

Pre-meeting Reports
6th September 2011

- 43. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Police Constable Carl Lawrence, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave the meeting a very comprehensive report on the crimes committed in Leiston during the months of July and August (attached). Cllr Last wondered whether the current debate about when anti-social behaviour becomes criminal damage could consider the regular theft and damage done to estate agent signs. Cllr Howard thanked PC Lawrence for his brief on the domestic incidents in the town and Cllr Bailey (R) thanked him for the excellent police response to a recent incident near his home. Mr Briggs also thanked Carl for the way the police had dealt with an incident he was involved in and asked whether more CCTV around the town would help reduce some of the crimes that had been reported at the beginning of the meeting. PC Lawrence explained how the CCTV in the various business premises around the town were used and how useful they were – more coverage would obviously increase the usefulness and would help solve even more incidents than the current fit does already.
- 44. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who briefed members on the new consultation now taking place on the future of mobile libraries. He also pointed out that discussions would soon be starting at County Hall on how the County Council intended to find the £31 million savings needed to cover the shortfall in next year's Government funding. Members were pleased to hear that all the verge strengthening had now been completed in Seaward Avenue and Sylvester Road. Cllr Smith explained that, unfortunately, he had spent much of his next year's Quality of Life budget to complete the project and that this meant that the similar works needed in St Margaret's Crescent would have to wait until further funding was now found. Cllr Mrs Nunn asked that members thanks to Cllr Smith be recorded for his efforts in commissioning and funding the project and for the improvements that the new verges had made. Cllr Smith then went on to talk through and discuss with the meeting the issue of the mitigation that had been agreed earlier in the year for the Dry Fuel Store at Sizewell. Finally he reported on the proposed plans for the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Lovers Lane and the options for improving the road safety aspects around the site. Questions and comments from members and the public included concern about road signs that were becoming overgrown, lorries that increasingly ignore the 7.5t sign and go through the town centre and the speed of traffic in Seaward Avenue.
- 45. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that the proposed transformer building at Sizewell Halt would be going in front of the North Area Development Control Committee on 14th September. Cllr Hodgson informed him that development control in Suffolk Coastal had been brought up as an issue at the previous evenings SALC area meeting. There were concerns in other parishes that developments were not being controlled as well as they might. Cllr Hawkins was aware of the matter and it was agreed that, currently, there were no issues in Leiston. Mr Briggs asked District Councillors to campaign and lobby the government to get the 10% discount on Council Tax second home owners in the area currently enjoy, abolished. He felt that this was an anathema in the current climate.
- 46. Public Forum.** Mr Huxley reported that the formation of both Leiston and Saxmundham Youth Clubs was progressing well. They had appointed officers, approved constitutions and were now seeking funding to put their plans into action.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, and agreed, that standing orders be suspended to allow the public part of the meeting to continue.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
6th SEPTEMBER 2011, at 8.04 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor R. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor R. J. Geater
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C. S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor J. N. Last
Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn
Councillor J. I. Sparrow

Before the meeting started there was a minutes silence held in memory of Ron Ward. Ron had been a friend to many as well as Leiston's County Councillor. His help and support will be remembered.

47. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5th July 2011 be signed as a true record with one amendment to minute 38c). The minute should have read;- The discussion on the retention of the haul road at Sizewell C site resulted in a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey (R), that the application be refused. This was defeated however (Cllr Ginger wished his vote in favour to be recorded).
48. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nunn and Cllr Parker.
49. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the Royal British Legion Band celebration and anniversary on the Middle School Playing Field back in July. Later in the month he attended the Queen's Garden Party and, in August, he attended the Royal British Legion Race Day at Newmarket, again with the Band. Other events included a Police Community forum and a meeting with the Film Theatre Manager and Theatre Committee.
50. **Power of Well Being.** Members reviewed the training they had recently had on the Power of Well Being and looked through the Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement to see if it was still current and relevant. A few points were clarified before it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey (R) and agreed that the Statement be approved. It was then proposed by Cllr Bailey (R), seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council, having met all the conditions set down by statute under Local Government Public Involvement Health Act 2007, adopts the Power of Well Being, including the Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement forthwith.
51. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group.** Members had previously noted the minutes from the July meeting of the SSG and the report from the extraordinary public meeting that had been held to discuss the Japanese nuclear disaster and the lessons learned from it so far (before the publication of the official inquiry report). Cllr Howard then gave a verbal report of the most recent meeting held on 1st September where the author of the

mentioned report, Mr Mike Weightman, had declined to come and talk to the SSG, proposing instead, a regional meeting. Cllr Howard then outlined other issues raised including the mitigation issue of the Dry Fuel Store and the KiKK study from 2008 in Germany which looked into incidences of childhood cancer in the vicinity of nuclear power stations. Cllr Bailey updated the meeting on Sizewell A and the very slow defuelling process caused by problems at Sellafield. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed in due course.

52. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** Members noted the letter from Cllr Ray Herring (Leader of SCDC) to the SPLG in which he laid out the reasons for not allowing the SPLG to have representation on the District Council "Sizewell Task Group".
53. **Meeting with Paul Tynan (SCS Ltd.) 9th August.** Members noted the issues raised and added a few more for the next scheduled meeting on 28th September. These included the reinstatement of three litter bins removed from Hayling Pond Meadow, the litter bin at Sizewell top car park not being emptied regularly enough, weeds in Goldings Lane (a highway issue really) and a loose handrail, again at Haylings Pond.
54. **Film Theatre Committee meeting of 23rd August.** Members noted the minutes of the meeting and thanked Wayne and Hannah for the information that they had presented and the most professional way that they managed the venue. Cllr Last felt that there had been some good feedback at the meeting and suggested that Mr Burns should now put together more detailed proposals, costings and timescales for the future plans he had suggested for the changing rooms. With regard to the report on the Digital Funding Partnership (DFP) it was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that our membership of the DFP cease on expiration of this years subscription.
55. **Dry Fuel Store – section 106 agreement.** Members noted that the 106 agreement covered the Sizewell area of the AONB and undertook to inform the Clerk of any ideas that they had to make use of the proposed money. The Clerk would, in turn, find out how to feed these ideas into the system and try and get the Council involved in the management.
56. **Finance.**
 - a) **Office IT Project.** Members noted the progress in wiring up the network and server in the Council Offices.
 - b) **Review of Charges.** Members noted the report and recommendations put forward by the Clerk with regard to the various services offered by the Council and the remuneration the Council received for their use.
 - **Allotments.** Members agreed that it was unfortunate that the water rates and water usage on both sites kept increasing. They also noted that the overall income from allotment rental was only just keeping ahead of this expense with most members agreeing with the principal that there should not be any subsidy from the general rate (apart from infrastructure projects). Members discussed leaving the rates alone this year with a possible big increase next year or agreeing an incremental rise this year with a further review next summer. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the rate for a 10 rod plot should be increased by 50p to £15 per year from 1st October 2011 (£12 for OAP) and to £1 a rod for the Coldfair Green site. Cllr Bailey (R) abstained and Cllr Ginger voted against.
 - **Cinema Hire.** It was agreed not to raise the rates for hourly, daily or weekly hire of the Film Theatre.
 - **Community Centre Hire.** The hire fee for the Community Centre was reduced from £16 an hour to £10 an hour in 2003 when the Town Council took the building over from Suffolk Coastal. It has remained at that ever since. Members noted the report from the Clerk and agreed that, after all the improvements to the kitchen, the heating and the facilities that now was a good time to re-assess

the hire charges. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that the new charges should be £12 an hour for official and social use and £6 an hour (minimum of two hours) for charities.

During the above item Cllr Hawkins declared an interest as a regular user and abstained from voting. Cllr Ginger declared an interest in the Cinema Hire and the Community Centre and left the room for both.

- **72 High Street.** Members noted the recommendation from the Clerk for a 3% increase. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the rental for 72 High Street be set at £239 per calendar month from 1st April 2012.

c) Accounts for Payment. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £23,785.23p along with £40,249.42p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes (9.07pm – 9.22pm) for refreshments

57. Planning Matters.

- a. It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 10th August 2011 be accepted as a true record.
- b. A letter had been received from Hopkins Homes asking to come and brief members on their future plans in the Town before they went out to public consultation. Some members wished this to be at a formal meeting held in public but other members noted the wishes of the developer who had requested an informal briefing as they were not yet ready to go to the more detailed examination that a public exhibition would require. After a proposition for it to be held in public fell it was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that an informal meeting be arranged. Members wished it to be made clear that they would just be listening to the proposals, as they did when Tesco briefed them, so they would be prepared for the public consultation. Cllr Howard, Bailey (R) and Ginger still voted against however.
- c. **C11/1767 – Demolition of existing workshop and stores and erection of three new dwelling houses on land at the rear of 31 High Street Leiston.** Members were very concerned about the increased traffic that this proposal would generate and also felt that it was an overdevelopment of an unsuitable plot. (Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Cooper abstained)

RECOMMEND REFUSE

During the above item Cllr R Geater declared an interest, remained in the room but took no part in the vote.

- d. **C11/1837 – Insertion of Solar PV panels at Unit 11A (Newton Commercial), Eastlands Industrial Estate Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C11/1826 – Erection of single-storey rear lean-to extension (existing single-storey extension (existing single-storey extension to be demolished) 96 King Georges Ave., Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

58. County Matters.

- a. **Speeding in Seaward Avenue.** Cllr Sparrow pointed out to the meeting that there was a very real danger from cars and vans who speed down Seaward Avenue

unfamiliar with the nature of the road. 30mph was too fast and she wondered whether the County Council could have a look and see if there was a case for introducing a 20mph speed limit. The Clerk was asked to liaise.

- b. **Co-op lorries.** Cllr Ginger asked that the Co-op be contacted and reminded of the agreement which expected their delivery lorries to use Lovers Lane and KGA to approach the Solar and not Cross Street etc.

59. **District Matters.**

- a. **SALC Area Meeting.** Cllr R Bailey gave members a report of matters discussed at the previous evenings SALC Area meeting. The minutes would show the detail in due course but there were items on how affordable housing is becoming a very big concern, development control and the travelling community
- b. **Sizewell Management Meeting.** Members agreed for the Clerk to try and arrange this year's meeting for 5th October at 5pm.
- c. **Sizewell top car park.** Cllr Ginger asked that the sleeper vans be restricted to the lower car park at Sizewell and that consideration be given to put a disabled bay in on the top car park for residents to enjoy the view. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the above management meeting.
- d. **Overgrown hedges.** The Clerk was informed of the overgrown hedge along the footpath from Victory Road to King Edward Road.

60. **Correspondence**

- a. **Youth Club.** Members welcomed the letter from Gary Butler which gave details of the management group that had come together from local residents to offer youth provision again in Leiston after the County Council closed down the Youth Club earlier this year. It gave detailed costings for the service to continue and also gave hope of an extended service and a new junior club. The details were in response to a request from members who, in negotiations with the group earlier in the year, had, in principle, agreed to help with initial funding. The cost to keep the service running until 31st March 2012 worked out at £7,299. Cllr Howard asked that the group look a little more closely at their contingency costs in case they were not enough and on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Last, it was agreed to release £7,299 to fund the group for the rest of this year. It was agreed to put the issue of future funding onto the October agenda ready for setting the precept next year.
- b. **Vitalise.** Members noted the request for funding from Vitalise and, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Last it was agreed to release £50 set aside for this organisation.
- c. **Leiston Old Folk's Outing.** Members wished to support this year's outing so, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn it was agreed to grant £150 to LOFO for that purpose.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to complete.

- d. **Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) (aka the dump).** Members noted the options that Cllr Smith had looked at and investigated with his County Officers to make the highway access safer around the dump and agreed to put it on the October agenda to discuss further.
- e. **Police Federation.** Members noted the information sent to the Council by the Police Federation and it was agreed to take them up on their offer of coming to talk to the Council and answering questions.
- f. **Reduction in Warden Cover at Sheltered Housing sites.** Cllr Ginger briefed members on the outcome of a recent meeting he had attended which tried to find a way to alleviate the withdrawal of Warden cover at Charles Adams and Paxton Chadwick at weekends. He explained that the attempt to introduce a volunteer

scheme still wasn't satisfactory and members agreed that the Clerk should write to Flagship Housing and express our real concern over this measure. Members felt that in this age where we are all better off than we ever have been it just didn't seem right that we do not seem able to look after our elderly, frail and vulnerable residents.

- g. **CYDS.** Members noted the letter from CYDS explaining the work they do in the Town but this was already well known. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the £1,000 set aside to support CYDS in this work be released and put toward helping them continue some of the valuable services they provide.
- h. **Abbey Lane.** Members sympathised with the letter from a resident of Abbey Lane which explained just how dangerous the speeding traffic is in that road. Members were fully aware that much of this traffic is Sizewell employees using the lane as a rat run. The Clerk explained that he had looked at various ways to try and curb this speed with the County Council Highways officials but there was no immediate simple solution. A letter to Mr Crawford at Sizewell B might help and the Clerk was asked to write.

61. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. Cllr Boast asked the Chairman's permission to just pay tribute to and recognise the efforts of the rowers who recently paddled kayaks across the North Sea from Holland in honour of those Dutchmen who made that horrific journey during the second world war. The rowers had been touched by the memorial at Sizewell and had recreated the journey to highlight the feat. Some 150 plus residents and visitors, including Prince Harry and the BBC and ITV news teams, gathered at Sizewell to witness their achievement.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.22 pm.

Chair

Dated
