

## Pre-meeting Reports

6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

- 156. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Fiona Sharp and PCSO Jeanette Pither, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for February (attached). Jeanette reported that this would be her last meeting as she was transferring to Kesgrave and Fiona was going to be the new member of the Leiston Team. Members thanked Jeanette for her work as part of the SNT in Leiston and wished her well for the future. Cllr Last reminded Fiona that CI Sharp, on his visit in December, undertook to provide emergency response data periodically and wondered if that could be done in April. Members of the public raised concerns over the abuse of double yellow lines outside the Middle School at leaving off time and also around the Dinsdale Road area overnight. In response to a query Fiona explained that PCSO's, unfortunately, are unable to issue tickets for mobile phone use (whilst driving) if they are on their own.
- 157. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who had little to report although, following up from the February meeting he was able to assure Cllr Ginger that, in an emergency, all street lights in Leiston could be switched on within 5 minutes of a request from the emergency services. Members heard that he was looking into solutions for the flooding at the bottom of Sylvester Road and Haylings Grove and that he would go and view the flooding in Heath View after the meeting. Cllr Ginger asked Cllr Smith if could get some assurance as to whether Suffolk Constabulary was thinking of using private contractors for police work as had been reported in the media. Mrs Girling asked for details of whether the Sizewell C joint local authorities group had considered nominating anyone to chair the proposed Sizewell EDF Community Forum. This hadn't been done as yet and the meeting was advised that the minutes would be online soon. There was concern however that these minutes were not that easy to find on the SCDC website and it was hoped they would be better signposted in the future.
- 158. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report. Mr Taylor raised issues concerning the Section 106 agreement that had been signed off for the Sizewell B Dry Fuel Store. He felt that the Planning Authority had not fought hard enough or consulted widely enough on the terms of the agreement and asked members to look again at the process. He felt that the 3 tests required by law when forming an agreement could have taken into account the whole spectrum of how the storage of nuclear waste in the Parish for the next 60 years could blight the area. Many other members also felt that the distribution of the "Community Benefit" from the agreement was over a far too wide an area and this had been taken on board for examination of the Galloper Wind Farm application.
- 159. Public Forum.** Mr Rosher advised the meeting of the tenants desire to improve Leiston Court in the High Street. He outlined the building work that needed to be done and how the inclusion of another storey on the building was essential to make the whole project viable and was a non profit making exercise. He left the plans for comment so members had a chance to look at the proposals before the plans were submitted. He also demonstrated a sample flag pole which the Business Association were considering purchasing to put up along the High Street and Sizewell Road to hang bunting off for occasions such as the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. The aspiration was to purchase 80 flagpoles (at £20 each) which would be put up by volunteers and be a permanent acquisition for future events. He asked that the Council consider providing some partnership funding.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Last, 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,  
6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012, at 8.02 p.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. 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 N. Parker**  
**Councillor J. I. Sparrow**

160. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 be signed as a true record.
161. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nunn.
162. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman thanked Cllr Hodgson for taking the February meeting and then detailed his activities, carried out on behalf of the Council, since then. These included attending the Galloper Wind Farm presentation, a Leiston Middle School Governors meeting, the Community Police forum and a meeting at the Long Shop. There were also meetings to take the Picnic in the Park forward and, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, watching the Leiston Lynx Basketball Competition – an excellent and well attended event.
163. **Diamond Jubilee.** Cllr Last updated members on how the plans for the Picnic in the Park were coming together and how the Business Association and other organisations were coming together to help with the detail. There was still much to do but the event was on track to take place between 12 noon and 4 pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June on Victory Road Recreation Ground. Members were also asked to view the sample mugs that had been provided and give their comments.
164. **Highbury Cottage Footpath.** The Clerk reported that there was nothing further to report at present but that he would have news in a few days which would be reported at the next meeting.

165. **Ambulance Response Data.** Members noted the ambulance response time data supplied by the East Anglia Ambulance Trust for IP16 and were upset at the poor attendance figures for both the 8 minute and 19 minute Category A incidents. They were not comfortable that volunteer First Responders were included in the 8 minute category in any event but the overall response rate of 73% for immediate lifesaving response within 8 minutes was still well below par and a big concern. The 55% response of an actual ambulance within 19 minutes was a very poor performance and showed how the rural areas suffer. There were reports of how ambulances stack up outside hospitals, unable to unload patients (and thereby not being on call) and other operational problems but members were adamant that this was not their problem and that something should be done to ensure communities such as Leiston got the emergency cover they deserve. There is an ambulance station at Saxmundham – there should be better cover after all! The Clerk was directed to write to Leiston’s Member of Parliament to express members concerns and to seek assistance in obtaining improvements.

166. **Cinema Pricing Review.** Members noted the report from the Cinema Manager detailing Leiston’s admission prices compared to neighbouring venues. They also noted his recommendations for a 25p increase across the board which the Clerk also endorsed as a prudent measure to help the venue maintain its improving financial performance. Members agreed that a 25p increase would still leave the prices below other cinemas in the area but felt that the Children’s price should stay the same at £4.50 to help families in the town to still afford a treat in these tough times. This was confirmed in a motion put by Cllr R Bailey, seconded by Cllr Howard.

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

167. **ONR Meeting of 15 Feb.** Many members attended the meeting hosted by the Office of Nuclear Regulation in February where many thorny issues were discussed vis-a-vis safety and emergency at our nuclear sites. Cllr Howard gave a verbal report of the main concerns raised which included the size of the Detailed Planning Zone, the emergency plan and how the regulators might affect the growth and prosperity of Leiston should they discourage future housing being built within certain distances of the nuclear site. There was a lively discussion but it was agreed that any formal comment or representation should wait until the minutes from the meeting were published and became public record. It might then be useful to invite an ONR representative to come and address the Council on any items that needed clarification.

168. **Finance.**

a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £18,045.61p along with £8,696.86p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes from 8.40pm until 8.55pm

169. **Planning Matters.**

a. **C12/0377 – Erection of extension to garage and alteration to garden wall to form a wider vehicular access - 16 Dinsdale Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

During the above application Cllr Hawkins declared a personal interest and remained in the room.

b. **C11/2820 – Installation of biomass boiler with associated housing and underground chamber: installation p.v. panels on south elevation – Old Abbey Retirement Home, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c. **C12/0399 – Application for new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission in order to extend the time limit for implementation – Change of use from shop(class A1) to hot food takeaway (class A5) – 56 High Street Leiston.** Members reaffirmed that their unanimous opposition to this proposal still stood. The property in question does not have adequate accessibility for a fast food takeaway.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

- d. **Neighbourhood Plans.** Members discussed the merits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town, as allowed by the Localism Act, and all agreed that, in Principle, the process should be started in April when the Act came into force. An Agenda item will be put forward in April.
- e. **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. Cllr Hodgson (with agreement) asked the Clerk to raise objections about the proposal to hook the substation up to the grid by use of overhead lines rather than using underground cables to Sizewell A as Gabbard did. Members also asked the Clerk to write to the Planning Authority and Galloper to strongly recommend that the section 106 agreement takes into account the disruption, inconvenience and long term hinderance that the works and substation bring to residents at Sizewell and that the Community benefit reflect this by restricting the area in which it can be spent to the Sizewell parish (rather than the whole of the AONB).

**170. County Matters.**

- a. **Station Road Crossing.** The Clerk updated members on a meeting he had convened between Network Rail and Highways where the problems posed by the Station Road Rail Crossing were addressed. The immediate action was to get the sunken water drain cover raised and repaired and then to look at the topography and cost up the possible lowering/scraping of the road either side of the crossing to get rid of the huge bump. Signs would be erected in the meantime.

**171. District Matters.**

- a. **SALC and Sustainable Communities Act.** Cllr Bailey updated members on the progress of the work being done to progress the planning issues raised under the Sustainable Communities Act through the Parliamentary process. Greg Clarke MP recently addressed our proposals in an adjournment debate in Westminster Hall. SALC through NALC are still progressing the request for Town and Parish Councils to have the right of appeal against Planning Applications – the same rights as developers and the Clerk was asked to write to our MP to request that she signs an early day motion to help its progress. Members were invited to attend the SALC area meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March at Saxmundham.

**172. Correspondence**

- a. **Leiston Long Shop.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Long Shop including a request for consideration, next year, of a request to contribute to the HLF project. Members have always been keen supporters of the Museum and the visibility it gives to the Town so agreed to look at the HLF request in due course. In the meantime, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to award them £1,600 from this year's Grant Fund.

During the above item Cllr Hawkins declared an interest, remained in the room but took no part in the debate or vote.

**173. Questions to the Chairman.**

- a. Councillor Bailey asked the Chairman to consider having a post box attached to the Community Centre for the occasional correspondence that might be sent to a club that operates from there. The Chairman couldn't see that this would be a problem and passed it to the Clerk.
- b. Cllr Mrs Nunn thanked everyone for their support at the recent Fairtrade Coffee Morning and the donations towards its costs. Members were pleased to hear that Mrs Barber would be running a Fairtrade Easter Bunny Hunt again this year after such a successful event last year..

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

Chair

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Dated

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