

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd December 2013

- 132. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Ben Ransby, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an update on the crime figures for Leiston for November. There were 22 crimes this November compared to 53 in November 2012. Ben then went on to talk through the current priorities and introduced the SNT newsletter he had produced (and which were distributed to the meeting). Cllr Howard asked Ben to take some feedback into the station that, when a member of the public called 101 or came into Leiston Police Station to request something is looked at (he had done both), it would be nice if somehow, the member of the public could be contacted and reassured that somebody was actually acting on the information by a member of the SNT, when they got the message. There was a report of nuisance “boy racers” using the Leisure Centre car park in the evenings and Mrs Hawes asked that the SNT be stricter with vehicles parking on the pavement especially as Boomerang had informed her that the PCSO had given him permission to park with all four wheels on the pavement outside Lloyds. This was obviously not the case and Ben also pointed out that 5 parking tickets had been issued in November. Cllr Bailey asked for the response times for Leiston to be included in the report.
- 133. County Report.** Councillor Smith gave a report on his activities for November which included attending, with our Chairman, the annual Remembrance Service at Leiston St Margarets. He then reported that the draft County budget for next year had been through scrutiny and was destined, if passed, to make £38.6 million savings next year. There were difficult decisions to be made to achieve this but the most vulnerable would be protected. Cllr Howard expressed an opinion that the County could offset some of the savings by increasing the Council Tax but Cllr Smith pointed out that his administration had pledged not to do that. Mrs Hawes reminded the meeting that vulnerable actually had a classification now of a person’s needs being critical or substantial. In the case of the visually impaired for instance this meant that all the various implements to aid mobility were provided but not talking books.
- 134. District Report.** Cllr Cooper gave a report on SCDC’s Localism strategy in which it was proposed to give each District Councillor a budget next year to use on local priorities. The scheme would enable Ward Councillors to quickly channel funds directly to new projects or community groups in their ward when they needed them. He explained that the 36 street lights (no locations) that SCDC own in Leiston would very soon be equipped to join the County’s stock in going off from midnight to 5.30am. The Electoral Registration rules were changing and, next year, instead of a household registering everyone in it, each individual will have to register themselves (including providing NI identification).
- 135. Public.** Mr Jackman-Graham asked that the Council consider putting his suggestion of a Joint Development Committee on the January Agenda (agreed). Mrs Lesley Hill gave the meeting an update on the Leiston Film Theatre Support Club’s project to pay off the loan taken out to purchase the digital projector and 3D outfit. The club had met all the repayments to date and now only had 3 repayments left to pay off. This amounted to around a further £13,000 and they were confident of achieving this. They currently had enough for the May 2014 repayment and a further £1,000 which they were contributing toward the centenary celebrations next year. The Chairman thanked Lesley for her report and for the clubs support. Mr Briggs informed members that Essex and Suffolk Water were reluctant to re-instate the line into Haylings Pond to allow it to be topped up but he was working on this and Mrs Hawes asked whether the dog bin on High Green could be replaced (one was removed many years ago).

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,
3rd DECEMBER 2013 at 7.58 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 N. Parker
Councillor J. Sparrow

136. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5th November 2013 be signed as a true record.
137. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr A. Nunn, Cllr Last and Cllr R Bailey.
138. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that she had attended the Leiston Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance and the parade on Remembrance Sunday earlier in the month and had then attended the East Suffolk Partnership Forum at Trinity Park on 22nd. There had been various committee meetings during the month and she was pleased to have attended Mr Burns's book launch at the Theatre which had been a fun and popular event. This afternoon she had been very pleased to have been invited to attend the senior folks' tea party at the Rose and Sweet William Club and had been privileged to be asked to wish them individually the seasons' greetings and present them with their Christmas cards together with Co-op vouchers.
139. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Agenda item 6. Cllr Howard in any item referring to nuclear power and item 8. Cllr Cooper in 14a, Cllr Boast in 14a and 17 (CATS).
140. **Highbury Field Footway.** Members were pleased to accept the draft agreement which Mr Readhead's solicitor had presented with regard to being able to install and use a permitted path along the southern edge of the Highbury Field. Members thanked the Clerk for his work on the project and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to sign the agreement and to give the Clerk instructions to get quotes for the work involved to install the path.
141. **Film Theatre Extension.** Members noted the Clerks report of the Committee Meeting which examined the tenders received to erect the planned extension at the rear of the cinema. Unfortunately they were much higher than anticipated and the architect had been asked to go away and try and reduce the specifications to bring them down and to find out why Castons had been so far out. Members and management were keen not to reduce the specifications to the point however where the extension was no longer fit for the intended purpose. Members would have to wait until January to see how negotiations turn out.

- 142. Community Rail Partnership.** Cllr Howard reported to members that he had recently attended the inaugural meeting of the East Suffolk Lines Community Partnership South Group. He explained that the Partnership sought to bring together local government, public transport and community groups with the aim of securing the future and the development of the Felixstowe/Ipswich and the Lowestoft/Ipswich Lines, to develop their interchanges with other forms of transport and to increase their patronage. He went into detail on some of the ideas and projects the Partnership would be getting involved with to achieve their aims and proposed that the Town Council officially joins the Partnership which, currently, did not have a subscription rate but it was anticipated that, next year, the rate would be set but would not exceed £25. Cllr Howard's proposition was seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed.
- 143. Sizewell C – Community Forum report.** Cllr Hodgson briefed members on the recent meeting of the Sizewell C Community Forum where Mr Steve Wall (EDF) had updated everyone on the thoughts of EDF after the 1st Stage Consultation. One of the main issues members had responded on was the accommodation aspects of the project. EDF reported that they were reluctant to move away from the one single accommodation campus idea and announced that their preferred site for this would be on the construction site at Eastbridge with a reserve of the 40 acre field behind Sizewell Sports and Social Club. Cllr Ginger pointed out that the reserve site was a big worry for him and Cllr Mrs Nunn also pointed out that she had had many conversations with residents who were also very worried about any accommodation being situated at the top of King George Avenue. Members heard that SCDC were keen on the site as they thought it would be good for the day and night time economy in the town with workers walking backward and forward into town to shop and drink etc. but this was a huge worry to many residents. Members stood by their consultation response of basing workers further away near larger towns in smaller units and discussed whether a further response, now that the preferences had been announced, might water down the strength of the original. Cllr Ginger proposed that we write to EDF and express our view that the 40 acre site was not acceptable to Leiston Town Council but stopped short of backing the Eastbridge site as this was also in the Parish and he did not want to give tacit support to that in his motion. He was seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and all who voted agreed that the Clerk write to EDF to make our view on the reserve site very clear.
- 144. Haylings Pond Update.** At the previous meeting Cllr Cooper reported to members that, to address the long standing concerns about the Haylings Pond Car Park, the District were now prepared to tarmac a 6m wide strip down the centre of the car park as well as tarmac the entrance road into the car park before handover or they would give £20,000 to Leiston Town Council to get the work done as part of a handover. There would need to be an agreement in place for SCDC to do the work however so members were asked their opinion. The meeting agreed that the offer was unexpected and very welcome but needed time to consider it. The Clerk reported that he had been unable to obtain any quotes to complete the work within the budget offered by SCDC and recommended that members consider the experience that SCS Ltd has in running large contracts when making their decision. Members noted that good work had already been done by Chris Green and his team around the meadow and pond and generally agreed that this was a good offer and, if we were going to take it on at all, then this was a good compromise. Cllr Boast asked about the licences some residents pay and asked that the Council consider looking at this for fairness once the Council takes the pond. Cllr Cooper proposed that the Council take ownership of the Meadow and pond on the terms offered. This was seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed.
- 145. Youth Forum and Victory Road Recreation Ground.** Cllr Cooper reported that he had met 17 young people at a recent Youth Forum with PC Lawrence where, amongst other things, they discussed some issues that were of great concern to them regarding the skatepark. There was a problem with the older children hanging out and drinking in the shrubs alongside the old Middle School fence line and then throwing their tins and bottles (and abuse) at the younger people playing on the park. There was also an issue with leaf

fall from the trees overhanging the concrete bowl. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr D Bailey and agreed that the Clerk get the crowns of the trees reduced and the overhanging branches lopped off and that he clears the School fenceline of shrubs (not trees).

146. **War Memorial.** Cllr Cooper asked that consideration be given to trying to clean up the war memorial at St Margarets before next Augusts commemorations. The Clerk undertook to get some advice and quotations for the work to be carried out.
147. **Community Centre Car Park.** Members noted the extra £1500 required to extend and complete the proposed block paving area outside the front of the Community Centre and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed accept them and get the whole job done.
- 148. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £28,064.58p along with £8,355.72p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Howard declared an interest in cheque No's 311809 and 311790.
- b) **Banking Arrangements.** The Clerk informed members that the Business Manager at Barclays only visited the Woodbridge Branch once a week and would, all being well, process the Councils' application on Thursday with the account going live on 9th December..
- c) **Draft estimates for 2014/2015.** The Clerk asked members for any further items over and above those contained in the draft estimates (to date) that he had circulated that they would like to be considered in January. Cllr Howard suggested that a small maintenance reserve for the Community Centre be considered and that funds be earmarked for a Boules pitch on the recreation ground. Cllr Cooper suggested monies be considered for extra staff provision as the Council took on more and more responsibilities from the Principal Councils. Cllr Howard suggested a meeting of the Personnel Support Group in due course to look at possibilities of how this might be utilised.

The meeting took a break for refreshment from 8.55pm – 9.15pm

149. Planning.

- a) **DC13/3329/CAC + FUL – Part demolition of the non listed Constitutional Club and conversion and extension to form 19 residential units and new clubhouse, retaining bowls green at the Constitutional Club, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.** Members noted that the Club was of historic importance to the town and were concerned at the impact the proposed development would have on the significance, character and distinctiveness of the current setting. They felt that the height of the newly constructed rear section was too high and constituted an overdevelopment of the building as it dwarfed the frontage and impeded the amenity of the neighbours by virtue of its overpowering facades. Other issues that needed resolution were the surface water from the increased roof plan, the positioning of the zebra crossing, accessibility of the flats and whether the bowls green is still viable if not up to competition standard. The main and overriding objection however was the totally inadequate parking provision. The development contained 35 bedrooms and a social club. It removed the current social club parking (5 cars) and replaced it with just 19 bays. Members felt that a provision of 10 bays for the club and at least 35 for the flats would be acceptable for this development to be sustainable. Until the parking has been sorted and the other issues addressed members would oppose this application and recommend refusal. They also asked the Clerk to recommend that the North Area Committee have a site visit when this reaches them.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b) **C13/3444/FUL – Replace existing shed with a larger garden room at rear for use associated with 6-8 High Street, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **C13/3260 – Erection of rear single-storey extension- 47 Crown Street, Leiston.** A recommendation should be made to limit use of machinery so as not be operated outside of 8am – 6pm weekdays, 8am-1pm Saturdays and not at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C13/3504 – Rear Extension, convert garage (adding new flat roof), remove workshop at 8, Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **Neighbourhood Plan update.** No progress in December.

150. County Matters

- a) **Highways.** Councillor Ginger had alerted the County Councillor earlier in the meeting to the furrow that had appeared down the centre of Harrow Lane. Cllr Mrs Nunn reported a large pothole by the entrance to Minden Drive.
- b) **Red House Lane grass verge – parking issue.** Members noted the response from the residents using the verge for their parking and asked the Clerk to enquire with the landowner what their thoughts were on this.

151. District Matters.

- a) Nothing raised.

152. Correspondence.

- a) **CATS – Coastal Accessible Transport Services.** Members noted a letter from CATS requesting grant aid. CATS is an organisation that provides an invaluable service in the town and does its best to plug the gaps left by the diminishing public and hospital transport provision. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that £150 be donated to CATS in appreciation of their work.

153. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Film Theatre Support Club.** Cllr Hodgson asked the Chairman whether she would be willing to write to the Film Theatre Support Club and thank them for their superb support and their generous donations in paying off the loan (as well as all their other valuable fund raising activities.) Cllr Mrs Nunn said she would be delighted to do so.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.57 pm.

Chair

Dated
