

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**10<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

- 124. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for December and the Christmas period (attached).
- 125. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who reported on progress at the County in setting Council Tax for next year. He advised members that he was meeting a Highways Officer next week to discuss various issues including the recent flooding at the junction of King Georges Avenue and Sylvester Road and the one in Haylings Grove. His other news concerned the Household Waste site in Lovers Lane where he had allocated some Locality money to construct a hardstanding on the ground immediately to the north of the site entrance to allow for overspill parking when the site shut for bin collections. He informed the meeting that he had recently awarded grants from his Locality Budget to the Leiston Works Railway (for the purchase of track) and the Leiston Royal British Legion Band (for the purchase of one new uniform). Cllr Howard thanked him on behalf of the Band. Members asked that Cllr Smith find out why the double yellow line painting was still not complete, and, in conjunction with that, what the payment arrangements were for the contractors tasked with the work. It was hoped they had not been paid for it yet. He was also asked to investigate, with Highways, what could be done to reduce the size of the hedge at 41 Seaward Avenue so that it did not encroach so far onto the footway. Wheelchairs currently cannot get past. Cllr Boast asked questions relating to the fact that Family Carers, advocates and customers no longer had any say in the structure of their care packages. Cllr Smith undertook to talk to him outside the meeting to get more details. Finally there was a discussion, prompted by Miss Oliver, on the 43 million pounds of cuts the County had made and how details of these cuts were disseminated. Miss Oliver pointed out that residents without a computer were severely disadvantaged these days as all they were told when they asked questions generally was "it's on the website". In the case of the cuts she wished to see a leaflet giving a précis of what had been cut to make up the 43 million and she wished to have it somehow accessible to everyone so that it wasn't internet dependent.
- 126. District Report.** Cllr Nunn explained that, after a recent survey, it was found that an awful lot of textiles were being thrown away in the grey bins. It was therefore proposed to look at the possibility of collecting textiles as part of the recycled items currently collected from the blue bins. He then pointed out that £600,000 was still being spent on picking up litter from the District's roads and streets – all the litter was just dropped by residents or chucked out of cars and lorries – he wondered if the meeting would agree that this was an awful lot of money to be spending when it was just to address people's laziness and thoughtlessness. He reported that a campaign would soon be started to try and address the problem of lorry and car drivers littering our roads. It was hoped that schools and indeed parents would help by educating children to not be litter louts. Cllr Hawkins reported that a member and officers group had been set up between the County and District Councils to ensure that there was a consistent and clear response given during the negotiations and assessment of the Sizewell C planning application. There was a discussion on car parking charges with a request that the District Council champion a campaign to ensure that supermarkets paid a fair business rate for their attached car parks as, from perceived wisdom, it currently appeared that Local Authority car parks might be at a disadvantage because of this. Finally, Cllr Howard wished that a tribute could somehow be paid to the residents in Leiston who regularly take it upon themselves to go out and collect litter from the areas around their homes and sometimes further afield. He hoped they could be mentioned in the next newsletter.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, 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,  
10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012, at 7.50p.m.**

**PRESENT**

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

127. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be signed as a true record.
128. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ron Bailey and Cllr Mrs Geater.
129. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting he had attended the Christmas Bazaar at the Primary School.
130. **Leiston Gala.** Members were pleased to note the letter from the new Leiston Gala Committee requesting use of Victory Road Recreation Ground on 26<sup>th</sup> August to hold an event this year. Cllr Boast explained that the old Gala Committee had met with the new and were very pleased and hopeful that the new committee would organise a successful day and had passed over the remaining funds in the old Gala bank account to help them get started. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that permission be granted to use the park with the normal conditions applied. (music until 10pm only, insurance, litter etc.) and that a leaflet drop be done around the park just to inform residents what was planned.
131. **Diamond Jubilee.** The Jubilee committee sounded out members on their ideas to date. It was wondered whether it would be a good idea to organise a family day in the park where they could come and have a picnic and take advantage of sports activities and entertainment. Another idea would be for the Council to make a presentation to the town of something enduring and relevant to mark the occasion. Sizewell residents may wish to have help in making and lighting a beacon for the occasion. There was also a discussion on whether to buy commemorative mugs for the younger children. All these ideas were discussed and the committee undertook to go away and firm up some proposals.
132. **Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £9,131.47p along with £5,797.53p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

- b) **Risk Assessments and budget scrutiny.** Members discussed the report presented by the Clerk and asked relevant questions to assure themselves that they were satisfied with its content. One issue was raised and, on a vote, it was agreed to increase the possibility of a reduction in predicted income from the Cinema from 10% to 20% and to make it a medium risk. With that agreed it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that members accepted that a proper and thorough risk assessment had been carried out covering all physical, financial and governance risks which the Council could reasonably be expected to encounter and that appropriate measures were in place to cover or reduce those risks where possible. Members further noted the six monthly actuals against the estimates for the current year and were pleased to note the Cinema was apparently performing above expectations again although each quarter brings its own challenges.
- c) **Internal Audit and financial control review.** Members noted the report on Internal Controls and the Clerks recommendation for appointment of next year's Internal Auditors. It was proposed by Cllr Boast , seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that Heelis and Lodge be appointed as Internal Auditors to the Council for 2012/13.

### 133. Precept for 2012/2013.

- a. **Introduction.** The Chairman gave an overview of the current uncertainties local government is facing as all Principal Councils worked hard to make savings. He pointed out how this could challenge town and parish councils this year as they sought to cover the possible reduction in service levels whilst also making sure reserves were healthy enough to allow them to react to anticipated divestment proposals. He noted that Precepts were not yet capped (like the Principal Councils are) but wondered whether this would remain the case in the future – in any event, he hoped that members would look at the draft estimates that the Clerk had prepared with the above points in mind.
- b. **Overarching proposal.** Cllr Ginger addressed members and proposed that, rather than go through the estimates item by item (as has normally been the case) the estimates, as presented, be accepted and that the proposed Precept therein, £196,100, be confirmed. This was seconded by Cllr Hodgson and, after discussion and clarification of some points, unanimously agreed. More detail is set out below for the purposes of a historical record.
- c. **Core costs –** Members considered the core costs to be able to efficiently run the Cinema, the Community Centre and all the items associated with the general administration for a further year. This came to £110,900. Decisions had already been taken to finance the Dinsdale Road WC for a further year at £10,800 and the Council was contracted to £14,400 for Town's part funded PCSO. This all came to a basic core cost of £136,100.
- d. **Youth Club.** £14,500 set aside to fund the Youth Club for a further year.
- e. **Grants.** £7,000 set aside for grant aid to local charities and organisations.
- f. **Projector Replacement Reserve.** £4,000 set aside to save for future upgrades or replacement to the cinema projector.
- g. **St Margaret's Crescent enhancement project.** £4,000 set aside to be used in part funding to enhance the grass verges in St Maragarets Crescent.
- h. **Allotments** £2,000 set aside for the continued enhancement of the Allotments.
- i. **Christmas Lights.** £2,000 set aside to be used as necessary for Christmas Lighting.
- j. **Community Centre.** £4,000 set aside for completion of the fencing to the rear and west side of the site.
- k. **Diamond Jubilee Fund.** £4,000 set aside to be used as required to assist Diamond Jubilee celebrations and events.
- l. **Film Theatre.** £25,000 was put into a reserve ready for a possible centenary project of building a new, much needed, second storey extension at the rear of the Theatre to upgrade the changing rooms, house the fancy dress business and to provide storage.
- m. **Contingencies.** £3,500 set aside for contingencies.

- n. **Divestment contingency.** £10,000 set aside to enable initial participation in any attractive offers of divestment of the towns assets back to the town.

**General Reserves.** The Clerk informed members that, due to the extraordinary turn around in running costs at the Film Theatre last year, he was confident that up to £20,000 could be allocated from the General reserve to offset the Precept for this coming year.

**Precept.** After all the above was taken into account the final figure required to be precepted to the District Council for the year 2012/2013 was £196,100. This is a decrease of 1% from 2011/2012.

During the above Precept discussions Cllr Nunn and Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest.

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

#### 134. Planning Matters.

- a. **C11/2749 – Removal of existing sheds and erection of new workshop and garden store at 3 Victory Road, Leiston.** Members strongly recommended that a condition be placed on the workshop that it not be used for business use.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- b. **C11/2763 – Replace existing fascia signage with new like for like signage at Sue Ryder, 49 High Street, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c. **C11/2740 – Erection of one detached dwelling at part side garden, 18 Buller Road, Leiston.** Members were all agreed that this proposal was on a totally unsuitable plot for a three bedroomed house. It was a complete overdevelopment that upset the building line, the historic street scene and destroyed the amenity of number 18 Buller Rd by virtue of its proximity and its high block walls. An equally important issue was that the site of the proposed dwelling has had a garage on for the use of number 18 for over 30 years. Use of this narrow and unsuitable plot would therefore, in the first instance, deny number 18 of the amenity of their current off street parking with no substitute on street parking in the immediate vicinity. This would also apply to the new property which has only made provision for one vehicle in a three bedroomed property that clearly needs two or three thereby exacerbating all the neighbouring properties plight for parking provision. Leiston is in a rural economy where cars are essential for work and lifestyle and this area has long been recognised as having reached saturation point for on street parking. This issue alone would preclude the development but the cramped footprint and the affect on the neighbouring properties' amenity is significant and unacceptable.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

- d. **C11/2724 – Installation of 10kW roof mounted photovoltaic system on the East Suffolk Business Centre, King George Ave, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

#### 135. County Matters.

- a. Nothing raised.

136. **District Matters.**

- a. **Sizewell Fishermen's Huts.** Members queried whether the clear up of hazardous waste and debris that had been noted during the walkround last year had been cleared up sufficiently. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Gary Lowe (SCDC) to establish progress.

137. **Correspondence**

- a. **Localism Act.** Members noted the letter from Mr Skelcher informing Councillors of the reply he had received from the MP regarding the new Localism Bill. The topic was a bit wide ranging however and members asked the Clerk to assure Mr Skelcher that they would be endeavouring to bring services and assets back to a local level where this became possible in the future.
- b. **Home Start.** Members noted the request for grant aid from Home Start. Members have always been supporters of the work that Suffolk Coastal Home Start does in the Town and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was agreed to award tem £50.
- c. **Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Suffolk Accident Rescue Service and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Bailey, it was agreed to award them £75.

138. **Questions to the Chairman.**

- a. **Quality Council.** In answer to a query from Cllr Howard the Chairman confirmed that it was likely that the Clerk would not be able to gain reaccreditation of the Council's Quality Status until later in February.
- b. **Highbury Cottage Footpath.** A meeting still had to be arranged with the landowners.
- c. **Rats.** The Chairman was asked to note the increase in the number of rats roaming the town due, possibly, to the unseasonal weather. His attention was specifically drawn to the number of rats possibly coming from the allotments and entering the back gardens of Charles Adams Close properties.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Chair

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Dated

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