

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd October 2012

- 98. Police report.** The Chairman introduced PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for September (attached). He reported that 10 (of the 29 crimes) had been detected and more were still being investigated. He was asked some questions on the statistics and was asked to look at Seaward Avenue during school times to witness the traffic speed and volume now that school reorganisation has been completed. The County Councillor (below) also undertook to have a look to see if the traffic patterns had changed.
- 99. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Cllr Richard Smith who reported that the Cabinet had recently agreed to give £11.3 million pounds to the Broadband for Suffolk project. The contract has been let to BT and every home in Suffolk will now, in due course, benefit from faster broadband connections. The Government has contributed £11.6m, BT £16m and the various District Councils £300,000. He then announced a public meeting to be held on 13th November in the Community Centre to look at flooding issues. He hoped that progress could be made on the King George Ave/Sylvester Road problem soon but this depended on permissions from Anglian Water. He was asked for an update on what had been done in Heath View too. He was pleased to have been invited to the Youth Club's open evening and thanked the Town Council for keeping the Club going. He also thanked the Co-op for donating £3,900 to the club and finally to the young people themselves (many in the meeting) for what they do. The subject of street lights and their being turned off at midnight was raised and discussed and he was asked (along with the Clerk) to investigate the ownership of the road beside the cemetery. Finally, he briefed the meeting on the Long Shop's Heritage Lottery Fund application for almost £2m. To do the project a further £300,000 needed to be raised and he was pleased that SCC had recently pledged £75,000. Other donations had been received but there was still a shortfall, to date, of £180,000.
- 100. District report.** Sandie Thompson asked that bin be acquired for the Skatepark which had a lid on it as the rubbish currently blew out of the open top one there at present.
- 101. Public session.** Representatives from the young people who use and maintain the skatepark requested that members give some thought to allowing them to put another small bowl adjacent to the current facility. They hoped to fund raise up to £10,000 to achieve this if allowed. They also asked that thought be given to letting them build a BMX dirt track somewhere in the town.

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 be completed.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
2nd OCTOBER 2012, at 7.49 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

- 102. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4th September 2012 be signed as a true record.
- 103. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr A Nunn, Cllr Howard, Cllr Last, Cllr Parker, Cllr Cooper and Cllr Mrs Geater.
- 104. Declaration of interests.** Cllr Ginger declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 12a and Cllr Geater a pecuniary interest in 13b.
- 105. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended a Library Steering Group meeting the previous evening where a member of the IPS Board (the Independent Provident Society now running the Libraries) had briefed everyone on the current situation. The IPS was hoping that library support groups, like ours here in Leiston, would consider becoming members of the IPS and help enhance their libraries. He pointed out that the contract they were operating under from the County Council left them short of about £100,000 which they hoped to spread out amongst the 44 libraries in Suffolk on a sort of graded scale. Leiston would probably be requested to raise £600-£1,000 a year to remain members and for the Library to enjoy increased support. There was still much to do with the first AGM of the IPS being over a year away. The next useful event would be a meeting of all the embryo library groups on 22nd October and a further meeting of the Leiston group was planned for 12th November.
- 106. Sizewell Management Meeting.** Members considered the minutes from the meeting of 13th September. Cllr D Bailey again expressed his concerns that it was probably very difficult (and unlikely) for the dunes through the vehicle gate to be restored and brought back from their current state of deterioration. The Clerk reported that he had assisted in a full audit of the winches, boats and sheds on the beach with Mr Cattermole and Mr Lowe (SCDC).
- 107. Upper Abbey Farm.** The Clerk was asked to write to EDF to express our concerns at the continuing delay in making any progress on this project.
- 108. Highbury Cottage footpath.** The Clerk reported that discussions were still ongoing with Mrs Readhead-Higgins regards the legal aspects of possibly using part of her field for a footpath.
- 109. Haylings Pond.** Members considered the offer from the District Council to transfer Haylings Pond Meadow back across to the Town Council with the standard provision of a 75% clawback clause in the event of any increase in value at a future date (planning permission for instance). There was also provision for a sliding scale of contribution toward the maintenance of the land for the next three years. Members were happy to accept the offer in principal but were minded to explore the future costs that ownership might entail. The

specific items mentioned were the state of the car park, the dreadful state of the entrance road and the fact that this was not owned by SCDC. Was there an enduring right of way over that land for instance. There were questions about the cost of maintaining the pond (work on the banks could be very costly) and the Clerk was asked to see if there would be an increase in insurance. Cllr D Bailey was concerned that the quote the Clerk had received for grass cutting was too low and asked for another contractor to be approached.

110. Town Appraisal. The committee had not been able to meet in September.

111. Allotments. Beginning of review of terms and conditions. Members were asked for comments on the sufficiency of the current rules and conditions for allotment hire, especially with regard to possibly restricting the use of bonfires on the plots. It was intended to take in comments from members and the Allotment Association to put together a discussion paper for the meeting with the Association in November.

112. Standing Orders and Financial regulations. Members were asked to look through Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders to assess where changes might be needed, bearing in mind how we currently work, and to let the Clerk have their comments so he can put forward some amendments for discussion.

113. Finance.

a) **Pay and Conditions Review.** Members considered the recommendations of the Personnel Committee with regard to this year's review of pay and conditions for Council staff and, on proposition from Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Sparrow, it was agreed to accept all the recommendations put forward. There were no changes to conditions and the pay award amounted to an increase of just over 2% across the board.

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

b) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £14,221.42p along with £4,295.00p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting took a break for refreshment from 8.32pm – 8.47pm

114. Planning.

a) **C12/1904 - Proposed alterations, refurbishment & extensions to form funeral parlour at 61 High Street, Leiston.** Members were slightly concerned about the vehicular access at the rear of the property but, overall were content that they had no real grounds for objection and that it would, at least, tidy up a currently disused shop. Cllr Hawkins abstained.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

b) **C12/1923 – Erection of two dwellings (to replace plot 3 on C11/1767) and alterations to boundary and parking arrangement of plot 2 on C11/1767 on land to the rear of 31 High Street, Leiston.** Members had objected when the third house had been added to this back street development and found this latest application – to replace that third house with a pair of semidetached properties – to be a complete overdevelopment of a small area. The size of the proposed property and the movement of its footprint to the north was unacceptable. It severely affected the amenity enjoyed by the occupier of 31 High Street and the amenity of the first two properties is also curtailed by virtue of the removal of parking spaces. There are 9 bedrooms now being proposed for this plot (up from 4 in the original application) and only 4 parking spaces. Totally unrealistic and a disadvantage to any future occupiers.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

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

- c) **C12/1922 - Ground floor alterations and first floor extension above to form multi use room, improved changing, WC facilities & storage including DDA access improvements. Leiston Film Theatre, 72 High Street, Leiston.** Members noted that our application was now out for consultation.
- d) **C12/2002 – Demolition of existing lean-to, change of use to residential. Alterations to existing flat and formation of 3 No. Two bed maisonettes with three on site parking places, at 31 Haylings Road, Leiston.** Members were concerned at the difficult entrance to this property and, although the Clerk had confirmed the feasibility of the indicated parking in the application, without the hedge being cut low at the entrance, it was a dangerous manoeuvre. The easterly property on the plan appeared to overlook 29 Haylings and the new properties to the rear of the site and, overall, members felt that this was an overdevelopment of a small site and not a good use of the space. Cllr Hawkins abstained.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

115. **Neighbourhood Plan.** Members noted the time of the public meeting on 9th October (7.00pm) and all hoped there would be a good turnout.

116. **County Matters**

- a) Nothing raised.

117. **District Matters.**

- a) **SALC.** Cllr R Bailey gave a report of the recent local area SALC meeting of which he had now been elected Chairman.

118. **Correspondence.**

- a) **Sizewell – EDF – Statement of Community Consultation.** Members were briefed on the consultation on the draft “Statement of Community Consultation” which detailed just how EDF were intending to take forward the planning process for Sizewell C. The only issue that members had with the proposal was the 8 week slot they had allocated for the first consultation. With this stage looking to begin late November members were concerned that the Christmas and New Year period would hinder meaningful discussion on the proposals and hoped that EDF would consider a 12 week consultation period for this important first phase. Clerk to write. Members also invited Mr McGarry to come to their November meeting.
- b) **Leiston Citizens Advice Bureau.** There was comment made that other towns did not seem to support the CAB as much as Leiston, especially at this time when their work is increasing, but this was explained as an historic investment that the Town Council put in as they have always valued the CAB and the service it gives to Leiston residents. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that £2,000 be granted to the CAB to continue this work.
- c) **Sports grant.** Members considered a letter from a resident sent on behalf of a local disabled lady who has proved to be an excellent swimmer and has ability in all the swimming disciplines. Her request was for a grant to allow this lady to receive competitive training from a qualified trainer. The Leisure Centre had confirmed that the potential was there for her to reach a good competitive standard but her family could only find £5 to go toward the extra £14.30 per week that this training would cost. Members discussed the request and hoped that they could help. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Mrs Nunn, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that £250 be granted to Michelle Watling to allow her to complete 6 months training. It was members hope that Michelle could then come back and report on her progress.

d) Housing Seminar. Members noted the “World of Housing” event being held at the Suffolk Coastal Council Chambers on 10th October.

119. Questions to the Chairman.

a) Members noted that the newsletter had been delivered with some advertising leaflets which, in some cases, may have led residents to discard the newsletter as junk. The Clerk was asked to ensure this didn't happen next time.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.40 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----