

Pre-meeting Reports
9 January 2018

177. Laura Hack, Project Officer, Suffolk Coastal District Council

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Hack who gave councillors an update on the current proposals to upgrade the Leisure Centre and swimming pool. Mrs Hack gave a detailed overview of the proposed plans and it is hoped work will start in September 2018. She advised the centre may have to close until January 2019 with a phased re-opening but consultation is being sought with the clubs who use the centre and staff jobs would be safe. Cllr Betson asked if solar panelling could be put on the roof and Mrs Hack explained that is an option in the next phase of the development. Cllr Levermore was concerned for the swimming club if the pool was closed and asked if the all weather pitch would remain. Mrs Hack said they were meeting with various clubs to discuss the closure and confirmed no work is being done to the all weather pitch. Cllr Howard queried the cost of the refurbishment and staffing. Mrs Hack confirmed a 20 year contract with Places for People is in place and the estimated refurbishment cost will be £3.5-£4m. Cllr Casagrande asked how the contract is managed and Mrs Hack explained a dedicated officer monitors the contract with Places for People. Cllr Hodgson queried why there are no windows on the lower floor and Mrs Hack explained that was due to alleviate noise issues for nearby residents. Cllr Ginger queried solar panelling and if this would benefit SCDC to which Mrs Hack replied tariffs are very low, so they would need to weigh up the benefits. Cllr Harle queried if it was possible for the solar panels to generate enough power to run the lights and heat the pool but Mrs Hack was unable to answer this query. A resident asked who the freeholder is and Mrs Hack confirmed Suffolk Coastal now owns the whole site.

178. County Councillor

County Cllr Rainger gave an update on the Suffolk Energy Gateway Scheme. This was now seeking funding for a 4 villages bypass with 299 responses received from the consultation. Cllr Rainger said the Jacobs Report was on the SCC website as well as his own blog page. County Cllr Rainger also reminded everyone to have a flu vaccination, especially for those who suffer with chronic health conditions. Cllr Ginger queried if Carrillion was the highways contractor SCC used but County Cllr Rainger confirmed Kiers hold the contract. A resident asked why Leiston Barclays Bank was not included in the letter from Dr Therese Coffey, MP regarding possible closure and asked if Leiston was secure. County Cllr Rainger will seek clarification. A resident wanted to know the costs of the 3 separate attempts at resurfacing the High Street and County Cllr Rainger will investigate. A resident asked if the Highbury Field site had been sold to a property developer and the Clerk confirmed it hadn't.

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.

179. District Councillor

Unfortunately, Cllr Pratt and Cllr Cooper were not in attendance but a report from Cllr Cooper was tabled.

180. Public Forum

A resident raised concerns regarding the recent refurbishment of the Jubilee Gates and that he felt they were discolouring and not weathering well.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018 at 7.40pm**

PRESENT

**Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor Miss F Casagrande
Councillor Mrs S Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T Hodgson
Councillor W H Howard
Councillor J N Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor C Nichols**

181. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Betson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5 December 2017 be signed as a true record.

182. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Cooper and Mrs Gibson.

183. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman was invited to talk to James Hazell from Radio Suffolk on their Christmas Tour of the district, when they came to Leiston in the BBC outside broadcast bus. Other members of the community, including Elspeth Gibson and Wayne Burns also came along. Father Christmas was there for the children to visit and mince pies and sausage rolls were served. It was excellent to have Leiston highlighted on Radio Suffolk. The Leiston Surgery Patient Participation Group, at their meeting on 3 January, had a presentation

from Sharon Cuthbert, the Project Officer for the Leiston Dementia Project. Among some of the plans for 2018 is to set up a Leiston-cum-Sizewell Good Neighbours Scheme and to support the development of opportunities such as the Men's Woodwork Shed and Community Allotment. Rachel Nightingale, the Social Prescribing Link Worker, will be giving a presentation at the March meeting regarding the implementation of this project. The Leiston Men's Shed have invited the Chairman to visit next week so the shedders can tell her about the current engineering work they are doing for the Long Shop Museum and plans for a woodworking shed behind the Town Council offices. On 8 January, the Chairman attended the first Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Leiston Town Pastors. Carol Cotton is now the Lead Town Pastor and the new Co-ordinator is Elizabeth Masterton-Smith. There are seven Trustees and they intend to investigate charitable status. The Chairman, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked the Town Pastors for their work in Leiston over the past year. The Chairman was pleased to report that Leiston Primary School had been rated 'Good' from the recent Ofsted inspection with a number of strengths highlighted in the report and wished to convey the Town Council's congratulations to all those involved in achieving this successful outcome. With Alde Valley Academy and Suffolk New College recently achieving the same status, it is a very welcome and positive message for our community.

184. Chairman's Reception – 20 April 2018

Councillors noted the date, which does not clash with any events at the Church. Cllr Last informed the Chairman he was unable to attend.

185. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Howard item 10a, Cllr Levermore item 10b and Cllr Hill for Leiston Film Theatre.

186. Leiston Together

The Clerk gave members a brief update on Leiston Together. Councillors felt that a comprehensive housing needs survey should be done and asked that Leiston Together consider part funding this. Cllr Hodgson reported the scoping day for the Community Land Trust (CLT) went well and is awaiting the report. The next steps are to get trustees in place and for the working party to arrange a public meeting.

187. Housing Group Update

Cllr Betson tabled a report and felt, after a very busy year, it was moving forward well.

188. School Transport Consultation

Report previously circulated. Cllr Betson proposed we consult with the local schools for their views on their preferred option and respond on that basis, Cllr Levermore seconded. Cllr Howard asked to amend the proposal to also contact Suffolk New College for their views, which was then agreed by all.

189. Newsletter

We have a meeting date set for 24 January, but this was felt to be too early, so it was agreed to put this back until March, with publication at the end of March.

190. Finance and Personal

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £20,599.28 along with £15,656.58 paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) Sparkle and Ice Event 2 December 2017 – Accounts Sheet

Councillors noted the report previously circulated. Cllr Levermore said the Leiston Events Group were very pleased with how it went.

191. Setting the Precept 2018/2019

Members noted the Clerk's report and discussed the various pressures and aspirations that affected the amount that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council needed to continue providing the facilities and services it currently did. They also looked to the future to ensure they were responsibly making provision for projects that would enhance the town and benefit residents in years to come. Members agreed to continue supporting the Youth Club and the toilets in Dinsdale Road as well making provision for incremental contributions to the various earmarked reserves currently held. To continue services at the current level required an increase from £260,000 to £267,000 just to keep up with inflation. Members noted this and also noted that this increase did not increase the Band D contribution for Leiston residents as the tax base had increased sufficiently to cover this (more houses have been built that pay Council Tax). Members then discussed the additional provision that had been requested for various initiatives for the coming year. There was discussion on the need to provide toilets on our recreation grounds, but this was looking to be too costly at the moment. Thought was given to putting money aside to provide catering facilities within the Middle School section the Council will be leasing but this was postponed until we had gained a better understanding of the usage etc. Finally, it was agreed to make provision of £10,000 to the wages budget to allow the Council the option of hiring some part time help for the office staff or to employ an apprentice as this Council takes on more and more responsibilities. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the Precept for 2018/19 be set at £277,000. Members noted that this was an increase of 8p a week for Band B properties and, overall it added 10p a week to the approximately £1.30 a week increase being imposed by the County and District Councils on Band D tax payers.

The meeting took a break from 8.30pm to 8.45pm

192. Planning Matters

DC/17/5147/FUL – Single storey extension including dining room, utility and WC at 31 Quakers Way, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/5250/FUL – Redevelopment for the site for 24 dwellings comprising of conversion of the clubhouse into twelve apartments and redevelopment of the former bowling green for two blocks of apartments comprising twelve units with associated access and landscaping at Leiston and District Constitutional Club Ltd, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston

Members noted the inclusion of sufficient parking and hoped that the configuration and the size of the bays was useable and well proportioned. They were pleased to see that the frontage would not be altered and were relieved that the site would become less of an eyesore now should this plan be passed. The only issue of concern was the egress onto Waterloo Avenue and how that worked with the zebra crossing. This was installed as part of previous developments around this site to allow good safe access to the recreation ground opposite. This must be retained. The kerbs and pavements should be made very disabled friendly to allow easy passage across the entry road itself as this is a well-travelled footway. Cllr Howard against.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/5450/FUL – Single storey side extension – replacement of existing timber fencing to front boundary. New boundary treatment to be red facing brickwork with black painted metal railings. Height of new front boundary wall to be 1.2m from ground level at 55 Abbey Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/5447/FUL – Minor extensions to front and rear, removal of variety of existing roofs and erection of new roof form, including new front porch canopy at 7 Station Road, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

193. County Matters

No response had been received from Highways regarding Sizewell Hall Road flooding and drainage issues and the Deputy Clerk will chase this matter.

194. District Matters

Cllr Howard commented that there are proposals for free parking in Felixstowe which small towns, such as Leiston, would benefit from. Cllr Ginger felt the Gateway Housing system was not working properly as local people cannot obtain housing but people outside the parish can. He suggested inviting a Gateway officer to a future Council meeting to give a presentation on how the Gateway system works. Cllr Casagrande said the system was set up to allow people to move around and thought it worked well.

195. Correspondence

Grant Request from Revitalise

A letter had been received from Revitalise requesting funding to help towards providing essential breaks to disabled people and their carers. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed to grant £100.00.

Ambulance Response Times in Leiston

A response from the East of England Ambulance Service had been received giving further information and offering to come to speak to the Council regarding this matter. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Morsley and agreed that we invite them to a future Council meeting to answer our concerns.

SPLG

A letter had been received from Mr Roy Dowding requesting representation from Leiston Town Council on this Group. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Casagrande and agreed not to be part of this Group.

196. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Bailey raised concerns regarding the refurbishment of the Jubilee Gates which the Clerk will check. Cllr Levermore was concerned the Sylvester Road car park was not being used with cars parking along the grassed verges on Seaward Avenue. Cllr Bailey felt a letter should be sent to Therese Coffey, MP regarding the Barclays Bank issue. It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed to write to Dr Coffey to explain her letter. Cllr Geater expressed concerns that the Lloyds Chemist was closing, which is another empty shop. Cllr Harle reported large rocks/concrete blocks had been washed up on the beach which was a health and safety issue. The Clerk will report this to Suffolk Coastal.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----