

Pre-meeting Reports
4th March 2014

- 202. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Sam Maples, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an update on the crime figures for Leiston for February. There were 26 crimes this February compared to 39 in February 2013 and a response time within the 20 minutes of 83.2%. Cllr Howard noted that several forces around the country are now compiling at risk registers for domestic abuse cases and wondered whether Suffolk was. PCSO Maples undertook to find out and would let the Council know. Mrs Borrett had noted an awful lot more cars parking on the pavement in the High Street and wondered what to do. PCSO Maples informed the meeting that, should you see a car parked on a pavement, ring 101 and report it and, if a response vehicle is in the area not engaged in crime it would be sent to investigate.
- 203. County Report.** Councillor Smith reported his attendance at a recent Highways Meeting with this Council and that he would be attending a flood group meeting on Thursday. He updated the meeting on the flooding issue at the bottom of Sizewell Hall Road where the causes had turned out to be more complicated than first thought. He updated the meeting on broadband and reported that Leiston and Aldeburgh had now been upgraded to the faster speeds. Miss Oliver asked for more information on the recently announced grant from Government for the project and where the £5m matched funding from SCC was going to come from. Cllr Smith was unable to answer at the moment however as budgets had not been finalised. Cllr Ginger asked whether there was any outcome from a meeting Cllr Smith had facilitated last year with Orwell Housing, Highways and the Police with regard to metalling Orchard Road. Cllr Smith reported that, since that meeting, Orwell Housing had accepted responsibility for the Road and he undertook to recall the name of the Orwell representative and to write and get an update on their intentions. The meeting was very concerned that the only bus shelter on Main Street had been used to house a large BT cabinet. It was explained that this had been forced on the District Council and that there was no compensatory scheme that could be activated to get another shelter. (See later in the meeting). Cllr Howard expressed his real disappointment that the promised bus shelter outside the Sixth Form school had still not yet materialised. Cllr Smith was also upset at this as he had used all the resources available to him to make it happen. He would continue to press and would report back next meeting. Cllr Howard asked after an organisation called NuLeaF and who funded it. Cllr Smith is the Chairman of NuLeaF which is the Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum and, in response to a further question, he explained that it is funded by contributing members and a grant from the NDA. Both SCC and SCDC were contributing members. He would endeavour to get a copy of the accounts for Cllr Howard who was interested in the financial aspects of the organisation.
- 204. District Report.** Cllr Nunn reported that the 36 lights owned by SCDC in Leiston and Knodishall were going to be adapted to fall in line with all the other street lights in town owned by SCC which were being switched off overnight. He pointed out that some of them may stay on all night however as circumstances and positioning were currently being looked at and consulted upon with the police and the Community Safety Team. He explained about the Community Enabling Budgets each District Councillor now had and how the £4,000 each had could be bid for and used. Mr Taylor asked about the protocol for SCDC publishing minutes as he was keen to see the minutes from the SCDC Sizewell C Task Group meeting of 27 January. Cllr Nunn undertook to find out.

- 205. Public.** Mr Briggs reported that his team would shortly be starting work on clearing the pond ready for restocking and commencement of the fishing season on 1st June. Mrs Churchyard from Belles Coaches informed members that, with regard to the correspondence sent to the Council, the company had not come across the situation before and were doing their best to resolve it and were still in touch with the gentleman concerned. The company was, as far as she was aware, fully compliant with all legislation and she hoped members had noted that they were doing their best to resolve the issue. Mrs Corbett asked the District Councillors to possibly take some action to maybe screen the skip and portaloos which was the very first thing you saw when visiting the cemetery. She also asked about the boundary and responsibilities of the footpath backing on to Southfield Drive. Mr Taylor and Mr Jackman-Graham made representations with regard to the two planning applications on the Agenda for the Sizewell B Dry Fuel Store.

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 MARCH 2014 at 7.50 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor R. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor A. M. Cooper (from 2120)
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 A. J. Nunn
Councillor N. Parker
Councillor J. Sparrow

- 206. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4th February 2014 be signed as a true record. Cllr Howard noted however that the two items he had requested to go on the March Agenda had, unfortunately, not been included. These were the provision of defibrillators and the Contracts of Employment for part time Cinema staff.

- 207. Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Parker and from Cllr Cooper. Cllr Cooper was absent from the first part of the meeting as he was representing the Council at the induction of the new Vicar at St Margaret's.

- 208. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that she had recently attended the Charity Ball hosted by the Mayor of Woodbridge. She had also attended a very good Fairtrade coffee morning where the Fairtrade Team had been

able to spread the Fairtrade message. The next event in Fairtrade fortnight was the performance by the RBL Junior Training Band at the WI Hall the following evening. She had attended the AGM of the Film Theatre Support Club which had been very well attended indeed. Finally she reported on a recent meeting she had attended with Councillors with the Leiston Business Association where it had been agreed to forge closer links as the town goes forward.

209. Declarations of Interest. Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Agenda item 12, Cllr Mrs Nunn in item 12, Cllr Mr Nunn in item 12, Cllr Boast in item 9, Cllr R Bailey in Haylings Pond and Cllr Howard in any item related to RBL or EDF.

210. Boundary Commission consultation. Members noted the consultation currently being carried out by the Boundary Commission on the newly proposed District Council Wards. Members were disappointed and felt it was quite obvious that Leiston had nothing in common with Theberton, Middleton and Eastbridge and wondered who had thought it a good idea to include them in the Leiston Ward at the expense of Knodishall. Knodishall has always traditionally been part of the Leiston ward and has much closer links with Leiston. Cllr Howard felt that we were losing our democracy slowly by reducing the number of District Councillors in the ward. Members were unanimous in rejecting Theberton, Middleton and Eastbridge as part of the ward and then discussed the best way to reconfigure the boundaries to ensure the Boundary Commission did something about it and listened to our submission. It was eventually agreed that the Clerk submit a revised boundary back to the old Leiston/Knodishall ward but with just two Councillors. Some members felt that a case for the expected expansion in population of Leiston might be able to swing the numbers up to just having Leiston on its own but overall members felt a better argument could be made by including Knodishall.

211. Sizewell Road Car Park CCTV. Members heard that the expected erection of a CCTV camera in Sizewell Road Car Park had been put on hold. Money had been allocated and an order placed but, apparently, there were some real snags with the legal issues, red tape and paperwork required for it to be put up. Members noted that SCDC did have one operational in a car park in Felixstowe for the same reasons Leiston had requested one so were unsure what the difference was. In the meantime however, while that aspect is investigated, members noted that the District Council are again suggesting a barrier option to close the car park overnight. This infuriated members who asked the Clerk to make it abundantly clear to SCDC that this option was unacceptable and would not be supported by Leiston Town Council under any circumstances. It was agreed that the Clerk request a meeting with the Community Safety Team to discuss the issues raised and to see if an alternative position for surveillance might be found that attracts less regulation.

212. Play Areas and Open Spaces Committee. The Clerk invited all members to a meeting of the Play Area and Open Spaces Committee which was due on 11th March. It was hoped to discuss the future of Haylings Pond at this meeting as well as look at formulating a plan for the play areas, working in conjunction with the Youth Forum, to increase the play provision over the coming year as the Council now owned KGA Recreation Ground. Other items to be discussed would be a longstanding request for a Boules pitch and a request for "fitness" equipment (similar to Halesworth and Aldeburgh). With regard to the pond Cllr Howard, referring to the public session, felt it prudent to propose that a skip be funded to assist the pond clearance should it be necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed.

- 213. Youth Forum.** Cllr Cooper, along with members of the SNT, now attends a Youth Forum at Alde Valley High to extend the dialogue with our young residents and to get their views on what is important for them in the town. This has worked well to date with some SNT priorities emanating from the discussions and, now, some clear support for a bmx facility in the town, probably on the KGA recreation ground. These ideas will go forward to the above committee.
- 214. Equality Act 2010.** Members revisited the correspondence received in February asking them to use their influence on a case regarding coach excursions and access restrictions. Cllr Boast felt that, in this case, everything practicable had been done. Members agreed and felt that, if anything, Dr Coffey should be lobbied to ensure that legislation is changed to ensure that all coaches built in the future have both toilets and disabled provision by law.
- 215. Emergency Plan (Leiston resilience).** Cllr Nunn thought that this needed a working party to establish exactly what was required and how to go about it so suggested that members join him to do this. Cllr Howard, Cllr Last, Cllr D Bailey and Cllr R Bailey (when available) all agreed to join the working party. Members were aware that this would need a lot of community support for it to become a reality and a lot of co-operation from the various organisations operative in the town as it progressed. In the first instance however the working party would get together to make a start and see what help was available to them.
- 216. Film Theatre – members briefing 17th March.** The Clerk asked members to come along to a briefing at 5.00pm on Monday 17th March so the manager could update them on where the extension project was now at and give a sitrep on all the other projects currently happening.
- 217. Joint Development Committee.** This was on the agenda for review from January. Members felt that it would be prudent to finish the Neighbourhood Plan first so put this on hold until after the Neighbourhood Plan was completed. Members also discussed under this heading the formation of the Town Team and the recent meeting with the Business Association. It was agreed that members would invite the Business Association and EDF along to periodic Council meetings (every two or three months) to update the Town on activities and items of interest from their sphere of operations.
- 218. Haylings Pond.** The Clerk informed members that he had received a legal agreement which the Council would have to sign before SCDC commissioned the resurfacing of the car park by the pond. The agreement, once signed, would commit the Council to taking ownership of the meadow once the car park had been satisfactorily completed and a guarantee for the work obtained. The work might take up to three months from signing the agreement. Members had previously discussed and examined various issues regarding rights of way, land ownership and maintenance responsibilities around the pond so were being asked to take it with some items still unresolved (although every effort had been made to establish ownership of the small strip of land in question). This they were inclined to do so, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to sign the agreement and, in due course, take ownership of the Haylings Pond meadow on the terms offered by SCDC.
- 219. War Memorial.** The Clerk reported that SCDC had declined from taking any responsibility for the war memorial in the closed churchyard around St Margaret's so, if it were to be cleaned, it would very much depend on Leiston Town Council. The Clerk informed members that Mr Merrett had completed a very successful trial

using a form of clay poultice to extract the filigree from the stone and the results promised a near complete restoration. The total cost, including work already done, would be £1,330. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson that Mr Merrett be asked to proceed.

220. Newsletter. The Chairman highlighted an unfortunate clash in headlines between the Council Newsletter and the Leiston Observer. The Clerk noted this for the future.

221. Finance.

a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr R Bailey, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £20,424.70p along with £7,764.03p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Members were pleased to note the continued good performance from the Film Theatre.

222. Planning.

a) **DC14/0526/AME – Non material amendment of C10/0550 – Construction and operation of a dry fuel store as an extension to the Sizewell B nuclear generating station – Amendment to condition 14 to extend hours of work on Saturdays to permit work between 7.30 – 18.00. Sizewell B, Sizewell B Power Station, Sizewell Power Station Road, Leiston.** Members recommended refusal for this as it was against policy – there were clear hours of working laid down for all building and construction projects in the parish and members could not see why this should be an exception. Other aspects of the project were also discussed and the Clerk asked to veto the revised travel plan as there was no reason why the large cement lorries should come through Waterloo Avenue, Station Road and Abbey Road when there had been lay-bys put in on the Clayhills Road and road works done in Middleton and Theberton specifically to accommodate the lorries. (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

b) **C14/0527/AME – Application for a non-material amendment following Discharge of Condition application Condition 8 (temporary buildings and lay down areas to be used for construction of the DFS) C12/1325 at Sizewell B Power Station** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

c) **C14/0370/FUL – Erection of a rear two storey extension at 131 Carr Avenue, Leiston** (Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

223. County Matters

a) **Highways.** Members noted the minutes from the meeting with Highways on 25th February. Cllr Ginger went through the items raised and members confirmed the importance of pressing for resurfacing of both Waterloo Avenue and Abbey Road sooner rather than later – certainly by 2015/16. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes be accepted as a report and that items therein be taken forward. Finally, members wished it to be minuted that Mr Briggs be given a sincere thank you for all the work he has put in to get such a good result at the level crossing in Station Road.

The time reaching 10pm it was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue for a further 15minutes.

224. District Matters.

- a) **Bus Shelters.** Cllr Ginger asked that the subject of a bus shelter in Main Street be put on the next agenda.
- b) **SALC.** Cllr R Bailey primed members to possibly support a proposal he would be bringing to the next meeting for Leiston to make a representation under the Sustainability Act, on behalf of SALC, to do with Parish Councils and the energy feed in tariff.

225. Correspondence.

- a) **Sizewell Parish Liaison Group (SPLG).** Cllr Ginger brought members attention to the Agenda for the AGM of the SPLG due the next week on 11th March. Members were unsure whether Cllr Parker would be able to attend so Cllr Ginger was keen for members to communicate the Councils policy on EDF's accommodation strategy to the Liaison Group's Chairman as there was an agenda item addressing the issue. The Clerk undertook to do so.
- b) **Wonderful Beast.** Members noted the letter from Wonderful Beast, a story telling and Theatre Company who take the arts to groups who do not normally have access to them. The Company were asking for grant aid to help them continue their programme in the area and members noted their forthcoming events in Leiston Library and the Primary School. On a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to donate £25 from Council funds to match the £25 pledged by Library Steering Group (funds held by LTC).

226. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Town Branding.** The Clerk, with limited time left, asked the Chairman whether she would mind just explaining to members and seeking their views on the branding exercise that the Town Team are currently engaged on. The Team felt that Leiston was a hidden gem in many respects in this tourist area and wanted to promote the town more. They felt that it might be helpful to give Leiston a "brand" that we could all promote and relate to and were asking for Council support.

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

Chair -----

Dated -----