

## Pre-meeting Reports 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014

- 178. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Anne-Marie Lynch, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an update on the crime figures for Leiston for January. There were 30 crimes this January compared to 26 in January 2013 and a response time within the 20 minutes of 82.5%. Members and the public asked various questions and Cllr Ron Bailey re-iterated his concern that the white van at the end of Kings Road was frequently parked on double yellow lines and causing a road safety hazard.
- 179. County Report.** Councillor Smith had little to report apart from a meeting with a director of Anglian Water who he had shown around Leiston and had explained the issues to regarding the Treatment Plant and its entrance in Valley Road. Cllr Ginger enquired whether County had changed their policy with regard to rural roads as it did not appear that any repair work was being done. Cllr Smith responded that he was not aware of any change although the contract with KMG to maintain the highways was still in its infancy and had been severely tested since October with the unsettled weather. He undertook to enquire what was happening to Harrow Lane and, more importantly, the Abbey Road/Theberton Road problem. He also undertook to find out what was happening with the bus shelter in Waterloo Avenue. Cllr Howard asked whether the reported D2 link road study (last meeting) was also considering the A,B and C options (from the very original study) and he also asked who was paying for the study. Cllr Smith confirmed that the study was being funded by the County Council and was just looking at the D2. Finally, Mrs Lovell asked him to use his office to try and get some action on the constant flooding at the bottom of Sizewell Hall Road. Mr Boulter thanked Cllr Smith for purchasing laptops which has enabled, to date, 18 residents to complete a course on how to use them and how to safely access the internet and apply for jobs.
- 180. Mr Chris Bowden.** Mr Bowden updated the meeting on the progress being made with the Neighbourhood Plan. He outlined how all the groups had consulted with the public and had formed a good base for the forthcoming plan and a draft plan had now been produced. Housing requirements and sites were still to be finalised, and consulted upon, and some other policies tweaked but it was looking good for a referendum on the final plan later this year.
- 181. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins gave a short report from the recent meeting of the SCDC Sizewell C Task Group meeting which again outlined the timescales for further consultation and the application itself. Cllr Howard informed the District Councillors that he had heard from two residents who, when they had written to SCDC had never had a reply. He thought this really needed to be addressed. Cllr Cooper undertook to investigate as this wasn't what should be happening at all. Cllr Ginger asked the District Councillors why they had ignored Brendan Lewis, MP's wishes and had not passed on the full Council Tax Support Grant that they had been given by Central Government to pass on to Town and Parish Councils. Parishes had only been given 75% of what the Government thought they were entitled to and he wanted to know why they had done this.

**182. Public.** Cllr Bailey asked whether something could be done about TELEC's destruction of so many verges around the town as they progressed their broadband work. He wondered whether the County's contract contained clauses on reinstatement etc. He also pointed out that some of the inspection covers now presented small trip hazards where they had been disturbed. Cllr Howard brought up a recent spate of roadworks which were unexpected and caused inconvenience. He wondered why residents hadn't receive a leaflet drop, like used to happen, just to warn them something was about to happen. Cllr Smith thought that it should still be happening so asked for the specific instances Cllr Howard was reporting.

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,  
4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 at 7.48 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**

183. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be signed as a true record.
184. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Nunn, Cllr Last and Cllr R Bailey who was taken unwell just before the start of the formal part of the meeting.
185. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that she had had a quiet month but was pleased to have been able to attend the pantomime which, again, had been a great success. She thanked and congratulated the cast for a wonderful show. There was to be a Coffee morning on 27<sup>th</sup> February for the Fairtrade Fortnight and a band concert on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.
186. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Agenda item 8 and 12, Cllr Mrs Nunn in item 8, Cllr Mrs Geater in item 12, Cllr Boast in correspondence from Garrett Bowls Club and Cllr Howard in any item related to RBL or EDF.
187. **Meeting with SCS Ltd.** Members noted the report from the recent meeting with SCS Ltd. and were pleased with the work done in Valley Road on the allotment hedgerow. The item regarding the vandalised seat on Church Walk was discussed and members, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger, agreed to replace the seat with a new one. Cllr Ginger asked that the District Councillors pursue the item regarding the failure to secure the litter bin covers to the base after emptying as it still did not seem to be happening.
188. **Library Steering Group.** Members were pleased to hear that the Waitrose collection had yielded £525 for Leiston Library last month. Cllr Howard asked that the District Councillors note the support for the redecoration project in the Library should they receive an application for some of their Community Enabling Budget.
189. **Film Theatre Extension.** The clerk reported that little progress had been made but Mr Burns now had some new plans which he was awaiting time to study before alerting members and seeking a Committee Meeting. Probably toward the end of February. The new seats had been ordered and would hopefully be in for Easter.

- 190. Emergency Plan (Leiston resilience).** The Chairman relayed Cllr Nunn's request that members consider commissioning an emergency plan for the town as part of the Community Resilience initiative for towns and parishes to have some sort of plan to deal with major events or outages etc. Members all agreed that such a plan would be very useful and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast, it was agreed to ask the District Councillors to use a portion of their Community Enabling Budget to commission a consultant to draw up a Community Resilience Plan for Leiston.
- 191. Leiston Business Association.** Cllr Cooper felt that there was currently a lack of involvement between the Council and the Leiston Business Association and wondered whether it wouldn't be a good idea to just have a meeting with them – and the new Town Team – to see what assistance the Council could give them in promoting the town. Cllr Cooper undertook to organise a meeting and members agreed for the Chairman, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Boast to accompany him.
- 192. Town Twinning.** Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that, despite no real help, advice or assistance being available these days to assist with Town Twinning, he had asked a colleague of his who speaks French to translate and send a letter he had written to the Mayor of Neuve Chappelle asking his views on such a venture. He would report back in due course.
- 193. Haylings Pond.** The Clerk informed members that he was waiting for the District Council to send through a legal agreement which we would have to sign before they commissioned the resurfacing of the car park by the pond. They were not prepared to do the work unless we gave a commitment to take the site on afterwards. The Clerk understood that the work, should it go ahead, would have a five year warranty that would pass to us with the land. Members started a separate discussion with regard to the current state (and tranquillity) of the pond. It was wondered whether it wouldn't be nicer to just leave the pond as a wildlife site as opposed to reintroduce fishing there again later this year. It was also wondered whether the water conditions etc. were OK for the proposed restocking. It was agreed that the Recreations Ground Committee should meet to discuss this and all the grounds for a future report. It was also suggested that Mr Briggs be asked to address the Committee on the state of and future plans for the pond.
- 194. War Memorial.** The Clerk reported that Mr Merrett was currently doing a trial on the memorial to see if a clay poultice will extract enough filigree to make a difference. He would be reporting back soon.
- 195. Fairtrade.** The Chairman thanked the Town's Fairtrade Committee for their hard work especially Cllr Howard..
- 196. Finance.**
- a) Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £19,983.47p along with £1,771.80p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Members were pleased to note the continued good performance from the Film Theatre and thanked Mr Burns for all his efforts.

- b) **Insurance renewal.** Members noted the report from the Clerk on renewing the Council's Insurance for 2014-2015. The Clerk had met with the current insurers and had discussed the whole policy to ensure that there was full and adequate cover for all the Council's activities. He reiterated his satisfaction with the service and advice given by Zurich to date and could see no reason for not entering into another 3 year agreement – especially as it was at a lower premium than the current one. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed that the Council continues to use Zurich for all its insurance requirements.

**197. Planning.**

- a) **DC13/3844/FUL – Erection of a single-storey side extension at 6 Huntingfield Road, Leiston, Suffolk.** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)  
**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
- b) **C14/0220/FUL – Internal and external alterations to the ground floor of the Gusten Hall and Abbey Farm Barn, and construction of a single storey extension linking both buildings, to improve facilities on the site at Leiston Abbey, Abbey Road, Leiston.** Members quite understood the need and requirement to build this link but were unconvinced by the design, particularly the roof aspects. They felt that the flat roof was out of context and, this being a sensitive build, wanted to register this. They would currently therefore recommend refusal. (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)  
**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**
- c) **C14/0210/FUL – Erection of a new garage at 112 Haylings Road, Leiston, Suffolk.** Although this was in front of the dwelling a precedent had been set close by and members were pleased to approve although they were keen for the tree and hedge screening to be retained on the road side of the garage. (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)  
**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
- d) **C14/0229/TPO –To crown reduce by up to 30% Lime Tree to rear of 30A Aldeburgh Road, Leiston, Suffolk.** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)  
**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
- e) **Neighbourhood Plan update.** This was covered earlier.

**198. County Matters**

- a) **Highways.** Members noted the speed data obtained for Haylings Road and Abbey Road. The figures provided a clear and compelling need for speed reduction measures to be employed on both sites and members agreed to take this to Highways at the forthcoming liaison meeting.

**199. District Matters.**

- a) **Nothing raised.** Cllr Ginger raised the plight of a resident who had to regularly sit on the wall outside the High Green bus shelter and wondered whether it would be possible to install a suitable bench or seat in the shelter itself? After some discussion, and a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to purchase a seat and, with the permission of SCDC install it in the shelter.

**200. Correspondence.**

- a) **Operation Wallacea.** Members noted a letter from a young resident who was currently raising funds to allow him to go on a school trip to Indonesia to work

with scientists gathering data for conservation work. Members felt that a donation of £25 and a letter of support would be appropriate and so agreed on a proposition from Cllr Ginger which was seconded by Cllr Hodgson.

- b) **MAGPAS.** Members noted the letter from MAGPAS (The Emergency medical charity) who operate in our area supplementing the air ambulance with theirs and providing medical staff on the ground. On a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn it was agreed to donate £100.
- c) **Leiston Garrett Bowls Club.** Members noted the letter from the Bowls Club explaining their concerns with regard to the recent application to develop the Constitutional Club (now withdrawn). Members were sympathetic with the concerns raised about the reduction to 4 lanes that had been proposed in the application and were informed that the letter had been passed on to the planning authority. Members noted that Leiston was lucky to have two bowls clubs operating in the town although it was pointed out that the letter contained erroneous information regarding the Leiston Town Bowls Club. Members asked the Clerk to pass the letter on to English Heritage to add to the historic credentials of the premises when they next consider it.
- d) **Scout Hut.** Members noted the e-mail from Mr Burch informing the Council that the Scout Hut needed a new roof. Members were unsure whether he was applying for financial or moral support with his grant bids however and asked the Clerk to contact him to clarify this.
- e) **CAB and Belles Coaches.** Members were disappointed to read a letter from the CAB to Dr Coffey with regard to an issue with Belle Coaches regarding their interpretation of the Equality Act 2010. Members did not have enough information to give a considered opinion (or time as the paper was on the table) so asked for this to be an agenda item in March.

#### 201. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Cinema employment contracts.** Cllr Howard asked the Chairman to remind the Theatre manager that he was due to issue new contracts to staff this month. He produced a draft contract which he asked to be on the next agenda for consideration.
- b) **Defibrillator.** Cllr Howard asked whether members might wish to consider a future agenda item to provide defibrillators in the Community Centre and the cinema.
- c) **JLAG.** Cllr Howard asked whether Leiston Town Council had any representation on the Joint Local Authorities Liaison Group which met regularly to discuss the Sizewell C application. The Clerk informed him that, unfortunately, they did not.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.33 pm.

Chair

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Dated

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