

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013**

- 249. Mr Tom McGarry.** The Chairman apologised on behalf of Mr McGarry who was unable to attend due to ill health.
- 250. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for the town for March (attached). Members and residents asked various questions mostly regarding speeding and traffic. There was particular concern at the number of inconsiderate drivers who block pavements by parking on them in the High Street. Members were also frustrated by the lack of progress in getting new parking restrictions in Kings Road.
- 251. District report.** Cllr Cooper reported the percentage of Household waste which had been recycled or composted was down slightly to 58.2% - this was likely due to the economic situation. The Council's share of SCS Ltd's profits however was expected to be some £130,000 higher than expected due to ongoing efficiencies, productivity improvements and business growth.
- 252. Public.** Mrs Girling asked whether the Council had been consulted on the NDA's talks with EDF to possibly take some of the B Stations functions on to their land to make room for the C site. This was contrary to their agreed policy of returning the A station to a Greenfield site and needed to be more transparent. Mr Briggs asked that members take into consideration the bottom of Carr Avenue and other side roads when discussing grit bins later in the agenda. Mr Jackman-Graham informed members that the Neighbourhood Plan Infrastructure Group were currently trying to gather more accurate information on the sewage system in Leiston to get more detail on where it came from, what went into it and where it went. Mr Taylor asked members whether they were aware that their MP was supporting a 2% cap on Parish Precepts – it showed that Dr Coffey did not seem to have a clear idea on how parishes and towns in her constituency worked. The 10 minute bill she was supporting on this issue was due to be discussed in Parliament between 25 and 28 April and the public were encouraged to comment and give their views.

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,  
2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2013, at 7.33 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor T. E. Hodgson (in the chair)  
Councillor D. 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. Last  
Councillor Mrs A.V. Nunn  
Councillor N. Parker  
Councillor J. Sparrow

253. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be signed as a true record.
254. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nunn.
255. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor for raising the item regarding Dr Coffey. He himself had spoken to the MP on the subject and would also be replying to the editorial in the EADT which did not reflect the situation adequately. He also thanked everyone who had supported and helped at the recent Reception.
256. **To consider delegation to the Town Clerk of the power to decide dispensations where the council are inquorate.** Members noted that they would be inquorate when discussing the next agenda item which was a request for dispensations for all current members. They also noted that standing orders gave the Clerk delegated powers to make the decision in their absence. This was substantiated by a proposal from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard.
257. **To consider any dispensation requests.** The Town Clerk (under delegated powers) granted a full dispensation to all councillors for the remaining term of their office and, retrospectively, from the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, for budget and precept setting and all matters concerning the Leiston Film Theatre. This dispensation would be active from November 2012 to May 2015.
258. **Declaration of interests.** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins declared an interest in Agenda item 17f and Cllr Mrs Geater in Agenda item 14.
259. **Sizewell C –** In the absence of Mr McGarry the Clerk was asked to convey some queries to him for answers at a later date. The first one, for EDF and the NDA, was for them to provide some clarity as to what is being discussed with the regard to using the Sizewell A site. Cllr Howard wished for a statement from EDF as to whether they were prepared to go ahead with building Sizewell C if there was no destination for the spent fuel. Cllr R Bailey wished for a better estimate of the forecast of local against non local workers during construction.
260. **Newsletter.** The committee would meet at 4pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss the next issue.

- 261. Gritbins and winter weather.** Members noted the discussions that were being had with SCS Ltd with regard to entering into a possible contract for snow clearance and pavement gritting in certain vulnerable areas of the town. They also noted the procedure and administration that would accompany any procurement of gritbins and the recruitment of volunteers to use them. Each of these would be looked at in June or July with a view to getting something in place for next winter.
- 262. Allotment rules and regulations.** Members noted the proposed new regulations for the allotments and, with one minor amendment, they were adopted on a proposal from Cllr Cooper seconded by Cllr Ginger. Cllr Bailey reported back from the recent Allotment Holders AGM where he was asked to ascertain certain information from the Council with regard to the plans and status for the Valley Road site.
- 263. Film Theatre Licence.** Members considered the issue of whether to allow alcohol to be served at Live Shows at the Film Theatre. The arguments for were that every other Theatre provided customers with the option of having a drink before the show and during the interval but some members disagreed with this practise and didn't wish to see it happen at Leiston. On a proposition from Cllr R Bailey, seconded by Cllr Sparrow however it was agreed to allow alcohol to be served at future live shows. Cllr Howard voted against and Cllr Ginger abstained.
- 264. Meeting with SCS Ltd.** Members noted the updated minutes of the meeting which was held with Mr Tynan from SCS Ltd on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Ginger talked through the report which was accepted as accurate. The Clerk undertook to follow up on the items as appropriate, particularly the disgusting state of Church Path which was yet to be cleared.
- 265. Engineers Arms.** Members heard that the Engineers Arms was about to be placed on the market for sale. It was not known at this stage whether it was to be as a pub or for development potential. The Clerk had been made aware that this was the case after a meeting of the Leiston Works Railway with Adnams the previous week where they were informed of the sale and their request for a lease or sale of the railway bed on the site was turned down. The Clerk explained that he had been approached with a view to nominating the site as one of value, both culturally and to the community such that it might be placed on the "Register of Assets" and therefore be eligible for a "Community Right to Bid". It was explained that there was an opinion that the site had huge potential as a Community Hub and would allow an extension to the Library as well as being of use to the Long Shop, the LWR and as a Community cafe. There was no financial commitment required for the process to proceed so members agreed to support the application which would allow SCDC to process the application a bit quicker.
- 266. Highbury Footway.** The Clerk informed members that he had been in touch with Mrs Readhead-Higgins solicitor and that the agreement would be worked on over the next month.
- 267. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £237.34p along with £38,353.26p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. The majority of invoices this month were settled before 31<sup>st</sup> March for accounting purposes.
- 268. Planning.**
- a) **C13/0294 – Two storey side extension. (Existing flat roof structure to be demolished). 1 South Close, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- b) **C13/0312 – Demolition of old asbestos-clad garage. Erection of single storey brick garage with hipped slate roof adjoining house-window at rear and door at side facing house at 9 Buller Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c) **C13/0350 – Change of use from retail to Estate Agents at 3, High Street, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d) **C13/0475 – Erection of 12 houses, 13 flats with associated car parking and access on land between 55 and 81, Valley Road, Leiston.** Members noted that this was a revised scheme of the one that SCDC had tacitly approved at their last Development Control meeting. The layout had been improved on planners advice and the surface water management had been beefed up. Members were still unhappy however as the main issues of parking and road safety had not been addressed and the response from Badger Building Ltd. on the non inclusion of a play area was disappointing. Members understood that this application would be approved by SCDC but asked that they again try and get Badger to use some of the front gardens of the flats to widen the highway at its confluence with Crown Street. It was also felt that there should be a condition that the SCC Flood Team approve the new scheme for surface water run off and comment be sought from Anglian Water regards sewage.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e) **C13/0366 – To bring in a 36’x21’ mobile/chalet unit for annexe usage at 110 Haylings Road, Leiston.** This application is the equivalent of building a bungalow in the back garden and is clearly an overdevelopment and an attempt at backfill. Members could not support this as it was against current and emerging policies.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

- f) **Town Appraisal.** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Last explained that they had looked at the comments regarding use of the school premises out of school hours and had found that the new Community Interest Company “ Coastal Leisure Learning” had put on a very extensive set of evening classes and activities at the school. These were mostly being attended by people from outside of Leiston at the moment however although, with more advertising, this aspect of the Appraisal may well have been addressed. The team were now looking at Public Transport and traffic.

- g) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The leads of each group had met with Mr Bowden and a strategy was being put together to get more involvement from residents in commenting on the issues and proposals that had, so far, been discussed.

## **269. County Matters**

- a) Nothing raised.

## **270. District Matters.**

- a) **SALC.** Cllr R Bailey gave a report on the recent SALC Locality meeting where they had heard from Mr McGarry, discussed the Sustainability Act and also the issue of affordable housing. They had also sought guidance on planning with regards to the many renewable energy projects that were now being put forward to see if common ground could be found in how they were assessed.
- b) **Leisure Centre.** Members noted that the District Council were currently looking to place a new contract when the current one, for DC Leisure running the centres, expires next year. They also noted that the new partner would be expected to make a substantial investment in the premises as Leiston certainly had deteriorated over the years. Cllr Last raised the fears that, with another year to run, the current providers would not make any improvements and could likely run down what maintenance was being done which would make the situation worse.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to conclude.

## **271. Correspondence.**

- a) **Leiston Royal British Legion Band.** Members noted the letter from the Leiston RBL Band requesting grant aid to balance the Theatre Hire Fee they paid for their December

Concert and for any other consideration that the Council might make in their favour. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed that the £750 set aside for the Band in the grants budget for 2012/13 be released and granted to the Band now.

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

- b) **Community Action Suffolk.** Members noted that Suffolk ACRE had now been amalgamated into the new overarching Charity called Community Action Suffolk. It was proposed and agreed that we continued to be a member and that the £30 membership fee be paid.
- c) **CATS.** Members noted that CATS were currently seeking funding to extend their fleet and had also heard that there had been a restructuring of the organisation. The Clerk was asked to get a report on the new structure and the other changes that had taken place.

**272. Questions to the Chairman.**

- a) Cllr Howard asked that the Chairman ensure that all committee meetings were held in public. This was not in response to any that had not been but, because the Council Chambers were generally used for these meetings it should be remembered that, with the stairs, it wasn't as accessible as it should be for the general public.

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

Chair -----

Dated -----