

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
22nd AUGUST 2006, at 7:30p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor Mrs J. I. Girling
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor J. L. Geater
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor Mrs D. Y. May
Councillor A. J. Nunn

Before the meeting the Chairman asked everyone to observe a minutes silence in memory of Mr Cyril Michael Dunnett who had recently passed away. "Micky Dunnett" had been a Councillor on the old Urban District Council from 1953–1966.

- 59. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr May and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2006 be signed as a true record noting the addition to minute 57c in the circulated minutes of the requirement for SCDC to consult with the NII on Planning Application C06/1300/FUL.
- 60. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Blowers, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Barnes, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Mrs Geater, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Howard.
- 61. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman welcomed Mr Mike Topliss, Emergency Planning Officer for Suffolk Coastal and Inspector Graham Underwood, Suffolk Constabulary who had kindly come along to brief members on the Sizewell off site emergency plan.

7:35pm – The meeting was closed to hear a presentation from....

- 62. Presentation by Mr Mike Topliss on the Off Site Emergency Plan for Sizewell Nuclear Power Stations.** Mr Topliss gave a power point presentation and talk on the Multi-Agency Off Site Emergency Plan for Sizewell Nuclear Power Stations. He explained who was responsible for each aspect of the plan, the regulations which detail this and how it was intended to put the plan into practise. The slides used during the presentation are attached to these minutes and provide a clear picture of the subjects covered.
- Some of the areas which prompted questions and further explanations are covered here but it is not intended to report the entire detail of the plan in these minutes. The plan itself is now held in the Council offices and is available for inspection by any member of the public who might wish to view it.
- The provision of information outside of the 2.4km "Detailed Emergency Planning Zone" (DEPZ) was discussed as members have long felt that a leaflet giving a good overview of the recommended actions to take in the event of an emergency should be distributed to everyone in Leiston and not just those that live within the DEPZ. Unfortunately the meeting was informed that there is no legal requirement (under REPPPIR Prior Information arrangements) to provide this information and, at present, no budget for it. It had been discussed at the EPCC (Emergency Planning Consultative Committee) in the past but the operators were not keen to extend the number of households to which this information is sent. Members were pleased to learn however that all residents inside the zone are still regularly canvassed for any changes to their circumstances and records kept in case of the need for evacuation.
- A Nuclear Emergency is declared when radiation actually leaves the site and is a threat to the local populace. The Police are informed and a site emergency control centre is set up at the station. The police activate the local emergency centre at Martlesham and control events from there. Local checkpoints are set up and evacuation teams are mustered by the police if the incident is serious enough for evacuation to be considered (although this will always be a last resort). The best and most simple advice, as for almost all emergencies, is for everyone to go indoors, shut all windows and doors and then tune into Radio Suffolk. The wind direction is all important to so, for instance, if a sou'westerly flow prevails there will probably be no problems for residents at all.
- Members were told that young people are the most at risk from the probable radioactive iodine that would be present in an emergency and that the Potassium Iodate stocks held at various locations and distributed to those residents in the DEPZ were designed to reduce the risk of this affecting the thyroid gland of those at risk. Miss Oliver was interested to note that the thyroid gland of older residents would be very much less susceptible to the dangers of the radioactive iodine and, therefore, not such a danger.

The main aim of the evening was to look at the evacuation plans and to correlate them with the remote site criteria that Mr Robbins had presented to Council on 25th July. Mr Topliss was asked to address the issue raised whereby members were told then that Leiston had 1000 more residents than was considered safe by that criteria. He pointed out that his job was to plan for the actual population and not the theoretical limit and that is what he had done. He was confident there were contingencies and resources to conduct an evacuation of Leiston (including the transient increase due to schools and tourists) but, on being questioned, stated that he would be very unhappy about the Town increasing in size by much more. As for the criteria – he felt that there was a case for the remote site criteria to be looked at again now with hindsight as experience and advanced technology had made the stations safer overall than was envisaged when the current figures were published to cater for Magnox technology. Until then though the guidelines had to be taken into account and used accordingly. It was hoped that SCDC would be having further discussions with the NII Land Use Inspector in the next week or two to try and get more clarification on this to allow Council to formulate its final response to the consultation on Site Specific elements of the Local Development Framework. Clearer guidelines would also be needed for the wider policy documents.

This resume has been sighted by Mr Topliss who has agreed that it is a fair representation of his talk.

9:30pm – Meeting resumed

63. Planning Matters

- a) There were no planning applications for consideration.

64. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Cllr Ginger enquired whether it might be possible to get the Government to initiate some sort of enquiry/review (judicial or public) into whether the recently passed plans for Colonial House could be subject to closer scrutiny as they were not passed to the NII for comment before they were passed. This would be discussed at the next meeting along with other issues that might come to mind once members had had time to digest the facts put before them during the main presentation.
- b) Members asked that the Clerk inform Mr Brown (Local Development Framework) of their desire to discuss various items with him on his forthcoming visit in September – specifically the Health Centre, the Caravan Park, Social Housing, the Middle School and Railways. Other items detailed in their July submission would also be revisited and adjusted accordingly depending on the latest advice available at that time vis-à-vis remote site criteria.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed, that Standing Orders be suspended to allow important business to be completed.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 10.07 pm.

----- Chair

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