties expected to contribute Council Tax in the town over the next year. Any increase, means that if the same precept is demanded this year (£277,000) then the Band D figure is less for each property due to

more properties contributing. This was helpful as, to continue to conduct all the Council's business for the next year needed an increase in precept to £283,980. With the increase in tax base help this meant an increase of only 1% on a Band D property. Mrs Rinder gave details of how an increase of 3% would allow members to precept a further £5,000 to be used for any desired capital projects as the £283,980 only allowed business to continue and certain earmarked reserves to have the needed annual increment. She did however report that, with the Film Theatre doing so well this year (again) the predicted deficit allowed for that had been blown away and that she was confident £25,000 could be taken from the general reserve to service the predicted costs of the foyer project (£20,000) which left £5,000 that could be allocated at year end for any projects.

Mrs Rinder reminded members that the Council was now receiving CIL (Community infrastructure Levy) from the various building projects around the town and this would be around £45,000 by mid year. This would allow for certain eligible projects (bus shelters) to be funded and could provide matched funding for larger projects (zebra crossings).

She advised members that the District Council was likely to increase their element of the Council Tax by 3%, the County by 5% and now the Police and Crime Commissioner had stated he would be raising his element by 12%. The Town Council, even if it raised its precept by 3% would therefore only effect the final Council Tax bill in April by 0.25% but, with the other precept authorities plans it would be a rise of around 5% overall.

Cllr Howard immediately proposed that, being entirely satisfied with the RFO's reasoning and report, the Council set a precept of £283,980. This was seconded by Cllr Ginger. The following discussion made cases for increasing this to £289,000 (3%) to give the incoming Council in May some room to implement improvements etc, but the majority felt that the £5,000 from reserves at year end would be sufficient. Cllr Bailey in particular warned that a further £5,000 (to make £10,000) would be a minimum to add to the reserve to improve and build the facilities needed to make the Waterloo Centre more functional.

On the vote after the discussion however it was agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council Precept the District Council for £283,980 for 2019-2020.

183. Planning Matters

- a) DC18/4899/ROC – Removal of condition 3 of DC/16/3037/FUL – Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension – non-opening window condition to be removed at 4 Haylings Grove, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

184. County Matters

Cllr Ginger reported that Miss Hawes had reported progress with the police in getting the car that overhangs the pavement in Crown Street in the evenings moved.

185. District Matters

It was reported that the toilets in Sizewell Road had been closed on many occasions over the Christmas period and could Norse be asked to explain why they did not have procedures in place to ensure this did not happen.

186. Correspondence

Request for funding (2019/2020) from The Long Shop Museum

Councillors noted the letter from the Long Shop requesting the Council's continuing support for the coming year. Members noted that they had contributed £1,500 this year and, on a proposition from Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to leave this for consideration in the new financial year.

Request for funding from Revitalise

Councillors noted the letter from Revitalise requesting continued support for their work in the town. On a proposition from Cllr Casagrande, seconded by Cllr Boast, it was agreed to donate £150.

187. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Howard asked whether the Chairman agreed that the diagrammatic plans produced for the Sizewell B relocation consultation were too small and therefore illegible. Members agreed they were. The Clerk had a pdf of the original documents (from 2016) for this which he offered to members to peruse. The Clerk was asked to resend the original comments to these proposals, made in 2016, as part of this limited and current consultation.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----