Pre-meeting Reports
14 April 2026

219. County Councillor

County Councillor Haworth-Culf was not in attendance as Suffolk County Council are in pre-election period of sensitivity. Her report had been previously circulated.

220. District Councillor

District Councillor Graham was in attendance, and her report had been previously circulated. She provided updates on local government reorganisation, energy infrastructure projects including Sea Link, Sizewell C mitigation funding proposals, leisure centre decarbonisation, and coastal protection works at Thorpeness.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding obstructive and illegal parking on the High Street and near local shops. Councillor Graham confirmed that she will continue to raise these concerns with Parking Enforcement and advocate for an increased enforcement presence.

Councillor Swift reported that, since the last meeting, the condition of Sizewell Gap Road has significantly improved; however, the adjacent cycle path remains unusable. The path has not been cleaned for many months, resulting in cyclists being forced onto the 60-mph carriageway following the removal of the former 30-mph limit by Scottish Power Renewables. Councillor Graham will follow this up and notify East Suffolk Council's Wheeling and Walking Group, who are working to implement the cycle strategy and may be able to arrange interim cleaning measures.

Councillor Geater raised concerns regarding the change to garden waste bin lids and associated costs. It was explained that the change is required as part of the national "Simpler Recycling" reforms to standardise bin colours, with brown being the recognised colour for garden waste. It was noted that replacing lids was chosen as a more cost-effective option than full bin replacement, and that alternatives such as stickers were discounted due to cost and durability concerns.

Councillor Crisp, referring to informal notes of an engagement event written by a Community Land Trust representative, asked Cllr Graham her position on the Market Square. Cllr Graham confirmed her support for the Market Square development.

Councillor Motion raised concerns regarding Suffolk County Council's strategy on tackling violence against women and girls, noting a perceived lack of clear, actionable measures within the plan. It was queried whether any progress or practical implementation steps had been made. In response, it was noted that while education sits primarily with the County Council, the District Council is also contributing through community work, including engagement led by the public health portfolio and programmes in schools focused on issues such as positive masculinity and addressing harmful attitudes.

221. Public Forum

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY 14 April 2026 at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Councillor Lesley Hill (Chair)
Councillor Joanna Atherton
Councillor Nicky Corbett
Councillor Andrew Crisp
Councillor David Dix
Councillor Susan Geater
Councillor Trevor Hawkins
Councillor Jenifer Housego
Councillor John Last BEM
Councillor Selena Levermore
Councillor Paul Motion
Councillor Adrian Swift
Councillor Patricia Trimmer

223. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Morsley and Councillor Cooper.

224. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Last for Leiston Place Board, Councillor Geater for Personnel and Councillor Crisp for Community Land Trust.

225. Minutes of the Meeting held 10 March 2026

It was proposed by Councillor Dix, seconded by Councillor Last and agreed the minutes of the meeting were a true record.

226. Mayor's Communications

I attended the ceremonial handover of the squadron banner of 1379 (Leiston) Squadron on 16 March marking the changeover of command from Squadron Leader Stuart Smith to Flight Officer William Mayhew. Following a reorganisation of the Sector Structure within the Norfolk and Suffolk Wing, Squadron Leader Smith now has Command of Sector 4 comprising Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Beccles and Leiston. I thanked Stuart for all the achievements he has helped to make possible for the young people in our community and wished both William and Stuart every success in their new roles.

I was pleased to attend the first Coffee and Cake morning to be held at The Community Centre on 13 March organised by the Leiston Events Group. The coffee morning was very well attended and you could see that people were enjoying the return of this event. The draw raised over £300 for Project 47.

On the 20 March I dropped in on the Future Female Society Happiness Brunch held at the Live Well Hub. The Society is for building resilience and empowering women. One of the stands was hosted by Sharon Harkin, East Suffolk Council's Communities Safety Officer Sizewell C and Sgt Rebecca O'Neill looking at community and women's safety.

I attended the Social Prescribing Day event on 26 March held at the Live Well Hub which the High Sheriff of Suffolk, Gulshan Kayembe DL attended. It showcased the many support services available to members of our community. I was pleased to talk to the High Sheriff about the Live Well Hub and to those manning tables about the services they provide. I know from a communication from the High Sheriff that she was very impressed with the work of the Live Well Hub and considered it "a great model for anywhere and everywhere." I sent a message to Bryony Peall thanking her and Celia Leggett for organising such a worthwhile event.

Last summer I made Councillors aware of my intention to step down as a Town Councillor in May 2026. As we are coming up to the Annual Meeting on 26th May I feel it is timely for me to confirm this decision to Councillors and to inform members of the public. I have been a Councillor since 2015 and for a number of those years carried out the roll of Chair and more recently Mayor. It has been an honour to serve on the Council but feel that for me the time has come to step down.

227. Assets

a) Live Well Hub Update
Councillors noted the previously circulated report. The Clerk was pleased to report the Social Prescribing event was well attended and positively received.

b) Suffolk New College Proposals
Members noted productive discussions regarding potential classroom use, with further meetings required with Suffolk County Council.

228. Open Spaces

a) Open Spaces Committee Meeting
Date of next meeting 28 April 2026, 2.30pm, Waterloo Centre was noted.

b) King Georges Avenue, Flood Attenuation and Nature Space Project – Meeting held 26 March 2026
Councillors noted the previously circulated notes. A public engagement event is scheduled for 20 April 2026, 1pm-7pm at Leiston Community Centre, covering flood attenuation, nature space proposals, and cycle routes, footpaths and lighting.

c) Changing Places
It was proposed by Councillor Crisp, seconded by Councillor Atherton, and agreed that Sizewell Beach be recommended as the preferred location for a Changing Places facility, with a request that the toilets be refurbished.

d) Dog Control on Sizewell Beach
Councillor Swift raised concerns about recent incidents involving dogs at Sizewell Beach and summarised information received from the East Suffolk Council Environmental Protection Manager regarding the potential use of Public Spaces Protection Orders.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Swift, seconded by Councillor Crisp, and agreed that a multi-agency meeting be arranged with the Environmental Protection Officer, police representatives and relevant partners to better understand the issues and identify appropriate next steps.

229. Finance

a) Accounts paid March and Month 12 Income and Expenditure
It was proposed by Councillor Levermore, seconded by Councillor Motion and agreed to approve the March Month 12 accounts along with monthly income and expenditure.

b) Notes of Finance Working Group Meeting held 8 March 2026
Councillors noted the previously circulated notes.

Year End
On recommendation from the Finance Working Group, it was proposed by Councillor Levermore, seconded by Councillor Trimmer, and agreed that the surplus funds for 2025/26 be transferred to the recommended earmarked reserves (EMRs).

Small Grants – Leiston Youth Club
On recommendation from the Finance Working Group, it was proposed by Councillor Levermore, seconded by Councillor Trimmer, and agreed that £4,830 be granted to Leiston Youth Club to enable it to continue operating until the summer holidays, by which time a decision is expected on its Sizewell C Community Fund application.

King Georges Avenue Flood Attenuation Project
On the recommendation of the Finance Working Group, it was proposed by Councillor Atherton, seconded by Councillor Levermore, and agreed (with two abstentions from Councillors Dix and Motion) to fund the topographical surveys and associated designs at an indicative preliminary cost of £20,000, to be financed from the Open Spaces Landscaping Earmarked Reserve (EMR).

c) Ipswich Computer Services
The Clerk reported that Ipswich Computer Services had completed the necessary updates to all councillors' laptops, including installation of current security and antivirus protections. The office has found the company responsive and effective in resolving technical issues. A quotation is awaited for SharePoint training to support councillors.

230. Infrastructure Working Groups

a) Sizewell C (SZC)
Councillor Corbett gave a brief update on the SZC project. She reported that the roundabouts are now operational, with the Two-Village Bypass and the Middleton–Theberton link road due for completion in Q4 next year. The new main entrance plaza will open at the same time, after which the Lovers Lane entrance will become redundant except for emergency access. Concerns were noted regarding recent incidents of engines idling at the Station Road crossing, attributed to mistimed train arrivals; assurances have been given that this is being addressed, and clarification is expected at the forthcoming forum. Green rail track-laying across Abbey Road continues, with further road closures scheduled, and

objections have again been raised about misleading and potentially unsafe road-closure signage from the south. There is still no confirmed opening date for the SZC Visitor Centre, though organised visits are being arranged. A question has been submitted to the Main Development Site Forum regarding the unused caravan park in King George's Avenue, and SZC continues to investigate complaints about contractors parking in residential streets. A new minibus service is being arranged from Cakes and Ale, with additional pick-up points planned within the town.

Councillor Swift raised concerns regarding rumours that Sizewell Gap Road would be used for the full duration of the SZC project. Councillor Corbett reported that this had been clarified with project representatives, who confirmed that such claims were incorrect and that traffic arrangements would change once the new access routes and infrastructure are completed. Further clarification is expected at the forthcoming Main Development Site Forum.

Concerns were raised regarding the removal of the 30-mph speed limit on Sizewell Gap Road. Councillor Corbett proposed that a question regarding speed limits along this road is submitted at the next SZC Traffic and Transport Forum.

The Clerk to request Scottish Power Renewables to attend our next Full Council Meeting, 12 May 2026.

b) Sizewell A & B Stakeholder Group

Councillor Hill reported on the Sizewell A/B Stakeholder Group meeting of 11 March, noting that the new hybrid set-up worked well. Minutes and supporting notes are still awaited, the Sizewell B presentation is available and will be circulated to members. A visit to the Sizewell B/Sizewell C Visitor Centre is expected in September, and a 20th-anniversary event, date to be confirmed.

c) Energy and Infrastructure

Councillors discussed the future of the Energy and Infrastructure Group, noting that its workload increasingly overlaps with the Highways Committee. It was suggested that the functions of the group could be incorporated into the Highways Committee when the council reviews its committee structure for the next civic year. In the meantime, the next meeting remains scheduled for 19th May.

231. Highways

a) Highways Committee

Minutes of the Highways Meeting held 17 March to be circulated. Councillor Hill reported that Suffolk Highways had confirmed approval to progress the Kings Road drainage scheme, with installation scheduled for 2026/27.

b) CCTV

The Council considered a proposal from Councillor Swift regarding the potential installation of CCTV within the town. It was noted that while there is increasing concern about future anti-social behaviour and identified hotspot areas, current police crime statistics and available evidence may not be sufficient to justify immediate implementation, particularly given the legal, financial and operational requirements associated with public CCTV systems, including GDPR compliance and data controller responsibilities. Members

discussed the need for a proactive as well as reactive approach, the existence of privately operated cameras, and alternative measures that could be explored. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Swift, seconded by Councillor Corbett and agreed (2 abstentions, Councillor Atherton and Councillor Housego and 1 against Councillor Hill) that the Council will take CCTV forward to the next stage by undertaking an evidence-based assessment, including engagement with the police and relevant partners, to determine the need, feasibility and potential scope of CCTV provision.

232. Outside Bodies

a) Leiston Community Land Trust
Councillor Crisp reported that Russ Rainger has stepped down as Chair after six years, with Robert Ashton taking on the role for the coming year. The Trust awaits progress on planning matters. Mr Rainger remains a Trustee.

b) Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership
Councillors noted that the minutes were available. The Town Clerk reported that discussions had taken place on mental health and wellbeing, with a number of projects considered amid high demand for funding. Several funding proposals were approved, including support for a mobile advice service, assistance for event organisers with transport, and funding for community transport providers to cover training and registration.

c) Leiston Place Board
Councillors noted the previously circulated minutes. The Mayor reported that the independent chair, Helen Greengrass, will remain in post, and that the next meeting is scheduled for 22 April. Concern was expressed that Leiston is underrepresented in current tourism materials, being presented more as a service hub than a destination in its own right.

d) Leiston Market Square
The Market Square Stakeholder minutes were noted, with the April meeting cancelled due to insufficient updates, the next meeting is scheduled for 1 May**.**

e) Net Zero Leiston (NZL)
Councillors Levermore and Atherton reported on preparations for Big Green Week, taking place nationally from 6-14 June 2026. Working with Net Zero Leiston, a Green Trail is being developed to highlight the town's open spaces, following survey findings that many residents were unaware of these assets. A printed map will be delivered to all households and will remain available throughout the summer, with a small prize offered for those completing the trail. Additional events are planned, including a repair workshop at the Long Shop Museum, a community energy film screening at the cinema, and activities at the Community Orchard. The next Net Zero Leiston meeting is scheduled for 16 April 2026.

f) Leiston Library
Councillors noted the Leiston Library Friends Group Minutes. Their next meeting is scheduled for 23 April 2026.

g) Leiston Events Group (LEG)
Councillor Atherton reported that preparations for forthcoming community events are progressing well. Eight members attended the most recent meeting, and arrangements for the car show on 21 June , Summer event on 18 July and the Christmas events 12/13

December are well in hand, with funding applications and sponsorship packages underway. Two recent charity coffee mornings have gone well. A fundraising quiz night is planned for May, with details to be confirmed.

233. Civic Matters/Events

a) Cinema in the Park 2026 - 1 August 2026
Plans for this event are progressing well. The Clerk reported the alcohol premises licence application has been applied for.

b) Phil Harle Annual Litter Pick, 9 May 2026
Councillor Last reminded members that the annual Litter Pick will take place on 9 May. It was noted that publicity is underway, risk assessments will be reviewed, and a meeting with working party group leaders will be held to identify priority areas. Members were encouraged to volunteer to support the event.

c) Annual General Meeting and Towns Meeting 2025-2026 – 26th May 2026
Members were reminded that the Annual Town Meeting will take place on 26 May. It was noted that a speaker is being considered, with Suffolk Community Foundation suggested to provide information to local clubs and organisations on accessing funding. It was further noted that this will be the final meeting for the current Chair.

234. Policies and Procedures

a) Privacy Notice
It was proposed by Councillor Atherton, seconded by Councillor Crisp and agreed the Privacy Notice (no changes) be approved.

b) Publication Scheme
The Council considered the Publication Scheme and noted minor amendments, including the removal of reference to a current vacancy on the Council, the addition of Millennium Wood to the list of assets, and the inclusion of the Manager of the Livewell Hub. It was proposed by Councillor Crisp, seconded by Councillor Dix, and agreed that the Publication Scheme be approved subject to these amendments.

235. Planning Matters (Plans are available for viewing online at East Suffolk Council https://publicaccess.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/)

a) Planning Committee Notes of Meeting held 24 March 2026
Councillors noted the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held 24 March 2026.

b) Planning Applications

DC/25/4432/FUL	Land East Of Sizewell Halt King Georges Avenue Leiston Suffolk	Hybrid planning application comprising: (a) in Full, for a Further Education College and an Apprentice Hub (Use Class F1(a)); and (b) in Outline, with all matters reserved except access, for a Construction Skills Centre and flexible external training space (Use Class F1(a)); together with associated works including access, internal routes, parking, public realm, landscaping, earthworks and other infrastructure.

It was proposed by Councillor Motion, seconded by Councillor Corbett and agreed to approve this application, noting concerns around parking.

236. Personnel

The Clerk reported, for public awareness, that the recommendation from the Personnel Committee is to proceed with the recruitment of a Deputy Town Clerk. It was noted that further discussion would take place in camera**.**

237. Destination Leiston Project

The Clerk gave an update on the Destination Leiston project and noted the comprehensive marketing and communications report for March 2026, which members were encouraged to review in their own time. It was reported that significant progress has been made, including ongoing website updates, social media management, engagement with local businesses, development of signage strategy, and production of promotional materials.

It was agreed that Lizzy Tuthill, Communications Officer be invited to our next Council meeting.

238. County Matters

Nothing raised.

239. District Matters

Nothing raised.

240. Correspondence

None

241. Questions to Mayor

Councillor Last raised concerns from residents regarding the declining reliability of Royal Mail deliveries, with some households receiving only one delivery per week and large batches of post arriving at once. This has resulted in missed hospital appointments and other important correspondence. Members noted that this appears to be a wider national issue following recent changes within Royal Mail. The Town Clerk confirmed that the matter can be raised through Clerks' Forums and with East Suffolk Council at the next opportunity.

Councillor Geater raised concerns about the condition and management of the beach area. It was reported that previous requests for action had received little response, and several defects such as damaged rubber grid panels have been reported but not addressed. Members agreed that renewed lobbying of all relevant authorities is required to ensure the beach and associated infrastructure are properly maintained.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm

It was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Motion and agreed that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the

Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.

In Camera

Chair _____

Dated _____