

Pre-meeting Reports 4 October 2016

83. Police report

The Chairman introduced PC Charlie Lewis who has joined the Leiston and Aldeburgh Safer Neighbourhood Team. PC Lewis introduced the short update from the SNT (on the table) regarding the progress they had made in addressing the ASB and the drug dealing issues raised at the August meeting and there was also the new standard format report from the Area SNT office. Cllr Howard asked if a breakdown of figures was available for domestic abuse to which PC Lewis replied no statistics were gathered for this report but the Clerk will request that information for the next meeting's report. Cllr Last asked for clarification that the SNT report covered just Leiston. PC Lewis explained that the Police report was an update for Leiston and the SNT report covered Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Hacheston and Saxmundham as well as Leiston. Cllr Morsley expressed his delight at the work done around Leiston and congratulated the team. Cllr Levermore was concerned regarding the policing changes and how to make sure the public would be confident in reporting incidents. PC Lewis confirmed he is based in the town and the Police are targeting crime and anti-social behaviour as a priority. Cllr Ginger raised concerns regarding reports of drug dealing on the allotments and is PC Lewis patrolling the town? PC Lewis has been in post 3 weeks and has been out patrolling in the town. He was not aware of any reports regarding drug dealing on the allotments but asked for the public to report any incidents which would be followed-up. A resident asked what hours the SNT operate to which PC Lewis confirmed shifts of 8am-4pm or 2pm-10pm with Friday and Saturday until 2am.

84. Mr Michael Wilson – Alde Valley Academy

The Chairman introduced Mr Wilson, the Principal of Alde Valley Academy. Mr Wilson gave some background to the Bright Tribe Trust who took over in January 2015. Mr Wilson arrived at the school in January 2016 when the school was going through some turbulent times and challenging circumstances with outcomes below the national standards. Mr Wilson reported the behaviour in school is much improved and now displays a positive atmosphere for both staff and students alike. He is extremely keen to keep working hard to increase standards and improve. The recent GCSE results showed a massive increase in the standards and Alde Valley Academy are the most improved school in Suffolk. Post 16 provision is very limited but he is exploring other alternatives/partnerships to deliver a better choice. Mr Wilson also mentioned bringing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award back in the school. Mr Wilson is very proud of the students and their achievements as well as the support from parents. Cllr Ginger asked if the school will close or merge with other schools? Mr Wilson felt the school would not close and mentioned feedback from the recent open evening has been superb. Cllr Howard asked if the Sixth Form will close and felt transport costs to Ipswich/Lowestoft were issues for students. Mr Wilson reiterated that he is looking at alternatives to offer students and understands transport issues. Cllr Harle congratulated the school on their GCSE results and Cllr Betson wanted to record appreciation to Mr Wilson on turning the school around. Cllr Last asked about key performance indicators and Mr Wilson confirmed statistics are calculated on a new system the DFE have brought in called 'Progress 8' which measures progress from Year 6 to Year 11. Mrs Mouser asked Mr Wilson if he was now permanent and Mr Wilson confirmed he was. Mr Briggs asked about the closure of the Skills Centre at

Halesworth and if something will replace this and Mr Wilson wasn't sure. Mr Wilson confirmed the school is working with Lowestoft College as well as Copleston and Stradbroke schools.

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.

85. County Councillor

Cllr Smith welcomed new councillor Sammy Betson to the Town Council. He paid tribute to the school and Mr Wilson and mentioned that Ofsted were due to visit the school anytime soon. Cllr Smith has given a grant of £1500 from his locality budget for a poster-size printer and he has been invited to the school in 2 weeks' time to present the cheque. Cllr Smith has also awarded a grant for £1,000 to Leiston ATC for air rifles. Cllr Smith has been working very hard behind the scenes to secure the middle school site for the town council. He felt this is a good asset and hopes to have his input recognised by the council in due course. Cllr Smith met with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 2 September and asked him to review the working hours for the PCSOs as well as the need for part-funded PCSOs, Mr Passmore hasn't responded so Cllr Smith will chase this up. Cllr Smith attended the recent memorial service for Frank Barker where full tribute was paid. He visited the Aldhurst Farm development and was very impressed with what has been achieved. Cllr Smith also attended the Youth Club AGM and awarded certificates and medals with the Chairman to approx. 120 children for the Library Reading Challenge at the Long Shop, well done Leiston Library! He also attended the Suffolk Libraries AGM at the Suffolk Food Hall which was well attended. Cllr Smith reported that the bus stop at Aldringham Court now has bus stop signs in place and mentioned that Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council hope to install a bus shelter in due course, which he will cover half the cost of with the parish council. He also confirmed he is hosting the Suffolk Museum of the Year event in the Long Shop Museum who have been nominated for an award. With regards to the Lorry Watch scheme, Cllr Smith is trying to get reassurance and is pressuring Trading Standards for action.

Cllr Hodgson asked Cllr Smith to look at the cycle path to Sizewell and see the excellent work volunteers from the town have achieved clearing the path. He said this should be done by SCC and not rely on volunteers. Cllr Smith commended the work done and offered a small grant to support the team. Cllr Ginger felt SCC should have completed the work earlier as it was a health and safety matter with cyclists having to go onto the road to avoid the overgrowth on the path from the hedges/weeds. Cllr Ginger also asked if we would get a grammar school in the area to which Cllr Smith advised he didn't know. Cllr Boast raised concerns regarding a recent hate crime incident and will send the details to Cllr Smith to investigate.

Mr Briggs asked if anyone would be taking on the recently closed Skills Centre at Halesworth. Cllr Smith will look into this. Mr Jenkins raised concerns regarding diversion routes for buses when utility companies had to close a road, the public are not advised and wait for buses which do not turn up. He also raised the problems with the high street resurfacing and the pavement issues at the traffic lights where he feels someone will be seriously hurt. Cllr Smith confirmed he is awaiting a response on when the work will be carried out. Mr Friend, who has been helping to clear the cycle path to Sizewell, felt the landowner should be

pressured into cutting back the hedge/vegetation to avoid these problems in the future. Cllr Smith will speak to Highways to ask if a letter has been sent to the landowner regarding these issues. It was also noted that thanks were due to the three ladies who also helped Mr Cooper to do this work.

86. District Councillor

Cllr Cooper had tendered his apologies but had put a report on the table to update members on various issues currently being addressed by SCDC. Cllr Pratt took the floor and congratulated Cllr Betson on being elected. He mentioned there was no further update on devolution but a meeting will take place in early November to discuss further. Cllr Pratt reported at the recent SCDC Cabinet meeting the Leiston Project had been recommended but the name of the project was a concern. Cllr Ginger asked if a new name had been agreed and Cllr Pratt confirmed two Cabinet members had requested this to be considered.

87. Public session

Mr Briggs reported he was assured by EDF that that the ditch running along behind the lower end of Carr Avenue would be cleared out as part of Aldhurst Farm project but nothing has been done. He feels the residents have been deceived and will write to EDF expressing these concerns and asked for the support of LTC at further meetings with EDF.

The meeting took a break from 8.25pm until 8.35pm

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2016 at 8.35pm**

PRESENT

**Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T E Hodgson
Councillor W M Howard
Councillor J Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor C Nichols**

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Mrs Sammy Betson on being elected and welcomed her to the Leiston Town Council.

88. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6 September 2016 be signed as a true record.

89. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Cooper, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Bailey.

90. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported that she had recently attended, with a number of other councillors, the Aldhurst Farm habitat area on 7 September which had been organised by Amber Brinkley of EDF. The Project Manager, Dr Steve Mannings, advised at various points along the route on how the area had been transformed and answered councillor's questions throughout the visit. On 20 September the Chairman, along with County Cllr Smith, presented children with medals and certificates for the Summer Reading Awards held at the Long Shop Museum. She also presented prizes to 5 winners of the Roald Dahl characters treasure hunt. The Chairman also attended the open evening of Alde Valley Academy on 22 September and after talking to staff and students came away feeling very positive about the new direction of the school. The Chairman attended the Sizewell Residents meeting on 26 September at Sizewell B Visitors Centre, and presented a report seeking the views of residents regarding the possibility of a village sign for Sizewell. The report was very well received and they will discuss further with Cllr Morsley. The Chairman reminded councillors of the Festival of Remembrance which takes place on Wednesday 9 November at the Leiston Film Theatre and also Remembrance Sunday on 13 November where she will lay a wreath on behalf of the Council and hoped councillors would be able to attend these occasions.

91. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Levermore item 10 and 12.

92. Aldhurst Farm Habitat Site Visit

Members noted the report from Cllr Taylor. Cllr Howard felt LTC should write to EDF regarding reinstating the ditch and Cllr Last and Cllr Ginger agreed. Cllr Last felt LTC should seek reassurance that control measures are in place and request the risk assessment documentation be shared with LTC. Cllr Hill reported this was raised on the site visit with Dr Manning who felt no further work was necessary. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed to write to EDF asking for them to clean out the ditch due to previous flooding issues and ask for written documentation on the risk assessments that had been carried out.

93. Minutes from Open Spaces Committee – 12 September

Minutes previously circulated. Cllr Ginger proposed, Cllr Nichols seconded and all agreed to accept these minutes as a true record.

Item 6 - It was proposed by Cllr Nichols, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed to pursue the offer of woodland trees by the ACT.

Item 7 - It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to have new safety surfacing totalling £10,385 installed as required from the RoSPA report.

Item 8 – A proposal by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, to install bow top fencing to Kiln Lane boundary and the sports field at a cost of £9,000 was not agreed. An amendment by Cllr Hodgson proposed just to have bow top fencing for the sports field and no fence along Kiln Lane but this was not carried. After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to have bow top fencing for the sports field and straight top fencing along Kiln Lane at a cost of £6,700. The Clerk felt the swing gates need further discussion at the walkaround meeting on 18 October, all agreed.

Item 10 – The Deputy Clerk is investigating costs of lighting at the BMX and is awaiting a quote from SCC.

94. Sizewell Beach Management Meeting – 20 September

Report previously circulated. The Clerk reported the winches are being investigated by SCDC as permission hadn't been granted and Norse will clear a path for access to the light. Cllr Ginger felt Galloper had left the beach in a dreadful state and the Clerk acknowledged it will be reinstated properly in due course.

95. January Council Meeting

Due to the community centre being redecorated during the first two weeks of January it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that we will have the January Council meeting on 17 January when the centre will be open again.

96. Lunch Club

Ann Davis, who runs the Lunch Club, is retiring at Christmas. Cllr Ginger asked if LTC can help this voluntary group possibly with advertising for a new cook but there is a considerable commitment to this voluntary role. After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed to offer LTC support to the Lunch Club Committee.

97. Community Allotment

Report previously circulated. Cllr Levermore reported that the allotment is going well after the first few sessions and requested permission from LTC to have a shipping container put on the site. Cllr Levermore is investigating funding for a compost toilet to be on the site and has also spoken to the Coop regarding a camera for security. Cllr Howard and Cllr Ginger both stated they do not want CCTV on the allotment. It was proposed by Cllr Morsley, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed to give permission for a container to be put on the site. Cllr Levermore will gather more information on the security/CCTV.

98. Leiston Business Association

The Clerk attended the EGM on 29 September and reported they are winding up. Four trustees have been nominated to look after the remaining funds of £9,000 and they will still organise the flags and the Christmas lights.

99. Christmas Fayre

Cllr Levermore reported the Long Shop are looking to extend the Christmas Fayre with late night shopping and events taking place on the Post Office Square plus the Christmas light switch on. This will then link in with the Christmas Ball at the LTAA. It is hoped to have the Christmas tree placed in the Black Horse car park which is a more central location. Cllr Last felt the Christmas tree should stay on High Green but happy to have an additional tree in the town, Cllr Howard in agreement. It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed to keep a Christmas tree on High Green and support an additional tree. It was further proposed by Cllr Betson, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed to grant up to £500 from the Community Event reserve to support the Long Shop with the Christmas Fayre.

100. Allotment Walkaround

Cllr Hill conveyed feedback from the walkaround that the allotments are tidy and the best they have been for some time. There is a small waiting list with a couple of plots due to become vacant shortly.

101. Newsletter Feedback

The Clerk explained that the article regarding the parking in the Coop came in at the last minute prior to going to print so he was unable to circulate the draft for councillors to see in advance. The Clerk has spoken to the Chief Executive who confirmed extra disabled parking will be done in time for the Post Office opening in Coopers and the change of traffic flow in that area. Mr Grosvenor (CE) wouldn't divulge which company is going into the old homewares area of the building until the agreements have all been signed. Unfortunately, the staff in the Coop still haven't been informed of the changes which is frustrating for everyone.

102. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Cllr Nichols, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £14,557.43 along with £12,365.96 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) External Auditors Report for 2015/16 Accounts

There were two minor issues with the return whereby one figure was put in the wrong box and in box 10 the figure was understated by £44.00, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the report is accepted.

103. Planning Matters

DC/16/3818/PNH – Proposed extension single storey UPVC conservatory – 142 King Georges Avenue, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported the Plan is still with the Inspector. Hopefully this will be signed off by the end of October and a further update will be given at the November meeting.

104. Correspondence

Leiston and Saxmundham Co-ordinator

Interviews are taking place on 6 October at the Sizewell Sports and Social Club. Two candidates have unfortunately dropped out so only 2 people will be interviewed. Councillors are welcome to attend the morning recruitment session before the official interviews take place in the afternoon.

Sizewell Cycle Path

Mr Russell Cooper and his team have been clearing the cycle path along to Sizewell and have made an excellent job. It was proposed by Cllr Levermore, seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed to grant Mr Cooper £100.00 towards fuel costs and new brooms.

Leiston Royal British Legion Branch

A letter of thanks had been received from Mr Trevor Peskett, thanking the Council and staff for their support during his term as Branch Chairman. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a thank you letter to Mr Peskett for all his hard work during his Chairmanship.

Family Fun Day at Sizewell Sports and Social Club

Unfortunately the event ran at a loss, probably due to the poor weather conditions. The Clerk is still awaiting a summary of the accounts.

SCDC Budget Meeting

SCDC are holding their annual budget review meeting on 28 November and councillors are welcome to attend. The Clerk asked councillors to let him know if they are interested in attending and will then inform SCDC of our representatives.

Letter from Hilary Durrant

Members noted the letter from Mrs Durrant and asked the Clerk to write to her regarding her concerns.

SALC AGM

Further to Cllr Ginger's motion for the Lorry Watch scheme, the Clerk has put together a concise motion for councillor's comments. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed for Cllr Hodgson to take this to the SALC AGM in November.

Concertus Report

The Clerk has received a quote for a condition survey to be carried out on the old middle school site on the area which the Council have been offered to take over. The Clerk will instruct Concertus to carry out this survey under his delegated powers. The Clerk and councillors also thanked County Cllr Smith for all his hard work behind the scenes to give LTC the offer of the building.

105. County Matters

Cllr Levermore raised the white lining outside the Guide Hut which still hasn't been done. The Deputy Clerk confirmed Highways has this on the work plan but no date had been given.

106. District Matters

Nothing raised.

107. Questions to the Chairman

Sizewell

Cllr Harle asked where the sea defences are and if horses are allowed on the beach. The Clerk informed Cllr Harle there were no sea defences and that horses are allowed on the beach.

Adder Signage

Cllr Last asked if the Heathlands Team had agreed to further signage. The Clerk is still awaiting a response.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm.

Chair

Dated
