

Pre-meeting Reports

7th February 2012

- 139. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Terry Barrow, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for January (attached). Members were pleased to hear that there was someone in custody regarding the recent spate of burglaries. The Chairman then introduced Inspector Nick Aitken who was now the Policing Commander for Beccles and Leiston, responsible for both the response policing and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in that area. He gave a brief synopsis of his career and answered questions from members and the public.
- 140. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who reported that there was little new to brief members on other than the forthcoming meeting where the County would set their budget and the Council Tax for next year. He felt that, as announced in the press, there would be no increase in Council Tax. Members then entered into a discussion, which had spilled over from the police forum really, whereby it was wondered what effect the turning off of street lights might have on crime. The Police and the County were aware of the concerns but wanted to wait a few months to allow meaningful statistics to be collated which could then be commented upon. There was some support for both having them off for ecological reasons (and to see the night sky) and for leaving them on for safety, either dimmed or, perhaps, one on at each junction or a similar scheme. Cllr Ginger was concerned that, in the event of a nuclear accident in the middle of the night, residents would not be able to escape if the lights were off. Cllr Smith thought that there were controls in place so that lights could be turned on in an emergency but this needed to be clarified. Cllr Howard asked if Cllr Smith knew whether Suffolk County Council had received guidance and money from Government to take over the Government's crisis loan scheme which had been stopped (and passed to local authorities). He was concerned that the money did not have to be ringfenced. Cllr Smith would make enquiries.
- 141. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins answered questions which mainly revolved about recent news articles that the District Council would be reducing the number of District Councillors. It appeared that this depended on the Boundary Commissions report and was, at the moment, just a recommendation from SCDC. Members were very concerned about the democratic deficit that this move would create in the District.
- 142. Public Forum.** There were a few members of the public present who were keen to follow up on the recent Radio Suffolk campaign to try and eradicate dog fouling in Leiston. Without exception everyone at the meeting deplored those residents who did not pick up after their dogs and hoped that continual highlighting of this might eventually change attitudes. In the meantime the Clerk explained that he needed a name or an address of anyone who did not pick up so he could initiate pecuniary action on the perpetrator and get them fined. The Clerk was asked to request more frequent visits of the dog wardens to the Town, especially Sizewell.

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,
7th FEBRUARY 2012, at 8.07p.m.**

PRESENT

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

143. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 10th January 2012 be signed as a true record.
144. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Cooper, Cllr Nunn, Cllr Last, Cllr Parker and Cllr R Bailey.
145. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman tabled a report in his absence giving details of his visits to the Leiston and District Swimming Club Presentation evening and his attendance at the launch of the Access and Amenity Fund. He also gave details of the progress made at the recent Diamond Jubilee sub-committee meeting. (reported below).
146. **Diamond Jubilee.** Members were pleased to note the report from the Jubilee Committee giving a few more details of their suggestion of a Picnic in the Park. There were also costings and numbers for purchase of appropriate mugs to give to our younger residents. The design had yet to be finalised but it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that an initial order of 700 mugs be purchased at a cost of £1,575. The Committee would be meeting again to take forward the planning for the Picnic in the Park but, in the meantime, hoped that the word could be spread to ensure families knew that entertainment and fun would be had by all on Monday 4th June.
147. **Highbury Cottage Footpath.** The Clerk reported that the Chairman and himself had had a very constructive meeting with Mr Readhead and his daughter Amy and were now awaiting the views of Mr Readheads Land Agents with regard to what might be included in any agreement for the Council to use the edge of the field going toward Highbury as a permissive path.
148. **Fairtrade Town.** Cllr Mrs Nunn reported that the Fairtrade Steering Group would be holding a Fairtrade Coffee Morning in the Film Theatre Foyer on 1st March as part of this year's "Fairtrade Fortnight".
149. **Ambulance Response Data.** Members noted the ambulance response time data supplied by the East Anglia Ambulance Trust for IP16 but had difficulty interpreting the figures. The Clerk apologised that he had not, yet, been able to get a clear guide from the Trust on what they actually portrayed. It was agreed to put the item on the agenda again in March.

150. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £9,392.59p along with £12,713.94p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Internal Auditors Interim Report 2011/2012.** Members noted the Internal Auditors interim report for 2011/2012 and its contents.

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

151. Planning Matters.

- a. **C12/0053 – Erection of single storey rear extension (existing bathrooms to be demolished) at 25 Carr Avenue, Leiston**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b. **C12/: To provide additional car parking/waiting area next to entrance to HWRC at Leiston Household Waste Recycling Centre, Lovers Lane, Leiston. (County Council).**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- c. **C12/: Proposed solar PV installation, a 48kWp system complete with 195 No. 245 watt Sharp solar PV panels. The size of the array will be approximately 313m2. Leiston Primary School, King George Avenue, Leiston. (County Council).**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- d. **Galloper Wind Farm.** Members reviewed the information they had received from the Galloper Wind Farm Ltd. GWFL, regarding their submission to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) of the next big windfarm and substation at Sizewell. Of particular interest were the negotiations taking place between SCDC and GWFL as to what size and form of compensation was considered appropriate for the project. Members took away the details to consider a response for the next meeting.
- e. **Neighbourhood Plans.** Members agreed that a training session on the impact etc. of new planning policies and the Neighbourhood Plans, suggested in the Localism Act, would be beneficial and booked the 27th Feb to hear from Navigus Planning.

152. County Matters.

- a. Nothing raised.

153. District Matters.

- a. **Sizewell Fishermen's Huts.** Members noted the response from Mr Lowe regards the clear up of hazardous waste and debris from around the fishermen's huts at Sizewell but felt that there was still some asbestos and other items that could be disposed of. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Gary Lowe (SCDC) to establish progress.

154. Correspondence

- a. **Royal British Legion Leiston Band.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Band to help them purchase instruments and uniforms. Members have always been keen supporters of the Band and the way that they support the town. They are especially supportive of the way the training band gives such excellent opportunities to the young players to learn and progress and were sympathetic to the bands need for funds. On a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hawkins it was agreed to award them £250.

During the above item Cllr Howard and Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room.

- b. **Disability Advice Service.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Disability Advice Service and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey, it was agreed to award them £100.
- c. **Boundary between Community Centre and The Crown.** Members noted the correspondence between Mrs Lamb and the Clerk discussing what measures both could take to secure the boundary a little more between the properties whilst still allowing for some decorative planting. Members agreed that parking close to that boundary did sometimes cause an obstacle and hoped that this could be discouraged.
- d. **Horse Chestnut – Victory Road Recreation Ground.** Members were pleased to note from the recent tree surgeons examination that the large chestnut to the rear of the gardens in Waterloo Avenue was basically healthy, sound and vigorous. There were some recommendations as to what action could be taken to lift and thin the canopy to give some respite to the occupants of the adjacent garden which members were pleased to approve.

155. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. The Chairman was asked if he was aware of the recent achievement of an ex Councillor, Emily Chapman (Cllr in 1983) who recently gained a degree from the Open University at the age of 90 – the oldest to date to have done so. The Chairman was aware and thought that she was now going on to get her Masters.
- b. Members asked the Chairman to liaise with the Personnel Committee to identify, with the Clerk, a window for him to complete the portfolio required for reaccreditation as a Quality Council. The recent work schedule had not presented an opportunity to get it done as it needed several days to put together. It was hoped that it could be achieved within the next six weeks.

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

Chair

Dated
