

Pre-meeting Reports 7 January 2020

The Chairman congratulated Cllr John Last on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours List and he was given a round of applause. Cllr Last thanked everyone for all their good wishes.

146. Mr Tom McGarry – Head of Communications at EDF

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tom McGarry from EDF Energy NNB who updated the meeting on current items regarding the production and submission of the proposed DCO for Sizewell C. Mr McGarry announced that Mr Jim Crawford had retired as planned and Mr Paul Morton would be taking over. A copy of his report is available on request.

Cllr Harle raised concerns regarding the demolition of Coronation Wood and Mr McGarry confirmed permission had been granted. The trees were at the end of life and will be replaced by 2,000 saplings. Cllr Morsley queried the timeline for the decision making for SZC and Mr McGarry said approximately 19 months, possibly by the end of 2021. Cllr Ginger raised questions on the rail crossings along the East Suffolk Line and the Green Route and about how the existing roads would cross the proposed Farnham bypass. Mr McGarry explained that the rail crossings will be subject to some upgrades and he will feedback information about the Farnham bypass in due course.

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.

147. County Councillor

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Rainger who gave an update on current activities at the County Council. He reported Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service received a good report from the Government based inspection and were congratulated on their performance. Cllr Rainger mentioned he has money available in his locality budget and highways budget to support groups and organisations who are looking for funding and encouraged them to get in touch. Cllr Harle raised concerns regarding the recent flooding problems with traffic going through flooded areas not being able to see vehicles coming through at the other end creating a dangerous situation and Cllr Morsley also mentioned the flooding by the pub in Aldringham. Cllr Rainger confirmed Highways were in discussions with the landlord of the pub and the adjacent farmer to address this issue. Cllr O'Reilly was impressed with the online Highways reporting tool and Cllr Rainger confirmed email responses and updates to reported problems are sent to the person reporting them but offered to chase if necessary.

148. District Councillor

The District Councillors sent apologies due to an important Cabinet meeting regarding the SPR application that they wished to attend at Lowestoft.

149. 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 7 JANUARY 2020 at 7.45pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor D Dix
Councillor Mrs S M Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T Hawkins
Councillor J N Last BEM
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor S O'Reilly
Councillor Ms M A Woolf

150. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3 December 2019 be signed as a true record.

151. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Bailey and Cllr Cooper.

152. Chairman's Communications

Cllr Hill reported as follows:

A number of councillors together with a few members of the community and two Norse employees took part in the 'Big Dig' event at the Community Orchard on Saturday 7 December. The weather was kind to us and with everyone working together a lot was achieved in two hours with daffodil bulbs, trees and hedging planted and mulch spread around. Two trees were planted by residents. I would like to thank Cllr Levermore for organising the event and I have written to Paul Tynan at Norse thanking him and his staff for the help in preparing for the event and their work on the day.

As the Council's representative on the Leiston Community Land Trust Board I attended the Annual General Meeting on 10 December. I have reported on this meeting under Agenda Item 6.

I attended the Sizewell C Community Forum meeting at The Riverside Centre, Stratford St. Andrew on Monday 16 December in an observer capacity. Cllr Woolf attended as the Council's representative. Minutes of the meeting have not yet been published.

On 17 December, as Chairman of the Leiston Surgery Patient Participation Group, I attended the All PPG Network meeting organised by the Ipswich &

East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group at Endeavour House. This was an opportunity for all PPG's to meet, take part in a workshop and give a brief presentation on their work. I showcased some of our achievements including the purchase of a BMI and Blood Pressure machine for use by patients and to the Free CPR training which is due to take place on Saturday 25 January at Leiston Leisure Centre with training provided by the British Heart Foundation. Mr Hawkins also attended as a member of the Leiston Surgery PPG.

153. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hill for Leiston Film Theatre and Cllr Boast for CLT.

154. Leiston Together Update

Mrs Gibson sent her apologies and the Clerk informed members that nothing had happened since the update at the December meeting. The next Leiston Together meeting was scheduled for 18 February.

155. CLT Trustee Board

Cllr Hill updated the meeting on this item thus:

The Annual General Meeting was held on 10 December and despite inclement weather, approximately 40 people attended. The meeting included the election of Trustees which in accordance with the rules of the Society required one third standing down and they had previously been agreed as Russ Rainger and Bing Boast with both indicating a willingness to stand again. They were duly re-elected and Tony Cooper who had been co-opted earlier in the year was formally elected as a Trustee. A further candidate Phillip Edwards, who brings much needed business and finance experience, was co-opted onto the Board. As an Associate Member, Phil was not able to become a full Trustee. Sadly, Barry Norman due to other commitments has stood down from being a Trustee and was thanked for all his work with the CLT.

A power-point presentation giving an update on progress since April 2019 and the current vision for 2020 including Phase 1 the United Church was given by Trustees Simon Merrett and Jim Florance. Following a question from the floor the Board were pleased to report that EDF Energy have set up a Leiston Town Council Transport Working Group with representatives from Suffolk Highways, ESC Officers and Leiston Town Council. This enables the CLT's proposals for the town centre regeneration to be brought to their attention when looking at traffic modelling and predictions for the town centre. (A report on the Transport meeting held on 9 December is Item 7 on the agenda.)

It was a very positive AGM and following the close of the formal proceedings there was an opportunity for further conversation and networking.

Yesterday, the Board had a lengthy meeting which included updates on the following items:

Phase 1 - United Church

This project is progressing with two quotes obtained for a consultant/designer to undertake the development of the garden area. A further quote is being sought. Once the Trustees have selected a firm, plans will be shared with the

interested parties in order to seek their views on the plans. A number of possible funding streams have been identified and once the cost of the project is known applications will be made to get the project underway. This will be important in gaining the confidence of the community when they see the first phase of the bigger development has been achieved.

Phase 2 – Town Square

While progressing the Church project the Trustees fully intend to keep moving on the Town Square development. With an opportunity to secure a significant grant aimed at projects that create ‘transformative’ changes the Trustees had a meeting with an architect that we had previously met regarding our vision for the area. This is with a view of finding out the costs of preparing an initial outline design in order that a bid can be submitted. The Trustees are gathering information as to the space requirements of current prospective tenants such as the Town Council and the architect is visiting the site tomorrow. The deadline for the application is 13 January.

An initial indication of our plans has also been sent to a National Lottery Adviser who will determine if we can proceed with an application for Lottery Funding to employ a Project Manager. As an interim measure we are still working with the ESC officers as to the possibility of having an intern or mature apprentice to act as a Construction Project Co-ordinator and a job description is currently being worked up.

Membership made the 200 target that I hoped we would have by the end of 2019. Currently we have 206 and Bing Boast and I are charged with increasing the number of members and I have rashly thrown out the figure of 400 by the end of 2020. Three organisations as well as Alde Valley Academy have expressed an interest in hearing about the plans for the town and we intend to have another stand in the Co-op and articles will be in the next town council newsletter and local press.

Once the marketing strategy including the construction of a website is in place this will greatly assist us in promoting the CLT and allowing access to information about our proposals. An advert seeking CLT members is also to be displayed on screen at the Film Theatre.

156. Transport Meeting with EDF - 9 December 2019

Councillors noted the Clerk’s report and the official minutes, received yesterday, of the recent meeting with Mr Bull from EDF Energy. One of the items that was raised was what mitigation might be practical in the town centre to alleviate the expected increase in traffic with SZC with regard to pedestrian amenity etc. Suggestions have been for shared space (like Hamilton Road in Felixstowe) or even a one-way system. After lengthy discussion, members generally felt shared space would not work with the volume of traffic during construction unless combined with a one way system but, equally, the whole idea was to make traversing the town centre unattractive to rat runners and to make it more welcoming for visitors so more thought was required. The Clerk asked councillors to consider making Kemps Hill a pedestrian access only, which is in our Neighbourhood Plan. On a proposition from Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Morsley this was agreed.

157. Waterloo Centre Steering Group Meeting - 12 December 2019

Councillors noted the minutes and discussed the items raised for approval. Mr Driver (Hoopers Architect's) had produced some useful and relevant plans now which could be taken forward for fundraising. They just needed a Quantity Surveyor to cost the project which would mean releasing some more of the funding set aside for this stage. It was proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr O'Reilly and agreed that up to £2,000 be released to get a Cost Forecast. It was further proposed by Cllr O'Reilly, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that £820 be used from the reserve to mark out the car park correctly.

158. Elect SALC Representative

Members were canvassed to see if anyone wished to be the SALC representative and to attend the quarterly area meetings. Cllr O'Reilly expressed an interest and it was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed for Cllr O'Reilly to be our SALC representative. It was noted that all councillors were welcome to attend the area meetings if they wished to.

159. Proposed Hinkley Visit

Councillors noted that this was now set for the week commencing 9 March. The Clerk advised that Mr Downes from Somerset West and Taunton Council was looking at a programme for us and members were asked which days that week allowed them to participate in the visit. Cllrs Betson, Last, Hawkins, Woolf, Harle, Hill, Bailey (noted previously) and Boast expressed an interest in attending.

160. VE Day preparations

A report was tabled and Cllr Levermore and Cllr Last updated members on the plans for this year's event weekend which would include the new bank holiday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Cllr Levermore outlined the financial projections for the event and how EDF had promised £5,000 to support the Cinema in the Park element of the proceedings. On the VE Day itself however, although funding was being applied for, it was requested that the Council consider contributing £1,800 toward the celebrations to enable plans to be made. It was also requested that, should the Council expect a surplus from the cinema again this year, that £1,200 be vied from that to purchase the film licence for the event which is not covered by the EDF funding. It was proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to contribute £1,800 for VE Day and on a further proposal by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Geater it was agreed to use surplus from the cinema turnover at the end of the year to cover the £1,200 licence.

161. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £23,030.73 along with £26,270.39 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

162. Setting the Precept for 2020/2021

Members noted the report from the RFO which covered the increased tax base of 4.2%. 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 (£283,980) 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 £299,480. With the increase in tax base this meant an increase of only 1% or 3p per week on a Band D property. The RFO gave details of how an increase of 2.88% to £305,000 would allow members to precept a further £5,500 to be used for any desired specific capital projects as the £299,480 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) there may well be a possible surplus of around £25,000 to be allocated elsewhere at year end if the allocated deficit is not needed.

The RFO reminded members that the Council was now receiving CIL (Community infrastructure Levy) from the various building projects around the town and this was currently £48,700. The application for the pedestrian crossing had been turned down but she was hopeful additional work could be done to support this project. Further CIL funding would be received in April and October which could be used for this project or other eligible projects, ie real time bus information and could provide matched funding for larger projects, ie the pedestrian crossing.

The RFO advised councillors that an extra £2,000 provision for CYDS had been included in the precept for Grants, raising it to £9,000. This would help cover any further funding requests.

The RFO informed councillors that the District Council was likely to increase their element of the Council Tax by 3%, the County by 4% but the Police and Crime Commissioner had not yet indicated what increase he was considering. With that in mind, if the Town Council raised its precept by 3%, it would have little effect on the overall rise in the final Council Tax bill in April (9p of the expected £1.30 weekly rise).

After some discussion on whether to raise the precept by 1% or 3% it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed (7 for, 5 against, 1 abstained) that, to allow the Town Council to continue making improvements to the town, that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council precept East Suffolk Council for £305,000 for 2020/21, which is a 2.88% increase.

163. Planning Matters

No applications had been received.

The Clerk had circulated a draft 'relevant representation' on behalf of the Council to register as an interested party for the SPR examinations which Council agreed and he will submit before 27 January.

164. County Matters

No questions were raised.

165. District Matters

No questions were raised.

166. Correspondence

Funding Request from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service

Councillors noted the request from SARS to support their running costs. The RFO informed councillors only £250 remained in the grant fund. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed to grant £500, with £250 vied from the general reserve.

Hanging Baskets

The clerk reported that Norse have agreed to continue watering the baskets based on a maximum of 40. Norse also requested we purchase self-watering baskets with a 7-day reservoir to reduce watering visits and support climate change issues. Cllr Last suggested this item be on the Grounds Maintenance agenda for discussion next week.

Public Open Spaces – Persimmon Homes Development, Saxmundham Road

Councillors noted the email from Persimmon Homes asking if the Town Council would consider adopting the public open spaces on the site. Usually the developer employs a management company to cover this and councillors unanimously agreed not to take this on.

167. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Betson commented that the Leiston Works Railway project and support they received from the Army became a feature in a steam railway magazine which is distributed all over the world. Cllr Last mentioned Suffolk Day and ask if the Council would consider doing anything. Cllr Hill felt it was too close to the LBW but a litter pick could be arranged if members wished to organise it. Cllr Harle asked if any further news had been received regarding the telephone box in the Post Office Square but the Clerk had heard nothing further. Cllr Harle suggested that a street name as a memorial to Cllr Hodgson be proposed for the new housing development. The Clerk will speak directly to Persimmon Homes and on a request from Cllr Ginger will also contact East Suffolk Council.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----