

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd September 2013

- 70. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Carl Lawrence, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave the meeting a detailed run down of crimes and other issues that had happened in the Town during August. Cllr Last asked for an update on the response times (post meeting – 89.3% of grade one calls attended within 20 minutes). Cllr Last also asked for details of detection rates for crimes reported in previous months. PC Lawrence apologised but explained that this would take too long to do effectively as it would involve a painstaking search through each incident, sometimes back over 9 months. Cllr Ginger asked that the e-mail notification for Police Priority Meetings be sent out in good time in future as there had been a bit of a glitch last week. PC Lawrence finished by informing members that the Chief Constable would be setting up shop in the Solar Car Park on 27th September between 10am and 2pm to meet residents who wished to call in.
- 71. Mr Ben Gulliford.** Members were pleased to welcome Mr Ben Gulliford, a pupil at Alde Valley School, who addressed the meeting about the need for a bus shelter outside the Sixth Form Centre in Waterloo Avenue. When the building was a Middle School, the age of the pupils meant that teachers kept the children on the premises until the bus transport arrived then escorted them onto the bus, using brollies if it was wet. Now the pupils are sixth formers they have to wait outside (in all weathers) as the buses and taxi's are not always on time and would not wait if there was no-one on the roadside. Ben told the meeting that there was no shelter and, last winter, pupils were sometimes waiting up to 30 minutes in inclement weather for their transport. He explained that the area in front of the Sixth Form Centre was a very suitable place to put a shelter and that it would benefit local residents too as the lay-by was a very convenient bus stop. In reply to questions he had researched the future intake and predicted up to 30 pupils would have need of a shelter next term. The Chairman thanked Ben for his time and explained that members would consider his request later in the meeting proper.
- 72. County Report.** Councillor Smith began by paying tribute to John Last for his very special achievement of 40 years dedicated service to the Fire and Rescue Service in Leiston. He informed members that he had given £390 to Royal British Legion Band for a new Glockenspiel and had granted £800 to the new job club operating next to the Library. He reported on a recent visit to the Sewage Treatment Plant which had been very informative although all agreed that more information was needed on the network pipework in the Town so the flooding investigations could proceed. He had also been honoured to attend the VJ Day commemoration at the Long Shop. With regard to the Engineers Arms he reported that he would like to support any effort to acquire the property and would willingly give £5000 from his locality budget if it would help. Cllr Hodgson reported that he had just returned from a briefing on the Government's initiative to promote cycling. Money was being given to local authorities with advanced plans in place to do the same. Unfortunately Suffolk had not been successful in the last round and Cllr Hodgson asked Cllr Smith if there were any such plans in Suffolk. Cllr Smith undertook to find out why the bid SCC had put forward had been unsuccessful. Finally, he reminded members that Mrs Cadman was visiting his Ward in October and, should they have any issues they would like raised, could they contact him.
- 73. District Report.** There was nothing to report but Cllr Cooper was asked to find out whether Environmental Health still did water quality checks along the coast of SCDC. Cllr Ginger reported that he had contacted the District Council to enquire whether they were aware of any covenant placed on the High Street Car Park by Anthony Hurren when it was passed to the UDC. SCDC claimed that there were no covenants. Cllr Cooper volunteered to make further enquiries.
- 74. Public Session.** Mrs Burrell-Saward addressed the meeting with regard to two items in the recent Town Council newsletter. The first issue that concerned her was the personal view put forward by Cllr Ron Bailey on the Nuclear Industry which she felt appeared to be anti-nuclear and also political. She felt that the Town Council newsletter (paid for by residents) should not be a soap box for personal views and, at the very least, should have had an

opposing view from another Cllr who should have had the same space. As it stood it looked like the Council condoned Ron Bailey's views and it was therefore their corporate view. That's how it looked anyway. The second point was the personal view put forward by the Chairman in her editorial where she described the High Street as vibrant. Mrs Burrell-Saward had a very different view and thought that the empty shops and pubs indicated a town in trouble and not one with a vibrant High Street. She asked the Council to look at the Town Appraisal to ensure that the projects and improvements asked for by residents to improve the town were being seriously looked at and costed in case any were relevant and could be financed by the proposed nuclear new build. She also felt that the Council should consider employing a Town Centre Manager to spearhead the town's future. The perception to her was that the Council put all their effort and money into the cinema as if that's all Leiston had to offer. Finally, she was disappointed that the Town Appraisal was not submitted, in its entirety, as an official response to the Sizewell C Consultation. There was some discussion on each of the points raised with some obvious differences of opinion and perception evident. The Chairman thanked Mrs Burrell-Saward for caring and coming to the meeting and was sure members had noted all her concerns. Mr Peter Canon, the Vice Chairman of the East Suffolk Traveller Association (ESTA), then informed members of the timetable changes to the local buses and other initiatives ESTA were working on. He lobbied members for their support in getting Leiston included on the national fares system. Mr Jackman-Graham asked members to include recommendations for conditions in any planning applications in future to avoid the very annoying problem of building works making noise, dust and nuisance early mornings, late evenings and all weekend. Most Districts do this as a matter of course but SCDC does not unfortunately.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper, 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 September 2013, at 8.22 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

- 75. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6th August 2013 be signed as a true record.
- 76. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Andrew Nunn and Cllr Ron Bailey.

- 77. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman began by informing members of the recent visit to Sizewell of Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, Minister of State for Energy, where she had met with him and other community leaders to discuss employment, skills, the local economy and local engagement experiences with regard to the proposed nuclear new build for Sizewell. On 15th August, with other Councillors, she had attended the VJ Day Commemoration at the Long Shop. There had been a wreath laying ceremony beneath the union flag brought home to Leiston from the CHUNKI POW camp by the survivors of the 4th Battalion The Suffolk Regiment. On 17th August she had attended the Leiston Allotment Holders Garden and Produce show and on 2nd September the start up meeting of the Leiston and Sizewell Community Benefit Fund grants panel. This is the panel that will award grants from the £150,000 fund which has been made available through the Greater Gabbard Offshore Windfarm. The fund (and application forms) are being administered, and are available, from the Suffolk Foundation.
- 78. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr D Bailey declared an interest in the request for funding from LOFO.
- 79. Waterloo Avenue Bus Shelter.** Cllr Howard thought that Mr Gulliford had made a very reasonable, well presented and strong case for a bus shelter outside the Alde Valley Sixth Form Centre. He drew attention to the correspondence from the County Council indicating that there were some funds available and proposed that the Town Council support Mr Gulliford's requests and ask the County to progress the installation of a bus shelter before the bad weather. This was seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed.
- 80. Engineers Arms.** Members noted that they had until 17th September to exercise their right to bid for the Engineers Arms. Members suspended standing orders to allow County Councillor Richard Smith to comment and he provided information about how Adnams viewed the process. Once back in session members, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, all agreed that the Council should take the opportunity to try and get a community interest company formed to take the premises into the community as there is a lot of support, albeit aspirational at present, and it would definitely be good for the Town if it could be achieved. (Cllr Hawkins abstained in view of it probably requiring change of use permission.) Clerk to action and to keep on the Agenda.
- 81. Upper Abbey Farm.** SCDC had now given planning permission for the renovation of the farm and is now applying for a bat licence to be able to proceed.
- 82. Sizewell Road Car Park CCTV.** Members noted the correspondence from SCDC (who own the car park) spelling out the options for CCTV installation in the car park to disincentivise anti social behaviour on the site. They informed the Town Council that they were going for option 2 with infrared but that the Town Council would, after installation, be required to take ownership of the cameras and be responsible for ongoing maintenance. This was estimated at between £250 - £450 depending on level of cover. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agree that Leiston Town Council agrees to the conditions and puts £450 in its precept next year to see how it goes. (Cllr Howard against).
- 83. Town Twinning.** Unfortunately not much had been done this month. Cllr Mrs Nunn was able to suggest a possible willing French speaker to help out and Cllr Howard was still investigating EU websites for possible grant funding (and guidance).
- 84. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £10,799.79p along with £235.50p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk informed members that he would be using some of the Neighbourhood Plan reserve for the Show Me event on 28th September to pay for Marquee Hire and various other sundries.

The meeting took a break for refreshment from 9.05pm – 9.20pm

85. Planning.

- a) **C13/2152 – Erection of a single storey extension (with basement) at 47 Crown Street, Leiston.** Members noted that this property had recently had a two storey extension refused due to the imposing effect it had on the neighbour's outlook. They had therefore lowered the proposed extension to a single storey one which had much less impact on the visual amenity enjoyed by 45 and the basement was now included in the plan to maintain the extra space required. It was agreed to recommend approval although the neighbour's concerns were noted and a limit on working hours (detailed) would be strongly recommended to limit nuisance. (Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

86. County Matters

- a) **Highways.** A couple of items were raised. The shrubs on Gas Hill were protruding onto the carriageway too much for cyclists, the road surface in Abbey Road was breaking up (location to be clarified) and Crossing Cottage on KGA was an eyesore and needed its brambles cut back from overhanging the footway.

87. District Matters.

- a) **Haylings Pond.** Members noted the concerns from residents (and Councillors) that the repair to the entrance road (in particular) and the car park at Haylings Pond were really far too temporary and were already degrading,. The other repairs would need to be looked at and Cllr Cooper undertook to investigate and organise a site meeting with SCDC and would let members know when this was confirmed.

88. Correspondence.

- a) **LOFO.** Members noted the letter from the Leiston Old Folks Outing organisers requesting a donation toward this year's outing. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that £150 be donated to LOFO in appreciation of what they do. Cllr Bailey declared an interest and left the room for this item..
- b) **Kings Road.** Members noted the letter from Mr Winter and asked the Clerk to reply with details of the mini TRO being proposed to increase the length of the double yellow lines by the shop to protect the car park and the junction.
- c) **Litter – Sizewell Beach.** Members noted Mr Thompson's letter which confirmed other reports of a litter problem on Sizewell Beach Car Park during the summer. This will be brought up with SCS at the forthcoming management meeting.
- d) **Halesworth Community Nursing Care Fund (HCNCF).** Members noted the letter from Dr Kell of the HCNCF which described their aspiration to build an Information and Support Centre in Halesworth to serve the 50,000 residents within a 15 mile radius of it. Leiston would be within this zone and members noted the various organisations and support services it was intending to host and provide. It was agreed to offer full support for the project and to write a letter doing so.

89. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Highbury Cottages Footway.** Nothing to report. Regrettably, during harvest, little progress is being made.
- b) **ESTA.** Members agreed to write and support Mr Cannon and ESTA in their bid to get Leiston on the Fare Table.
- c) **Newsletter.** Cllr Cooper asked the Chairman to assure him that the Council would not allow members to publish personal opinion pieces, like Cllr Ron Bailey's article on energy issues, in future newsletters as it looked like a corporate opinion (whatever wording was used to indicate the personal aspect). Many Councillors also felt that it reflected badly on the Town Council to allow such articles in a newsletter which, without advertising, was issued really to keep residents informed of what their Council was doing and to spread information where possible on local events and initiatives. Some Councillors felt that Councillors should be allowed to put opinion pieces in as a part of the democratic process although most were wary that there could be editorial issues when coming closer to local and national elections. Cllr Ron Bailey's piece was allowed in by the Newsletter editorial committee (decided in an open meeting) but

some Councillors felt that, due to the rather gladiatorial aspect of the piece, it should have been referred to Council first. The Chairman allowed a motion by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Parker, that the Council do not allow personal political views to be published in the newsletter in future. This was passed 6 to 4 although Cllr Last, D Bailey and Hawkins abstained as they felt the motion needed more thought.

During the above item, the time reaching 10pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to conclude.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.16 pm.

Chair

Dated
