

Pre-meeting Reports
6th December 2011

101. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for November (attached). He reported that 10 of the 25 crimes had been detected and arrests had been made. He answered questions from members and the public and highlighted the “Be bright Be seen” campaign which was trying to educate children on the importance of lights and bright clothing when cycling at night. The meeting agreed that the many adults who cycle on pavements and without lights at night were setting an atrocious example and there was no excuse for such irresponsible behaviour. Cllr Ginger addressed the meeting on his concerns about the road safety aspects of some recent roadworks in Heath View where motorists had been directed to mount kerbs and cross verges by the contractors. They had also left a ramp overnight without adequate signage.

102. Chief Inspector Paul Sharp. The Chairman welcomed CI Paul Sharp back to answer questions on the changing face of policing in the County as the budget cutbacks took hold. Paul apologised that Inspector Nick Aitken couldn’t attend with him but would be coming to a meeting early in the New Year. Inspector Aitken was in one of the new, wider supervisory posts, that had recently been introduced which saw him overseeing the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and Response Units for the Leiston, Saxmundham, Beccles, Halesworth and Bungay areas. CI Sharp in turn had responsibility for the whole of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. To save £13.6 million and to maintain the same level of policing was indeed a challenge and, to keep the same number of PCSOs and Constables on the beat, meant that their supervisors had to take wider responsibilities as their numbers were reduced. He again assured members that Leiston station was safe and that the SNT would maintain its personnel and strength. The SNT Sergeant however would eventually be taking on the Saxmundham and Framlingham SNT as well. Response policing would be coming from Halesworth from early next year as Woodbridge closed but residents would not notice a difference. Members asked many questions and got very detailed about how the response was handled at watch changeover times. Paul answered all the queries raised, agreed to pass on response time data and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

103. County Report. The Chairman passed on Councillor Smith’s apologies as he was unable to attend this month. He then drew members attention to the report that Cllr Smith had provided and offered to pass on any queries the meeting might have that they would wish brought to the County Councillor’s attention.

104. District Report. Cllr Hawkins reported progress of various planning applications pertinent to Leiston and how members of the District Planning Committee had taken note of and addressed the Town Councils own comments and recommendations when determining them.

105. Public Session. Mr Huxley brought members attention to the incomplete yellow lines around the town and the incorrect placement of the loading/unloading sign by Fairweather Solicitors. The Clerk informed him that the County Council were aware of the shortcomings in their contractors work and were chasing them up. Mr Briggs drew members attention to the state of the level crossing in Station Road. There had recently been another bad accident there probably due to the atrocious dip in the road between the rails on the crossing. Network Rail had tried and failed to adequately repair this crossing in the past and he asked that members try and get Highways to take the issue up again to see if anything can be done. Mrs Bloomfield again complained that the road sweeping vehicle only did one side of Crown Street.

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 DECEMBER 2011, at 8.10p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D 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

106. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1st November be signed as a true record.
107. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Parker and Cllr Nunn
108. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, he had broken his wrist and foot and, therefore, had been severely restricted in what he could do. He thanked the Vice Chairman for representing him at the Festival of Remembrance and at the Remembrance Parade and Service.
109. **Highbury Cottages.** The Clerk informed the meeting that there was still no progress in managing to arrange a meeting with the landowners of the Cemetery Field to discuss again the possibility of installing a footpath to Highbury Cottages. It was hoped that a meeting could be arranged in December.
110. **Chairman's Reception.** It was agreed to have the Chairman's Reception on Tuesday 20th March 2012.
111. **Youth Club.** Members were pleased to read Mr Butler's report on how the Youth Club was now up and running and providing a valuable service to many of our young people on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to put the full cost of a further years operation of the club into the estimates for discussion in January.
112. **Dinsdale Road Toilets.** Members discussed whether they wished to keep the Public Conveniences open in Dinsdale Road for another year. After examining the pros and cons, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed to make provision in the estimates to keep the facility open for a further year.
113. **Administrative Assistant.** Members heard that Mr Claire Ellis had been offered a post as the Administrative Assistant to the Clerk by the Personnel Committee after interviews in November. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the appointment be confirmed and a contract offered.

114. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group Meeting of 1st December.** Cllr Howard gave a short verbal report on items raised at the recent SSG meeting held at Aldeburgh. The main issues of debate and concern had been to do with emergency planning, the measurement of releases when a reactor is opened up for refuelling and the amount of spent fuel stored on B site. With regard to the accident at Fukushima it was announced that Dr John Large would be giving a report of his visit to Japan in Saxmundham Market Hall on 15th December but there had been no date yet set for the regional talk promised by Mike Weightman on his report into that incident that he produced for the government.
115. **Allotment Association.** Members noted the report of the recent meeting the Allotment Committee had had with the Allotment Association and the actions that had been discussed.
116. **Fairtrade.** Cllr Mrs Nunn thanked Cllr Ron Bailey, Cllr Howard and Cllr Nunn for helping run a successful tombola and Fairtrade stall at the recent Christmas Fayre. It had helped spread the message and had generated interest in the concept and products. The Clerk was asked to try and progress the acquisition of a "Welcome to Leiston – a Fairtrade Town" sign for the entrances to help promote the groups work further.
117. **Quality Council.** The Clerk informed members that he had until 25th January to hand in a portfolio for re-accreditation or the Council would lose its Quality status until he did so. He hoped, now an Assistant had been appointed, he could catch up sufficiently to meet the deadline.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes from 8.50pm until 9.05pm

118. Finance.

- a) Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £24,772.13p along with £9,259.68p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) Auditors' Report 2010/2011.** Members noted that the external auditors had now completed their audit and had signed off last year's Annual Return with no qualifications. The two minor issues that BDO Stoy Hayward brought to members attention had already been addressed by the Clerk so on a proposition from Cllr Mrs Nunn, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to accept and approve the Annual Return for 2010/2011 and to note the issues raised.
- c) Draft estimates for 20012/13.** Members discussed the draft estimates the Clerk had drawn together for January and asked him to insert two more items for discussion in January. An amount to finish the fencing around the Community Centre and an amount to be used for the Golden Jubilee celebrations should something be proposed.

119. Planning Matters.

- a. C11/2456 – Erection of first floor extension at rear of 55 Crown Street , Leiston.** Members offered no comment on this application.

NO COMMENT

- b. C11/2347 – Erection of a pair of garages at 45 and 45A Abbey Road, Leiston.** The building being proposed was noted to be well forward of the building line and members were unsure about whether the garage and fencing, being so close to the road, fitted in adequately with the street scene. It was felt that the Planning Officer allocated to this proposal would have a better feel for both those issues so no comment was offered.

NO COMMENT

- c. **C11/2558 - Erection of a single garage at 9 Abbey Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C11/2669 – Erection of single-storey extension and part cladding at 8 Aldeburgh Road.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

120. County Matters.

- a. **CCTV.** The Clerk informed members that the County Councillor had agreed to grant £175 from his Locality Budget to the Safer Neighbourhood Team to purchase some CCTV monitors. As part of the team the Clerk had offered to bank the money and purchase the monitors.
- b. **Network Rail and Station Road Crossing.** The Clerk was asked to try and organise an onsite meeting with Mr Oldham and a manager from Network Rail to discuss the Station Road crossing and the probability of water erosion under the line causing it to constantly sink and become a hazard to motorists.
- c. **Overgrown Hedgerow.** It was noted that the hedge at 41 Seaward Avenue had, over the years, become very thick and had encroached too far onto the highway. The Clerk was asked to investigate.
- d. **Town Appraisal.** Members thanked Cllr Smith for the donation of £750 he had allocated from his Locality Budget to help the Town Appraisal Group complete their analysis and publish the results of their survey.

121. District Matters.

- a. **SALC AGM** Cllr Bailey explained how he had been elected to the SALC Executive at the recent SALC Area meeting and was congratulated by members. He then explained that the motion put forward by Leiston at the AGM; “That SALC requests that NALC lobbies Government to reverse the negative impact on the availability of affordable social housing caused by factors including the reduction in contribution to Housing Associations and the failure to make appropriate use of empty properties which could be used for housing local people.” Was passed unanimously. Another motion, to lobby the government to take measures to address the considerable problems created for communities by the high fuel price was also passed although Cllr Bailey had tried (and failed) to insert “rural” before communities to highlight that their problems were the most pressing.
- b. **Car Park consultation.** Members had no further comment to make regards the current consultation by SCDC on their proposal to increase parking charges across the District. They did however have concerns that there was no mention of the continued provision of “30 minute free” parking spaces on the Sizewell Road Car Park for users of the Post Office in the proposed schedule. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

122. Correspondence

- a. **Various.** There were letters of thanks from the CAB and the Leiston Youth and Community Angling Society for grants recently awarded. Members noted the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Leiston and District Nursing Association Trust and of the meeting the previous week with Mr Tynan from SCS Ltd.

123. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. The Blood Donor Service had contacted the Chairman again after the last meeting to inform him that they were not now going to use the LTAA next year after all but were now going to rely on a mobile station and the use of an appointment system.
- b. The Chairman reported that the question from Cllr Ron Bailey about a loyalty scheme was put to the Business Association who felt that such a scheme was not viable in Leiston by virtue of the large amount of free parking available.

- c. The Chairman reported that he had found out the answers to the questions asked by Cllr Ginger regards empty properties in the area and had passed the information on to him.
- d. Cllr Bailey asked the Chairman to find out what progress was being made in getting the Fishermen's Hut's and the area around them tidied up as discussed at the recent Sizewell Management meeting held with SCDC .

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.00pm.

Chair

Dated
