

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd July 2012

- 40. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a brief overview of the crime statistics for June. Cllr Last requested that detection rates be included in the report in future ((5 crimes of the 19 committed this month were detected) and Cllr Howard asked again that cars parking on double yellow lines at school closing times be spoken to as they were creating a huge hazard in Waterloo Avenue. The van at the end of Kings Road which restricts the view of cars using the corner shop car park was brought up and the Council and Police were asked to try and get Highways to extend the double yellow line to stop this as it was very dangerous. Both Town and District Councils highlighted this when the planning application was made so hopefully something can be done. Cllr Ginger reported that he had been attacked by a dog not kept under control whilst out cycling in the vicinity of Shellpit cottages two weeks previous. The Chairman pointed out to the meeting that incidents like this should be reported at the time and not left until the next Council meeting.
- 41. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who reported that CYDS had unfortunately not been successful with their bid for funding from the Big Lottery Fund and were in danger of closing. He also briefed members that the crucial cabinet meeting to discuss and decide the Home to School Transport Policy would be taking place on 10 July. He hoped that there would be some compromise on the flawed policy that went out for consultation earlier in the year but would report back in September. Cllr Howard thanked the County Councillor for the written reply he had received regards how the Social Fund was being managed at the County Council.
- 42. District Report.** Mr Taylor pointed out to the meeting that Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Cooper (and County Councillor Smith) had attended a public meeting of the Sizewell Task Group (a committee of the District Council) on 25th June yet neither had reported back to the Town Council on that meeting. He felt that they should have done as there were items discussed at that meeting that he thought were relevant to Leiston. He also felt that the Town Council, by not addressing the issues of concern he had raised, were not, in his opinion, doing their best for the people of Leiston. He asked that future meetings of the Joint Liaison Advisory Group (JLAG) be held in public and that minutes be taken and published. He was asked to take this issue up directly with the District and County Councillors by correspondence as this was their Committee. Finally, he expressed concern that the Town Council had supported open access to the Sizewell Visitor's Centre during the discussion on the planning application for the Centre last month. He felt that people should apply to visit it and be vetted (as was being proposed by the application) as this was a matter of security. He felt that the Chairman and members were not in agreement with the Minister on this issue but it was pointed out that what the Council requested was that the Visitors Centre be open access – not for tours or visits inside the station itself which, of course, had to be carefully controlled. The Visitors Centre was outside the security fence.
- 43. Public.** Mrs Lovell unveiled the new cup that would be presented at this year's Leiston Allotment Holders and Gardeners Annual Flower Show for the Cottage Class Vegetables Section (on 18th August). The cup that had been presented by the Town Council in 1988 was looking a bit tired so, as requested by the Clerk, a new one had been purchased to replace it. A handsome piece of silverware now awaits the winner!

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, and agreed, that standing orders be suspended to allow the public part of the meeting to be completed.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
3rd JULY 2012, at 8.01 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

44. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 12th June 2012 be signed as a true record with an amendment to minute 35a that two members had voted against the recommendation for approval of the Visitors Centre at Sizewell. This led to a general discussion on whether votes for and against should be recorded for every decision that was not unanimous. (defeated by 3 for to 5 against) – however it was agreed that, as at present, members who wished to have their vote against a motion noted in the minutes should ask at the time for this to be done.
45. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Parker and Cllr Nunn.
46. **Chairman's Communications.** Cllr Hodgson agreed to take an emergency agenda item to discuss the current plight faced by CYDS.
47. **Code of Conduct.** The Clerk informed members that the new Code of Conduct, proposed in last year's Localism Act, was due to come into legislation on 1st July and, as soon as possible after that date, all Councils had to adopt a new code based on the principals in the Act. SALC had kindly co-ordinated a Suffolk wide code that all Principal and Town and Parish Councils could consider adopting to give uniformity across the County. This would also make it easier for the Standards Panel to adjudicate on any issues that were reported. Members agreed that the Suffolk code was suitable and fit for purpose so, on a proposition from Cllr Howard seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to adopt the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct for Members forthwith. The Clerk explained that the new register of interest forms were going to be electronically filled in online by each individual member (details to follow) and that they would be held on the Suffolk Coastal website and available online for public viewing with a link to Leiston Councillors from our own website. Cllr Ginger requested, and all agreed, that an item be put on future agendas for declarations of interest at the beginning of the meeting.
48. **Upper Abbey Farm.** The Clerk informed members that he had been informed that a project team had been set up and would be working on the plans over the next two months. He was asked to get an update in August
49. **Highbury Cottage Footpath.** No new developments.

50. **Committee Meetings.** Members noted the immediate timetable for meetings and asked that one be organised for the Newsletter editorial team and the Personnel Committee. It was hoped that a schedule for the next year could be worked on soon.
51. **Feedback from Sizewell C Community Engagement event.** Noted.
52. **Feedback from the ONR public meeting held 15 February.** Members noted the minutes from this meeting and the Clerk was asked to write and request what action had been taken to look into the issue of making advice from the ONR to SCDC public as was discussed in their minute 9.4
53. **Allotments.** Cllr Cooper reported back on the Committee's tour of inspection of Valley Road Allotments carried out the previous day. The Committee had identified 18 plots that needed various degrees of attention to make them acceptable and also noted that the periphery of many plots were scruffy and overgrown. It was felt that, certainly along the main walkways through the allotments, the Council should take responsibility for keeping them neat and tidy. Many allotment holders do look after the areas around their plots (as they do on Haylings Road allotments) but the majority do not. There were issues with the increasing number of plots who were putting in small hardstandings on their plots to park on when they attended their plots. This was thought to be unacceptable. It was agreed to look at a copy of the current rules and discuss proposed amendments at a Committee meeting before meeting with the Allotment Association later in the year. The Clerk was directed to get on top of the other issues and write the appropriate letters.
54. **Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £8,867.65p along with £9,602.82p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Budget considerations.** Members noted the increased level of the General Reserve and the Clerks invitation to consider placing various sums into earmarked reserves to top them up faster than the yearly precept allows. This invitation was declined with members aware that there were various pressing issues that might need sudden injections of funds in the near future and were pleased to be able to have the leeway to do so.
- c) **Community Centre fence.** On a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to take up the quote to replace the rear fence of the Community Centre of £3,800 as this sum had been precepted specifically for that project. Members noted the other quotations for a fence along the western boundary of the Community Centre, the SE corner of the Victory Road Recreation Ground and a panel by the SW entrance and discussed the merits of each. It was agreed on separate votes for each to undertake the three projects and to release £3,300 from the General Reserve to do so.
- d) **St Margarets Crescent verge strengthening.** Members were sorry that the bid to Flagship to help with this project had been unsuccessful but were keen to see the area sorted out once and for all. With the County being unable to help and the County Councillor having spent this year's Quality of Life budget in advance last year to do the Seaward Avenue verges it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that £1,600 be released from General Reserves to add to the sum precepted for this project to allow it all to be completed.

The meeting took a break from 8.50pm – 9.10pm

55. Planning Matters.

- a. **C12/1221/ - Erection of single-storey extension and two storey side extension at 12 Haylings Grove, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above item Cllr Hawkins abstained

- b. **C12/1319 – Erection of Emergency Response Centre to serve Sizewell B Station together with ancillary structures, replacement hardstanding and landscaping at Sizewell Halt, King Georges Avenue, Leiston.** Members understood the need for this project but many were still of the opinion, given at the recent consultation on this project, that it was in the wrong place and would compromise the site for the possible future build of Sizewell C. There did not seem to be any cohesion within EDF for Sizewell B and Sizewell C to work together on this to ensure the railhead was left fit for purpose for a future construction project. It was felt that there were other sites available, that the building as planned would be a significant visual intrusion and that this should be looked at again. 6 voted for refusal, 4 against with 2 abstentions.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- c. **C12/1325 – Submission of details pursuant to planning permission and variations to construction programme for Sizewell B Dry Fuel Store at Sizewell B, Sizewell, Leiston.** The Clerk explained that, from what he could gather, the documents and submissions were to explain a small change in design and an extension of works from 52 weeks to 104 weeks to deal with the footings etc. that had to be dug out and replaced. This also involved an increase in HGV movements from 2,600 to over 6,000 (albeit over a longer timespan.) Members felt that there needed to be a clearer explanation of what was being asked for/proposed and asked the Clerk to contact EDF to see if someone could come and explain the project to them. The Clerk was also asked to request a sum of money to allow the Council to do a critique of the proposals.

POSTPONED

- d. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Members detailed the areas and issues that they felt needed to be included into the work programme that the team taking forward the Parish Neighbourhood Plan should look at. It was a long and comprehensive list, which will be available with these minutes in due course as the Clerk draws together the document informing the District Council of our intentions. Members then looked at the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Planning Team (the amended ToR is attached) and Cllr Cooper was elected to represent the District Council on the team. Members then had a brief look at the Project Plan however...

The time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue for a further 30 minutes.

A few small items were looked at but, with time pressing the Chairman moved business on.

56. County Matters.

- a. **Highways.** Members noted that Cllr Smith was looking for funds for a project to relieve the flooding at the junction of Sylvester Road and King George Avenue although this needed further work – he would also look at the Heath View situation again too. Cllr Cooper asked that the path from Sylvester Road to the Primary School gets weeded.

57. **District Matters.** None raised

58. **Correspondence.**

- a. **CYDS.** This was an emergency agenda item as Cllr Cooper wished to inform members of the failure of CYDS to win a further 5 years funding from the Big Lottery Fund. The centre was in imminent danger of issuing redundancy notices within a week and closing the doors at the end of August. Members enquired whether there was any hope of gaining core funding from other sources for the future? Cllr Cooper thought that there may be some fund granting agencies that could help but the centre needed some breathing space to apply and pursue other funding routes. There was a letter on the table from the Chairman of CYDS which listed all the work that CYDS does in the town and the number of our young people that benefit from it. Cllr Cooper explained that it cost £5,500 a month to run the operation. Members were hugely supportive of the work that CYDS have done over many years now (and still do) and discussed the possibility of granting an emergency grant to CYDS to give them 3 months breathing space to be able to secure their future. They agreed that they could not take on the overall running costs for the centre so hoped that the 3 month extension was enough. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn it was agreed to grant CYDS £16,750 forthwith to fund their operation until the end of November. The money would be drawn from the General Reserve.

During the above item Cllr Cooper declared an interest, remained in the room to answer questions but left the room for the discussion on grant aid.

- b. **Orchard Road.** Members had sympathy with Mr Skelcher's request to try and get one of the Principal Councils to take responsibility for the state of Orchard Road, in his case the Planning Authority for allowing houses to be built at the end of the road. Members noted that there were houses there before those and that each subsequent application had always been judged on its merits of access to Orchard Road and the precedence that had been set. Members had always commented on the poor junction formed onto Kings Road from Orchard Road in their responses but there was nothing that could be done. It was unfortunate that no ownership could be found for the road.
- c. **Kidz Mix.** Members noted the activities of the after School Club "Kidz Mix" and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger agreed to grant them £50 toward buying some equipment.
- d. **Youth Club.** Members were pleased to see that the Youth Club was doing well and was on target to match their submitted budget. Members noted that £14,000 had been precepted to support the Club for this year so, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed to release £7,000 for this half year. It was noted that contingencies may have to be covered when the details of the proposed move to the Middle School site become clearer.

59. **Questions to the Chairman.**

- a. There were no items raised.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.30 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----