

Pre-meeting Reports
4th December 2012

- 147. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Terry Barrow who gave an overview of the crime statistics for November (attached) and detailed the current priorities as set at the public meeting on 27th November. He answered some questions before handing over to Inspector Nick Aitken who discussed various issues with members and residents regards policing in Suffolk. The main items raised were the response times where Inspector Aitken explained the difficulty of achieving a 90% response rate of 15 minutes in rural areas (Leiston and Beccles sector). The national target for rural areas was for 90% of these to be within 20 minutes, a target Suffolk would be adopting next year. This target was currently being met. The Inspector was pleased to report crime statistics which were reducing quite noticeably year on year. This year was down 24% on last year and 34% on the year before that – that meant 58 fewer victims of crime in Leiston this year than last. Answering questions on the hub system the Inspector explained that the frontline had not reduced since it was introduced in 2009 and that there was no intention of reducing the number of frontline policemen in the County in the future as far as he was aware. With regard to the dissatisfaction and disappointment many expressed at the way four protesters were allowed to block Her Majesty's highway at Sizewell for almost 7 hours last month Inspector Aitken explained how the police abided by Human Rights guidance and used a special team to remove them humanely – this team took time to assemble and attend. Many were just perplexed as to why people were allowed to deprive hard working law abiding residents of a livelihood.
- 148. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Cllr Richard Smith who reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk had been sworn in on 22nd November. He would be responsible for setting the strategic priorities of the Suffolk force and for setting the budget. He would not get involved in or interfere with the day to day policing in the County. Cllr Smith informed the meeting that he would be inviting the Commissioner to come to Leiston and address a public meeting in the new year. He then informed members on the progress of the consultation on the merger of the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Fire Service. This was proving quite difficult to cost and had been delayed for up to a year while more detailed analysis was carried out. He confirmed that Balfour Beatty had been invited to run Suffolk's Highways come next April and that this would save the County £2 million pounds. The meeting was intrigued and sceptical that the £2m saving was £2m that would not now be spent on highways maintenance although Cllr Smith assured the meeting that potholes would not be left and would still be attended to in the same efficient manner as now.
- 149. District report.** Cllr Cooper drew members attention to the forthcoming Electoral Review which was being undertaken to look at reducing the number of District Councillors but, more importantly, to try and provide uniformity to the size of wards each Councillor represented. Currently there were more than 30% of wards with an electoral variance of more than 10% - some as high as 40% i.e. one Councillor can represent 40% more residents than another around the same debating table. Cllr Hawkins assured the meeting that, in response to requests made at the November meeting, he had discussed the potential impacts of benefits cuts with Council officers and that they were aware of the problem and in consultation with Flagship Housing on the issue. Cllr Howard asked if there were any truth in the rumour that SCDC were seeking to divest land such as car parks and recreation grounds. Both District Councillors present said they had no knowledge of this although the Clerk pointed out that SCDC were in negotiations with the Town Council to divest KGA Recreation Ground, Haylings Pond and Valley Road allotments as was briefed at a previous meeting.
- 150. Public.** Mrs Burrell-Saward wanted to congratulate the Business Association and the Council for the Christmas Lights. They looked terrific. She also wished to point out how members could use the Town Appraisal when considering their response to the Sizewell C consultation as there was a lot of data in it that was relevant.

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,
4th DECEMBER 2012, at 8.07 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
Councillor C. S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor J. N. Last
Councillor Mrs A.V. Nunn
Councillor N. Parker
Councillor J. Sparrow

- 151. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6th November 2012 be signed as a true record with an amendment to minute 131. regards the Library where the intention to also provide the £275, should the group not be able to raise it, had been left off the end of the proposition.
- 152. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nunn and Cllr R Bailey.
- 153. Declaration of interests.** Cllr Howard declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5 and 6.
- 154. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman echoed the earlier praise for the Christmas Lighting around the town and thanked the Leiston Business Association for organising and running the Christmas Fayre which was such a success last Saturday.
- 155. Sizewell C Consultation.** Cllr Ginger was upset at the amount of land EDF were proposing to take to the north of Kenton Hill woods and could not believe they would be allowed to devastate so much of the AONB that the current proposals illustrated. Cllr Ginger proposed and Cllr Howard seconded a motion to call a public meeting to hear the views of residents but this was lost 2-9 as most members, although in agreement, felt that a public meeting would not be productive. It was agreed however to discuss the issues at a special council meeting, held in public as usual (with the same public session pre-meeting) on 15th January with 22nd January as a spare to ratify the response.
- 156. Sizewell Emergency Plans.** Members noted the proposed consultation on the Sizewell off site emergency plan which was due to start in January. Although inconvenient with regard to the ongoing Sizewell C consultation it was relevant to it and would be looked at but, with the response not being required until 6 April there was time to discuss it properly in February. Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, proposed that Mr Skelcher be invited to address that meeting in February to give his views on the issue but members felt that a member of the emergency planning unit would be more appropriate as they could be questioned about their proposals so voted 5-4 against this motion. Mr Saward from the SJEPU would be invited to present the plans in February.
- 157. Flooding.** Cllr Cooper thanked Cllr Smith for organising and chairing the public meeting in November which addressed the flooding issues in the town. Residents felt that it was a positive meeting and that there was a will amongst the Flood Risk Management Partnership

to do their best to improve the situation where it was possible. Members did raise the issue of heavy lorries accessing the sewage works again though and hoped something could be worked out to alleviate the pressures on Valley Road.

158. Town Appraisal. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Last briefed the meeting on progress. The most recent part of the Action Plan being looked at was the issue of how schools could be used out of hours and how their facilities could be used for community use.

159. Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk reported that the meeting held the previous evening had been positive and useful with many of the residents who volunteered to help forming groups and getting together to discuss how to take the project forward. The next step was to integrate councillors into the working groups and publish a master list so everyone could communicate and the groups could operate at their convenience.

The meeting took a break for refreshment from 8.50pm – 9.10pm

160. Allotments. Cllr Ginger outlined the main items raised at the meeting with the Allotment Association which were contained in the report. On his proposition the report was accepted and, on a further proposition, it was agreed to write to the District Council to request that four small sycamores in the caravan park, which blighted one of the allotments, be removed.

161. Community Centre Repairs. Members noted the quote to relay around 80sq m of tarmac at the front of the Community Centre but wondered whether it wouldn't be better to replace the area needing refurbishment with block paving. The Clerk was asked to get a quote..

162. CYDS. Members noted the report on the table from Cllr Cooper which outlined CYDS current position with regard to funding. The organisation was still awaiting the outcome of a major funding package but, with help from the Town Council and other grants, were now able to keep going until April. A request for the Council to fund an advisor was postponed until it could become an Agenda item in January.

163. Finance.

a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £28,907.40p along with £8,364.57p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

b) **Half yearly budget update.** Members noted the Clerks report and the comparison of actual expenditure to date 30 September against the current year estimates. Members accepted the report and satisfied themselves that the accounts were on course to match the Precept as set.

c) **Timetable for setting Precept for 2013/2014.** Members noted the report from the Clerk on how it was hoped to go through the process of setting a precept for next year at the January meeting.

164. Planning.

a) **C12/2127 – Erection of a rear conservatory extension on Osborne House, 107 Haylings Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

b) **C12/2338 – Single storey rear extension and single storey front porch at 7 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

c) **C12/2368 - Change of use from jam and chutney production to cake and dessert manufacture (no internal or external alterations) at Unit 2C, Eastlands Industrial Estate, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

165. County Matters

- a) **Social Fund.** Cllr Howard informed the meeting that the County Council did appear to have ringfenced the Social Fund and were using a tokens system in its administration.
- b) **Litter.** The Clerk was asked to write to the Alde Valley School to request that their pupils refrain from littering the streets during lunch breaks where chip cartons and papers have been thrown down in Quakers Way etc. rather than being properly disposed of.

166. District Matters.

- a) **Haylings Pond.** Notwithstanding the current negotiations with SCDC regards devolution of the Haylings Pond site members were still disappointed that the District had not made the entrance to the meadow disabled friendly.
- b) **Housing.** Cllr Cooper provided some statistics requested at previous meeting regards empty properties. He informed members that there were 2,723 people on the housing waiting list in Suffolk Coastal and there were 763 long term empty properties with 85 Housing Association properties that had been empty for more than 6 months.

167. Correspondence.

- a) **Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project.** Members noted the letter from the Caravan Project and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed to grant them £50 toward their running costs.
- b) **Headway.** Members noted the letter from Ipswich and East Suffolk Headway and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed to grant them £50 to help them continue their good work in our area.
- c) **MAGPAS.** Members noted the letter received from the Emergency Medical Charity Magpas and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to grant them £50 toward their costs.

168. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Cllr Howard asked that a newsletter planning meeting be programmed for January.

It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

169. Personnel. A confidential issue regarding personnel was discussed and resolved.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.20 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----