

**At the ANNUAL MEETING of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
Held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY
14 MAY 2019 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT

**Councillor D E Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor A M Cooper
Councillor D Dix
Councillor Mrs S M Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor Mrs L Hill
Councillor T E Hodgson
Councillor J N Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor S O'Reilly
Councillor M A Woolf**

1. Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Betson and seconded by Cllr Levermore that Cllr Mrs Hill be appointed Chairman for 2019/2020. It was further proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Bailey that Cllr Last be appointed Chairman. It was confirmed on a proposal from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger that voting would be by a secret ballot. Conducted by the Clerk the vote was in favour of Cllr Mrs Hill. Cllr Mrs Hill thanked members for their support and confidence.

2. Apologies

All present.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr O'Reilly and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2 April 2019 be signed as a true record.

4. Chairman's Report for 2018/2019 (Cllr Hill)

A Chairman's Diary for 2018/19 was tabled and Cllr Hill asked members and the public to note that it was her intention, this year, not to read her report but table it at the meeting and to publish it in the forthcoming newsletter. For the record the report follows below;

Leiston Town Councillors have been heavily involved in discussing and making decisions and recommendations on a very wide range of items and a number of issues that affect our community. As well as the usual monthly Council meetings it

had been necessary to hold extra-ordinary meetings to assess information and take into account the views of the community regarding the highly important Sizewell C proposals contained in the Stage 3 consultation and the Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia Two and Anglia One North proposals in order to make an informed response by the consultation deadlines. In connection with the Sizewell C proposals councillors also attended workshops run by Planning Aid England which helped us in how to best format our response. A copy of the Council's agreed formal response on Sizewell C Stage 3 and Scottish Power Renewables Stage 4 consultations are available to view on the Council's website or please visit the Council Offices to see a paper copy.

At our usual monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month, to which members of the public are invited, we have had a number of presentations from guest speakers. These are very informative and also allow Councillors and members of the public to ask questions and to seek clarification on matters that arise.

A representative from the East of England Ambulance Service was our first guest speaker and following his visit, myself and two other councillors were able to visit the Ambulance Response Unit in Norwich. A Planning Officer from the District Council and the Head of Planning at Suffolk County Council came to explain the planning process for Major Infrastructure projects. PC Simon Green came to talk about his role as a Community Support Officer for our Safer Neighbourhood area. The Chair of Governors and Head of School at Leiston Primary School briefed the meeting on their Good OFSTED report and the other accomplishments of the school and during the year EDF Energy – Nuclear New Build have updated the Council.

Our County Councillor and District Councillors are invited to attend Council meetings to present reports and this is an opportunity for those present to ask them questions relating to County and District matters. Following this, there is a public forum for members of the public to address or make representations to the Town Council before Councillors consider items on the agenda.

I will report on some other business undertaken by the Council but if you wish to find out more please go on the Town Council website where Minutes of all the meetings are available to view or alternatively go along to the Council Offices to see a copy. There is also a quarterly Town Council newsletter delivered to households in Leiston, which includes articles relating to council matters and other items of local interest.

The Town Council have officially taken over the centre section of the old Middle School site in Waterloo Avenue for community use and the building is now referred to as The Waterloo Centre. The Centre comprises four rooms, a gymnasium, the playground and playing field together with a fenced multi sports area. Some redecoration work has been undertaken and recently a small kitchen area fitted out for use by hirers. The Council are looking at ways of further improving and developing the Centre and will keep you informed on progress. All the facilities are available for hire and there has been a good take up, especially for the gymnasium of an evening, by various organisations. If you are interested in looking to hire either the gymnasium, a room or the games court please contact the Council Offices.

You may have noticed that the Leiston Film Theatre, owned by the Town Council, is also undertaking changes. The building that adjoins the Film Theatre, also owned by the Council, became vacant and is being developed to extend the foyer to improve and enhance the experience when visiting this increasingly popular venue and major asset for the town. A recent application for funding from the Town Council and Leiston Together was granted from the Coastal Revival Fund to set up a Tourist Information Point at the Film Theatre. This is being incorporated within the foyer and will provide information for the many visitors that come to the area. It will also enable

information to be provided and shared for the benefit of our local community. It is expected that the project will be completed in time for the holiday season.

Another exciting and far larger development project for Leiston are plans to regenerate the town centre. After a period of time operating as a Steering Group the Leiston Community Land Trust was officially incorporated in October 2018 and were able to start recruiting for members. In December a public meeting was held to elect the Board of Trustees. I served as the Town Council's representative on the Steering Group and was also elected as a Trustee representing the Council on the Board. The CLT were invited to be represented at Leiston Together meetings which comprises representatives from Leiston Town Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk Council), Suffolk County Council and other organisations. A significant step towards this project being realised was the purchase of the 3 vacant properties and land in Sizewell Road by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The properties have had some work carried out on them to make a more pleasing street scene and the CLT have been given the use of one of the shops as an office which will assist with promoting the project and for gaining further members. Recently and very importantly a CLT Project Group has been established with CLT Trustees and officers of East Suffolk Council in order to work through all the various aspects required in taking this project forward.

The Town Council has set up a grants fund for local organisations to apply for financial support. Over the past year we have been pleased to be able to assist a number of organisations including Coastal Accessible Transport (CATS), Leiston Town Pastors, Rose & Sweet William Club, Leiston FC Youth Teams, Citizens Advice and the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

To mark the end of my term of office a Chairman's Reception was held at the Community Centre where guests included representatives from local clubs and organisations. This occasion is an opportunity to thank all of those people who undertake a considerable amount of work, many on a voluntary basis, supporting our community, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who, whether as an individual or as part of an organisation, offer help and support in our community. The Annual Chairman's Cup was this year awarded to Selena Levermore and Emma Mouser the main driving force behind the Leiston Events Group. They have enriched the community spirit in the town with the Leiston Big Weekend summer events and the Christmas events. Local residents, the wider community and visitors to the area have supported and thoroughly enjoyed these experiences.

This report marks the end of our four-year term in office when the majority of us were elected, with some of you, joining along the way. I would like to thank Councillors and our Officers for the work they have undertaken in serving our community and for the support they have given to me in my time as Chairman.

5. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Betson and seconded by Cllr Morsley that Cllr Last be re-elected Vice Chairman. Passed unanimously.

6. Composition of Working Parties and Representation on Other Bodies

Members gave their preferences as to which Committees, Working Parties or Organisations requiring a representative from the Council that they wished to be involved with for the coming year. The Clerk noted the new compositions for the coming year and asked members to look at the completed list, attached to these minutes, to ensure all their wishes had been encapsulated.

7. Signatories for Cheques

It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Harle, and agreed that, in addition to the Town Clerk (or Deputy Clerk), signatories for Town Council cheques should include any two of the following Councillors: Cllr Ginger, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Boast and Cllr Hill.

8. General Power of Competence

It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Morsely that the Town Council, from 14 May 2019, until the next relevant Annual meeting, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 – The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 – adopts the General Power of Competence.

9. Appoint member to be responsible for verifying bank reconciliations in accordance with Finance Order 2.2

It was agreed that Cllr Levermore retains the responsibilities required by Order 2.2.

10. To approve use of variable Direct Debits in respect of all utilities, software contracts, NEST pensions, rates and photocopier hire for further two years

It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that current bills signed up to direct debit contracts continue for a further two years

11. To approve the continued use of BACS transfer for all wages, salaries, pensions and Film Company Invoices for further two years

It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that BACS transfers be used for all wages, salaries, pensions and film company invoices for a further two years.

12. Loan of Artefacts

The Clerk reported that various artefacts, including a working model steam tractor in a glass case, a wooden model steam lorry, a Garrett bust on a plinth, a collection of Garrett hats and a trunk, were on loan at the Long Shop Steam Museum. He further reported that the School Bell from the former Church of England Elementary School in Waterloo Avenue was similarly on loan at the Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Levermore and agreed that these loans should continue.

There being no more business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chair

Dated

**LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL TOWN MEETING
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KING GEORGE AVENUE
TUESDAY 14 MAY 2019 AT 8.00PM**

The Town meeting was attended by 7 residents and 15 Councillors.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Mrs Lesley Hill.

Cllr Cooper introduced new East Suffolk Councillors representing Leiston and Aldeburgh. Along with himself the meeting met Cllr T-J Haworth and Cllr Jocelyn Bond. T-J had been a cabinet member from 2011 and updated the meeting on the Leisure centre refurbishment and Alde Valley Academy.

Cllr Cooper thanked Susan Geater

The meeting received reports from:

Mr Paul Hartley on behalf of the Leiston Works Railway Trust

There were written reports from:

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

A recording of the meeting are available from the Town Clerk.