

Pre-meeting Reports
12th June 2012

- 19. Police Report.** The Chairman informed the meeting that, unfortunately, the representative from Suffolk Constabulary had been called away but there was a report on the table of crime statistics for May (attached). Members noted the crimes, requested more details on some and asked the Clerk to report a couple of issues to the Safer Neighbourhood Team for action. The car on double yellows opposite 25 Waterloo Ave at school leaving time was still causing a problem and members were concerned at the number of vehicles that abused the waiting restrictions around town, especially the no loading ones by the traffic lights. There was also a request that the Constabulary try and get articles/appeals into the press a lot quicker than at present as, when they are a few days old, they lose a little bit of urgency.
- 20. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who gave a report of his Councils recent AGM where the leader outlined his five priorities for the coming year. These were economy, education, caring for vulnerable people, the localism agenda and “Our Place” programme and, finally, building on Suffolk’s strengths. He acknowledged members concerns about the proposed school transport arrangements and undertook to support Leiston High School in its attempts to correct some of the unfair and flawed elements inherent in the plan. He reported that he had given Leiston Swimming Club £1,000 from his Locality Budget and, in reply to Cllr Howard, he also reported that he was still chasing information on whether the social fund was ringfenced within the County budget. Cllr Ginger reported that the flooding in Heath View had eased after the clearance work but he hoped further investigations would be taking place as the problem still existed. Finally, Cllr Bailey asked Cllr Smith to ask Cllr Bee whether he would support the current push from SALC to try and get legislation introduced to give Town and Parish Councils the right to appeal against planning decisions that go against their recommendations.

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 for a further 15 minutes.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
12th JUNE 2012, at 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT

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

- 21. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 15th May 2012 be signed as a true record.

22. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Parker, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Mrs Geater, and Cllr Sparrow.
23. **Chairman's Communications.** Cllr Hodgson thanked everyone for their help and support in staging the recent Jubilee celebrations - especially, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Last and Cllr Bailey for organising the event.
24. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Bailey asked for this item to be brought forward on the Agenda as he was feeling unwell and would soon have to leave the meeting. He presented a paper that he had prepared and which he tabled at the meeting. It suggested that a steering group be set up to organise and oversee the project and that this group consist of four Councillors who would, as the project progresses, be joined on the steering group by various representatives from the town as discussed at the last meeting. Cllr Last felt that the formation of the working party should not be rushed and members should all continue with their interest and training in this venture until it became clear what was going to be involved. Other members were a little bit hesitant at the idea of using political persuasions as a way of forming the democratic make up of the group as Leiston Town Council did not need to do that but Cllr R Bailey felt that the normal protocol used at District and County levels was a reasonable model to follow to ensure a good cross party team who, as with all committees, steering groups etc., could call upon other members to join them, advise them or come to meetings as the project progressed. It was just a way of getting started and, by getting the group together now, a swift start could be made to the process. It was therefore agreed that the initial membership of the steering group should be Cllr Howard, Cllr R. Bailey, Cllr Geater, Cllr Boast and Cllr Ginger. Cllr Bailey undertook to organise a get together of the group as soon as possible to discuss the way ahead. Members then discussed what area should be included in the plan. The consensus was definitely in favour of using the Parish Boundary as the outline for the Neighbourhood Plan area and this was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and confirmed.

Cllr R Bailey left the meeting at 8.05pm.

25. **The General Power of Competence.** Members noted that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council now met all the criteria to be able to adopt the new General Power of Competence. On a proposal from Cllr Boast seconded by Cllr Bailey it was agreed to adopt the power of general competence and to use it as the power of first resort until the next ordinary election.
26. **Committee Meetings.** Members noted the report from Cllr Howard and agreed to implement a timetable of meetings as suggested.
27. **Upper Abbey Farm.** The Clerk passed on a report he had received from the EDF estates team. The estates team were currently putting together a project team to work on the renovation of the Farm which they hoped to have in place by the end of June. A planning application was timetabled for September, then, after the plans are agreed, a tendering process would take place to do the work. Members asked the Clerk to keep this on the Agenda.
28. **Housing Provision scrutiny SCDC.** Members noted the request from SCDC to provide feedback to their Scrutiny Committee with regard to housing provision in the District and to pass on any concerns and issues we might have in that regard. Cllr Howard read out a statement he had prepared thus;
" Buying a house is out of the question for many people and we are looking at housing at a time when there is a growing need for reasonably priced rented accommodation. Reasonable, to me, means that rents should be affordable to families whose main wage earner is on the National Minimum Wage of £243 a week, from this tax and

national insurance is deducted. If you are unemployed the income is £71 for a single person and £111 for a couple. In the private sector rents locally are in the region of £585 a month for a 3 bed property and housing association rents are set to catch up. At the same time government is planning to reduce security of tenure and has already set in place limits on housing benefit. The need for more single accommodation desperately needs attention. At times I know there are no hostel places in the whole of East Suffolk. At a recent housing seminar run by SCDC we were told that housing lists in this area are growing. It is alarming that housing developers make land available but there isn't the money to build. Personally, I think that the roots of good society are good houses, well maintained, at rents people can afford and with a security of tenure." Members agreed to put forward this statement to the Scrutiny committee as a basis for the concerns of the Council.

29. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group.** Cllr Bailey tabled a report of the meeting held last week covering the major issues covered. Members briefly discussed some items and Cllr Bailey informed them that a full membership list of the SSG would be circulated with official minutes from the meeting.
30. **Sizewell Parish Liaison Group.** Cllr Hodgson had not been able to attend the most recent SPLG meeting but members noted the AGM minutes and the request for subscriptions to be paid. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that £150 be paid to SPLG for this year's membership.
31. **Library.** Members noted the minutes from the recent Library Steering Group meeting and heard a brief report from the Clerk on the current state of play with regard to the setting up of the IPS. The IPS (Industrial and Provident Society) will, all being well, take full control of all Suffolk libraries on 1st August and then be in a position to advise the groups and parishes on the best way to set themselves up to take an interest in their library.
32. **Newsletter.** Members heard that the Clerk wished to take in all contributions to the June newsletter by 18th June. He also advised members that he would be trying out a leaflet distribution company with this edition to see if the letter got better coverage than when using the Community News.
33. **Mr Taylor.** Members noted Mr Taylor's previous correspondence regarding the Dry Fuel Store and the AAF and, also, the latest e-mail which narrowed down his concern to that of how the whole 106 process might be undertaken in the future and who should manage the monies obtained. Members were also interested in this and the Clerk asked to request a visit from the SCDC 106 officer at the next meeting to give some idea of the process. Cllr Nunn, in response to the earlier correspondence, felt it would be helpful to just set out some of the issues that were raised regarding the AAF. The main (and one of the very few available) hooks to negotiate 106 agreement on was for mitigation against the delay that would occur once the power station was decommissioned for the return of the land to the AONB due to the Dry Fuel Store having to remain there. This was accepted by DECC (who were determining the application) and the monies were therefore channelled into the AONB for years to come. Cllr Ginger was concerned that Leiston was not in the AONB but it was pointed out that this decision had been made by separate legislation many years earlier. Overall, if a visit could be arranged, members were happy that this item should be rested.
34. **Finance.**
 - a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £21,726.10p along with £7,701.23p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
(During the above item Cllr Geater declared an interest in Cheque number 311238.)

- b) **Approval of accounts for 2011/2012.** Members had studied and asked questions on the completed accounts for 2011/2012 along with the Internal Auditors final report for the end of year. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the accounts for 2011/2012 and the Accounting Statement on the Annual Return be approved, the Internal Auditors' report be noted and that the Chairman be given approval to sign the Annual Governance Statement on their behalf.
- c) **Chairman and Members Allowance.** Members noted the Clerk's report and the report from the outgoing Chairman on how much he had spent in pursuance of his duties. Members also noted that the amount spent on travel and expenses etc. was dependent on the level of effort, commitment and time that the Chair was willing to give to representing, promoting and serving the Town and the Council. Members also noted that whatever level the allowance was set at Chairmen kept a record and returned unspent monies at year end, at the moment though, at year end Chairman were often out of pocket (although uncomplainingly) and members felt that this should be rectified and a sufficient sum be provided to allow the incumbent to make the job their own and not be inhibited by funding issues. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the Chairman's allowance should be increased to £1,000.

35. Planning Matters.

- a. **C12/0980 – Erection of extensions to existing buildings to form visitor centre for Sizewell B Power Station, Sizewell, Leiston.** Members were content with the planning matters relevant to the application but were concerned that access to the centre would appear to be by application or invitation. It was to be hoped that this Visitor centre could be an attraction for visitors and residents alike without pre-application.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b. **C12/- New Library Room Extension, together with internal alteration to adjacent building area and associated external landscaping at Leiston Primary School.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c. **C12/1012 – Use of part of the garden to 18 Buller Road, Leiston for erection of a new dwelling house (re-submission).** 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 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 (The small area allocated on the plans was considered unworkable). The new property has made provision for two off street parking spaces but the loss of two spaces for number 18 will exacerbate the neighbouring properties plight for parking provision. 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

During the above application Cllr Hawkins abstained

- d. **C12/1122 – Proposed conversion of the former Coast guard lookout into holiday accommodation and ancillary artist’s studio – Coastguard Lookout, Sizewell, Leiston.** With parking limited to one car, no outside furniture or development and all the important internal original features retained members approved. There was concern about the effect on the surface where the septic tank and soakaway were to be sunk and how long it would take to repopulate the fauna.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C12/1190 – Proposed new bungalow in part rear garden, 1 Garrett Crescent, Leiston.** Overdevelopment affecting the amenity of neighbouring properties but, more importantly it would stick out and be an eyesore in the street scene and would make for a cramped development completely out of keeping with the historic setting.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above application Cllr Bailey declared a personal interest and left the room.

- f. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Covered earlier.

36. County Matters.

- a. **Flooding.** Cllr Smith was updated with the flooding issue in Heath View earlier in the meeting. Cllr Howard reported a flooding problem on the bend at the top of Southfield Drive for the Clerk to report.
- b. **Potholes.** A nasty one was reported on the footway along the southern edge of Westward Ho by the first car parking area.

37. District Matters. None raised

38. Correspondence.

- a. **Leiston Lynx Basketball Club.** Members noted the request for funding from the Leiston Lynx Basketball Club (based at the Leisure Centre) and the letter describing their membership and achievements. The club was growing rapidly and involving many more young people in an increasingly popular sport. Members felt that this was an item that could be addressed by the surplus currently residing in the earmarked budgets for play equipment and the Youth Club – both funds set aside for helping young people find activities and interests, especially ones that keep them active. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that £900 be released from those funds to help the Lynx’s buy new kit and scoreboard.
- b. **Vitalise.** It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that £50 be granted to the Vitalise Charity in recognition of the work they do in the Town.
- c. **Leiston Middle School.** It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Last and agreed that £50 be granted to the Leiston Middle School to be used toward buying gift tokens for the final end of year Award’s event.
- d. **Film Theatre Support Club.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that £50 be granted to the Film Theatre Support Club for use as a prize in their draw.

The time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to be completed.

- e. **Textile recycling scheme.** Cllr Nunn informed the meeting that, all being well, the textile recycling scheme for keeping textiles out of the grey bins (and landfill) would be introduced in Leiston on 2nd July.

- f. **Leiston Community Radio.** Members noted the minutes from the inaugural meeting of the residents hoping to start up a Community Radio in the Town and agreed to ask them to come and give a short presentation at the September meeting.

39. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. Cllr Bailey asked whether it might be a good idea if members had name badges with the Town Council logo etc. on them to be used when they go to meetings, presentations etc. – The Clerk would investigate.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.15 pm.

Chair

Dated
