

Pre-meeting Reports
4th September 2012

- 77. Presentation by Mr Nick Boulter on Leiston Community Radio.** Mr Boulter explained how he had drawn together a team to launch a Community Radio station in the Town. With 30 volunteers now signed up he feels he has the right mix to be able to get "Radio Leiston" on the air and, all being well, the first test broadcasts will be going out on Thursdays between 6pm and 8pm over the next few weeks to get feedback and make sure everything is working. He hopes to be able to get the schools interested (with their own clubs etc.) and is keen to engage with other youth organisations to get them involved too as the project develops. Although internet based he explained how, if the project expands sufficiently, there was an opportunity to get an FM licence (although not before next September). This would mean a lot more expense and running costs however. At the moment it was not costing anything to set up and get on air although they would be fundraising to move the project along over the next few months. He invited everyone to try www.radioleiston.co.uk on a Thursday evening (initially) and to e-mail back any comments.
- 78. Police report.** The Chairman introduced PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for August (attached). He reported that 5 (of the 27 crimes) had been detected and more were still being investigated. Cllr Ginger reported that a resident had seen youths climbing on the roof of the Sizewell Road Car Park toilets.
- 79. County Report.** Apologies were received from County Councillor Richard Smith.
- 80. District report.** Cllr Nunn drew attention to two consultations taking place at the moment. One was on the Sustainability Policy that SCDC and Waveney hope to adopt shortly and the other was on new Council Tax Support Scheme. The finish date for comments on the latter is 25th October. Members discussed the issues arising from the Governments change to the way Council Tax benefits will be funded from next year as the District Council will now have to find around £700,000 to make up for the 10% reduction in Government funding that is given to cover these benefits at present. The consultation is asking for comments on their proposals to raise this money from other adjustments to council tax rates. Although the Town Council will be advertising this in the forthcoming newsletter to alert residents to the change Cllr Howard pointed out that pensioners would be protected and that the District were also obliged to identify the most vulnerable and to protect them. He asked Cllr Nunn if he could get figures for the number of homeless people in the District at present, the number in B&B and what effects the proposed Benefits Cap will have in Suffolk Coastal. Cllr Boast asked that the District take into account the disabled when looking into how to manage this change. Cllr Nunn finished by reporting the latest recycling and compost rates for the District which were 60.1%. Cllr Ginger asked about the letter from Mr Skelcher which ascertained that the £2m savings announced by SCDC as a result of merging with Waveney was incorrect. Cllr Nunn replied that, in his opinion, the officers in the authority employed to deal with the Councils finance were more likely to be correct than Mr Skelcher and he accepted their figures. Mr Briggs asked that the Planning Authority seriously consider putting a hold on the Valley Road development (opposite Crown Street) until there is some resolution to the flooding problem at the end of that road as the development would only exacerbate it.
- 81. Public session.** Lesley Hill gave assurance that the Film Theatre Support Club were committed to paying off the loan for the Digital and 3D projector (2 more years to go) and, although they were very supportive of the latest proposed project to extend the Theatre, they wished to advise the Council that, in this instance, they would not be able to help financially. The Chairman again thanked Mrs Hill and the Club members for everything they do to support the Film Theatre.

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,
4th SEPTEMBER 2012, at 7.45 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor T. E. Hodgson (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor D.R. Boast
Councillor A.M. Cooper
Councillor R. J. Geater
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater (from 8.35pm)
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
Councillor N. Parker

- 82. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7th August 2012 be signed as a true record with two amendments. Cllr R Bailey seconded the motion in minute 70 (not Cllr Cooper) and Cllr R Bailey was the member who objected in minute 74.
- 83. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Bailey and Cllr Sparrow.
- 84. Declaration of interests.** Cllr Ginger declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5,6 and letter 10 in the correspondence. Cllr Howard a non pecuniary interest in 7,8 and 16. Cllr D Bailey declared a pecuniary interest in letter 3 (from LOFO).
- 85. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported a quiet month with the notable exception of attending the Allotment Holder and Gardeners Associations' annual Flower Show at the LTAA.
- 86. Film Theatre.** Members considered the minutes from the Committee meeting of 17th July and, on a proposition from Cllr D Bailey, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed that they were a true record. Cllr Ginger then addressed the report from the Theatre Manager on the proposed project to extend the Theatre. He thanked Mr Burns for a comprehensive report and felt that he had done a good job of putting it together. He felt that the project the manager wished the Council to adopt was a good community project but the business plan was not so good when it was judged on cost. He was particularly opposed to the suggestion of selling off half the car park to help fund the project and, overall, felt that the project might fall when considering how to fund it. Cllr Howard agreed. The Chairman invited Mr Wayne Burns and Mr Craig Driver to the table to help members discuss the proposal further. Mr Burns pointed out how important live theatre was for the venue as it was an essential part of the mix along with cinema and other business activities. He explained how an extension could generate extra income from these shows plus the other variety of entertainment that the facilities would make possible. He asked members to balance this with the possible loss in revenue that could be the result of having to stop certain live shows due to the out of date changing facilities. Cllr Ginger asked whether it would be cheaper to extend out into the car park rather than build a second storey. Mr Driver explained that costs would be fairly similar

for both. There were several more questions and members were requested to bear in mind that, although no decisions were being made at this meeting, it was expected that a vote would be taken in December or January when the tender prices for the work were all in and the true costs known. In the meantime members were encouraged to visit the Theatre and talk things through with the manager to ensure they were happy with the what and why of the project. The Chairman thanked Wayne and Mr Driver for attending.

- 87. Community Centre.** Cllr Ginger gave a brief report of the Management Committee meeting held on 23rd July. Firstly he had congratulated Mrs Burch and Mrs Davis on retaining their five star hygiene rating for the Lunch Club. The other items raised had been the recommendation from that inspection that washing up water might be hotter and consideration might be given to getting an industrial dishwasher. The Clerk reported that this would cost in the region of £2,000 for purchase, alterations and plumbing plus it would introduce a further Health and Safety burden when the centre is used for casual hire. He pointed out that it was only a recommendation and suggested that it wasn't really necessary. He had yet to receive the quotes to relay the tarmac on the Centre car park to remove the puddles and ice hazard and the small items of decoration were being dealt with.
- 88. Highways.** Members noted the minutes of the recent Highways Working Party meeting;
- a) Flooding.** Members noted the progress made on the flooding problem in Heath View. The soakaway there had been bored through to see if that made a difference. If effective it might be a technique used elsewhere in the town. The main item concerning flooding however was the continuing episodes of dwellings being flooded at the end of Valley Road. The Clerk informed the meeting that the County Council were organising a multi agency meeting in Leiston to look at what solutions could be put in place to alleviate this and other areas of flooding in the town. It is believed the meeting would include Highways, Anglian Water, Environment Agency and affected residents. He would keep everyone informed of the timing but it might be some weeks away.
 - b) Yellow Lines and Parking Issues.** The Clerk explained that some areas of the town required further parking restrictions based on experience since the last review. This would, however, cost the Council £1,000 to do. Members felt that the new lines were necessary and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to allocate the funds and proceed with a mini review.
 - c) Lorry Management.** The Clerk was chasing up the requested audit of signage pertaining to lorries as they come into town to warn them away from the town centre. The Clerk was asked to write to the Co-op and ask them to remind their drivers of the restrictions and agreed routes.
 - d) Station Road Level Crossing.** All agreed this was still a problem and the Clerk asked to continue trying to get some interest from Network Rail and Highways to find a solution.
- 89. Upper Abbey Farm.** Mr McGarry, Edf Energy, informed the Clerk that the project remains on course and a planning application will be in by end of September.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes (2045-2100) for refreshment

- 90. Police Priority Meeting and Sizewell Road Car Park.** Cllr Ginger informed the meeting that, at the Police Priority Meeting, one of the main items that was raised was the fact that there was no senior officer there – no disrespect to PCSO Marshall was intended but some residents felt that there should have been a Constabulary presence above his grade. At the meeting a new priority was set of reducing anti-social behaviour in the Sizewell Road Car Park. The District Council had got involved in this and were wondering, under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, whether they should close the car park at nights or install a CCTV to fulfil their duty of care. Members discussed this and came to the unanimous conclusion that closing the car park was impractical, inconvenient and would not solve the problem. CCTV on the other hand would be a tool should a crime be committed but may not be that effective by recording young people just hanging out in the car park. The other issue was the time of closure perhaps – what would be best – and there was still the issue of ASB

at other times of the day. Members asked the Clerk to write to the SCDC Community Safety Team to point out their views and to request a meeting with Kevin Miller and Kate Rookyard to look at this again.

- 91. Town Appraisal Results and Action Plan.** Members were dismayed at the personal issues that had been aired in public since the publication of the Town Appraisal results and sincerely hoped that they would not detract in any way from the excellent job the Appraisal Team had done in carrying out a comprehensive survey of residents opinions and producing a very professional Action Plan. The huge amount of time they had all put in was evident by the quality of the document returned to the Town Council for action and members accepted the document as a basis for future planning and direction. It was proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Ginger that the Council form a sub-committee to take forward the Action Plan which would report back to Council on a regular basis. The Committee was decided as Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Cooper, Cllr D Bailey and Cllr Last. There was some concern that a few areas of the town had not received their copies of the results and a note was agreed for the newsletter for those residents to collect a copy from the Clerk.
- 92. Finance.**
- a) **Allotments.** Members agreed to keep the allotment rent at its current rate until a comprehensive review could be carried out next year. It was also proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed that the lease for the allotments held with SCDC be signed and renewed for a further six years. Members noted that there would soon be correspondence to discuss the transfer of ownership of the allotments to Leiston Town Council which, should that eventually occur, would mean that the lease falls away.
- b) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £10,870.74p along with £8,296.74p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Boast declared an interest in cheque 311332.
- 93. Planning.**
- a) **No applications received.**
- 94. Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Howard reported that, along with Cllr Boast, Cooper and Hawkins, he had attended a meeting with Suffolk Coastal District Council to discuss our intention to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. At the meeting SCDC had informed us of the facilities and support that they could provide to help us produce the plan and pointed out the quasi legal nature of the plan and the need to keep an audit trail of how we go about gathering the evidence, what we do with it, who we consult with etc. etc. The next step was to hold a public meeting to get residents interested and on board to help produce the plan. This was currently planned for 9th October with a newsletter advertising it going out end of September.
- 95. County Matters.**
- a) A member reported a dip in the road opposite the cemetery gates.
- 96. Correspondence.**
- a) **CURIE.** Members discussed the request from CURIE for a donation toward the upkeep of their instruments. They also noted the groups survey results which were provided for members interest. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that £25 be sent to CURIE for their use.
- b) **Vitalise.** On a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed to donate £50 to Vitalise in response to their request for funding.
- c) **LOFO.** On a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to donate £150 to Leiston Old Folks Outing to help finance this year's event.
- d) **ONR – Housing Provision.** Members noted the response from the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) with regard to their queries on the rules or guidance currently in place to regulate housing provision within the vicinity of Nuclear facilities. It would appear that

there is currently an ongoing discussion about this which encompasses planning, emergency plans and size of the DEPZ (Detailed Emergency Planning Zone.) Members were pleased that Mr Warnes, ONR, offered to meet representatives of the Council to discuss it further and asked the Clerk to arrange it.

- e) **Correspondence from Mrs J Geater.** Members noted Mrs Geater's letter which went into some detail and some length about numerous issues around the town. Councillors approved the draft letter on the table for a reply which answered many of the points raised.
- f) **Haylings Pond.** Members noted the initial contact from SCDC with regard to the possible devolvement of Haylings Pond to Leiston Town Council. There were a few items that members felt needed to be addressed before this happened however and the Clerk was asked to put together the information needed.
- g) **Sizewell Village – parking restrictions.** Members noted the letter from Mr Troughton which pointed out the need for double yellow lines on the corner at Sizewell Village and also that the Cycle Path to Sizewell needed widening to its true width once again.

97. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Councillor asked the Chairman to ensure that a thank you letter was sent to the Town Appraisal Committee to acknowledge their tremendous effort in putting together the Action Plan.
- b) The Chairman was asked to enquire whether CYDS were getting closer to finding any further long term funding.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.10 pm.

Chair

Dated
