

Pre-meeting Reports
13th January 2009

162.Public Forum. Mr Taylor reminded the Council that the current consultation on the Local Development Framework (LDF) ends on the 20th February. He then asked members what the Councils' view was on a potential newbuild Sizewell C taking place next to Sizewell A which has not yet been defuelled and how this correlated with the projected increase in housing in Leiston currently incorporated in the draft LDF. He felt that members should really pay regard to the health issues that this situation gave rise to for the future proposed increase in population. Members noted his concerns but were unable to give an opinion before they discussed the LDF at their February meeting. In response to a query from Mr Taylor on how the NII were involved in this Cllr Hawkins was able to assure him that each and every planning application for new accommodation in Leiston was currently sent to the NII for comment. There was then a question on scrap price which Cllr Nunn fielded. SCDC currently receive a set price for all recyclables from Viridor in accordance with an agreement due to run until 2010. Members and public alike were very concerned about the dangerous situation that had arisen by installing the new Zebra crossing in Waterloo Avenue. Without the addition of some further immediate parking restrictions this situation would continue and was potentially very hazardous.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the reports to be completed.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
13th JANUARY 2009, at 7.36 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)

Councillor D. E. Bailey

Councillor B. A. Barnes

Councillor D. R. Boast

Councillor A. M. Cooper

Councillor C.S. Ginger

Councillor T. J. Hawkins

Councillor T. E. Hodgson

Councillor W.H. Howard

Councillor F. R. Huxley

Councillor J. Morrissey

Councillor A. J Nunn

163. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of 6th January 2009 were on the table. As this meeting was a continuation of that meeting both sets of minutes would be accepted as a true record in February which would allow members time to read them.

164.Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Geater, Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Parker.

165.Chairman's Communications. The Chairman had no communications other than to report that she had been to the Pantomime last week and had been very impressed with the standard and quality of the production – it had been a huge success with every available seats sold for every performance.

166.Code of Conduct Members noted that the current arrangements for public participation worked very well and that they could, without any amendment, accommodate the right for Councillors with a prejudicial interest to address the Council as allowed by the Code of Conduct (paragraph 12[2]). Cllr Ginger felt that the public should be allowed to talk after the Council had discussed any item that a Councillor had a prejudicial interest in to allow the Councillor to comment on the decision etc. and for the public to ask questions. This was deemed unworkable as the Councillor would still have to have left the room during the debate and the intention of the new right was for Councillors to be able to address the meeting before the item to which the prejudicial interest was attached. Similarly, opening up to the public between agenda items to allow the Councillor to speak before a specific item could also make it difficult for the Chairman should a member of the public take the opportunity to speak to a retrospective item. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that no change to the meeting layout (and Standing Order N^o1) be made at this time.

167.Meeting with representatives of British Energy 8th January. Cllr Ginger reported that, on 8th January, he and Cllr Morrissey met with two representatives from British Energy to get an update on the current planning process vis-à-vis Sizewell C. Mr Ian Bryant and Dr David Norfolk gave a short presentation and answered as many questions as time allowed. A summary of the issues raised are;

- The takeover of British Energy by EDF was now all but complete and BE could now be considered an EDF company.
- Although four reactors were shown as being possible contenders for use in the UK the above takeover could well affect the choice of reactor as EDF is currently constructing in other countries and may well favour a design they have experience of. The EPR is the most likely and the plan would be for two reactors and two turbines to be constructed with an 18 month separation.
- The work force could peak at 5000 although some estimates are lower.
- BE are still considering building a separate access road to the “C” site to the north of Kenton Hills/Goose Hill and using land in that area to build construction offices, to store materials and to use as a staging area for the construction site. The question of spoil was also raised.
- Dr Norfolk described the requirement now in force under the Energy Act 2008 under which finance is to be ringfenced outside both the companies and the governments control to ensure that, this time, it is there for decommissioning when it is required. There would be no subsidy apart from the Government’s residual liability to meet claims above a certain limit in the event of absolute emergencies (earthquakes for instance) although this continued to be a grey area because of that.
- Nothing had yet been proposed for travel plans for workers from the local area (out to 25miles).

Members heard that BE were meeting with SCDC planning officers on a regular basis although, as any plan would not be submitted for at least 12 months, these meetings (reported by the Clerk) were just to keep SCDC informed of where BE was in the process. It is understood however that SCDC had made it clear that they were very keen to protect the AONB and other designated sites and would be looking at the design to minimize its impact on the landscape. This included requesting that BE reconsider the need for a new road and that they look at housing and offices etc. in Leiston. Cllr Ginger also reported that he had made it clear to BE that, of all the issues that were emerging related to the proposed newbuild, the new road was the most controversial.

168.Planning Matters.

- a. C08/2204 – Redevelopment of static and touring caravan site, including extension of static caravan site with replanned layout (total of 54 static caravans). Provision of 20 static caravans within touring caravan site and construction of access road and parking spaces. Cliff House Caravan Site, Sizewell Hall Road, Sizewell.** Members asked that the NII be informed as the total occupancy of the site appeared to be increasing and that Mr Topliss be informed for emergency planning purposes. It was hoped that SCDC would place whatever restriction they could on the static properties to ensure they did not become either second homes or permanent residences – perhaps shutting the site for one month. Otherwise members were content with the new layout.

RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE

169.County Matters.

- a. Waterloo Avenue.** Members asked the Clerk to write and get the County to quickly look at the problem the new Zebra crossing had created with regard to lack of visibility.
- b. 40mph zone at Sizewell.** Members felt that this was possibly incorrectly implemented and asked the Clerk to find out the legal status of the zone outside Greater Gabbard works.
- c. Cyclepath by Halfway Houses.** Now the bollards have been installed on the Cyclepath outside Halfway Houses it has become very necessary to cut back the path to its full width as the positioning of the bollards have narrowed the path and made it awkward to negotiate – especially in the dark. The Clerk was asked to action.

170.District Matters.

- a. Parish Liaison Meeting of 7th January.** Members noted the minutes of the latest Parish Liaison Meeting with SCDC which were on the table.

171.Correspondence.

- a. Disability Advice Service.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Disability Advice Service and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to donate £50 as allowed under section 137 of the LGA 1972.

- b. **Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Suffolk Accident rescue Service and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley, it was agreed to donate £75 as allowed under section 137 of the LGA 1972.
- c. **Optua.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Optua and, on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to donate £50 as allowed under section 137 of the LGA 1972.
- d. **Old Post Office Square seating.** Members noted SCDC’s intention to commission an artwork which would act as a seat under the trees in Old Post Office Square – they were invited to a meeting with the artist on 14th January.

172. Personnel. Cllr Cooper asked that all the staff’s contracts be reviewed in February.

173. Questions to the chairman. The Chairman asked members if the 30th April was a suitable date for this year’s Chairman’s Reception. Members put the date into their diaries.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

----- Chair

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