

At the ANNUAL MEETING of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN
COUNCIL
Held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY, 6th MAY 2014, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D. E. 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 T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor J. N. Last
Councillor Mrs A.V. Nunn
Councillor A. J. Nunn
Councillor J. I. Sparrow

1. **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr D Bailey that Cllr Cooper be appointed Chairman for 2014/2015. He felt that Cllr Cooper would be an inclusive and democratic Chairman, continuing the ethos that Cllr Mrs Nunn had brought to the office during her tenure. There were no other nominations so Cllr Cooper read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman and thanked members for their support and confidence.
2. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1st April 2014 be signed as a true record.
3. **Apology.** There were apologies from Cllr Ginger.
4. **Chairman's Report for 2014/2015 (Councillor Ann Nunn).**

It has been an honour and a privilege for me to have served as Chairman of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council for the past 12 months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Vice Chairman and fellow Councillors for their support and to the Town Clerk and all his staff for the work they do on our behalf.

My thanks also go to our County Councillor, members of the public, police and press who regularly attend our Council meetings. My report for the year is below and summarises many of the events and achievements that have occurred throughout my time as your Chairman.

In May 2013, it gave me great pleasure to present Mr Wayne Burns, the Film Theatre Manager, with a crystal memento in appreciation and recognition of his 21 years' service at the Film Theatre

In June, the Business Association organised a very successful Town Tidy. Over 30 volunteers picked up litter around the Town Centre but, more importantly, cleared all the weeds from a number of shop fronts.

In July, it was agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council should purchase King Georges Recreation Ground and the Valley Road Allotments from Suffolk Coastal District Council for the sum of £1 in each case. Having these assets under the Town Council's ownership will enable us to properly develop these facilities for the benefit of local residents.

It was also agreed to sign the contract for the provision of a part-funded Police Community Support Officer for a further two years.

In August, the Town Council discussed the consultation being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and agreed that its response would be that the Leiston Ward should consist of the parish boundary only and that two District Councillors represent the town.

On 15th August, along with other Councillors, I attended the VJ Day Commemoration at the Long Shop and laid a wreath beneath the union flag brought home to Leiston from the CHUNKI POW camp by the survivors of the 4th Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment.

In September, members noted that they had until 17th to exercise their right to bid for the Engineers Arms. It was agreed that the Council should take the opportunity to try to 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.

The "Show Me" Leiston event which was organised by Nick Boulter and our Town Clerk, John Rayner, was a warm and friendly occasion. The Neighbourhood Planning Team attracted the interest they needed for their consultation and the Skatejam was also a great success.

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. Councillors supported this and I am pleased to report that the shelter was duly installed on 10th April 2014.

In October, Mr Wayne Burns, the Film Theatre Manager, presented Councillors with an overview of some of the plans that he and his staff had drawn up to celebrate the Film Theatre's Centenary in 2014 – 100 events for 100 years.

In December, the Town Council 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 footpath along the southern edge of the Highbury Field. Provision of this footpath has long been an ambition of the Council and will greatly improve the safety of pedestrians walking to and from the town from Highbury Cottages.

Members were disappointed to learn that the tenders for the planned extension at the rear of the Film Theatre were much higher than anticipated and the architect had been asked to try to reduce the specifications to bring down the cost. Members and management were, however, mindful that the specifications should not be reduced to the point where the extension was no longer fit for its intended purpose.

In March 2014, Members agreed that the Council should sign an agreement to take over ownership of Haylings Pond and Meadow from Suffolk Coastal District Council subject to work on the car park being satisfactorily completed and a guarantee for the work obtained. Having this 'jewel in the crown' under the Town Council's ownership will enable us to properly maintain the area for the benefit of all.

Members noted the consultation currently being carried out by the LGBCE on the newly proposed District Council Wards. Members were disappointed and felt it was quite obvious that Leiston had little in common with Eastbridge, Middleton and Theberton. Members wondered who had thought it a good idea to include them in the Leiston Ward at the expense of Knodishall which has always traditionally been part of the Leiston Ward and has much closer links with Leiston. Members were unanimous in rejecting Eastbridge, Middleton and Theberton as part of the ward. It was agreed by the majority that the Clerk should submit a revised boundary back to the old Leiston/Knodishall ward but with two, instead of the current three, District Councillors.

The Chairman's reception, as usual, was well attended. Mrs Lesley Hill, Chairman of the Leiston Film Theatre Support Club, was awarded the Chairman's Cup in recognition of all the sterling work that she and her committee have done.

In April, Mr Tom McGarry, EDF, updated members and the meeting on the Nuclear New Build programme and how it related to Sizewell. He reported on the main points covered recently at the Community Forum where EDF Energy had given more detail on their intentions with regard to the lead sites for the accommodation campus and the park and ride sites and had also announced a

further, additional, consultation stage to be conducted later this year before the more finalised and fully detailed proposals are presented at Stage 3.

April also saw the introduction of premier seats and cuddle seats at the Film Theatre

Just the other day I attended the Suffolk County Council Chairman's Reception and although I didn't know that many people there, it was a good networking opportunity and I took advantage of the situation to continue my campaign to obtain Leiston's next 'Jewel in the Crown' from the District Council. I am progressing very well and will continue my campaign!

In conclusion I have been honoured to represent you on many occasions near and far: from Bury St Edmunds to here in Leiston.

Cllr Ron Bailey thanked Ann very much for all her hard work during her term of office and, on behalf of members, for the excellent way she had represented the Town and the Council during that time.

5. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr R Bailey that Cllr D Bailey be appointed Vice Chairman for 2014/2015. With no other nominations members confirmed Cllr Bailey's appointment.

6. **Composition of Working Parties and Representation on Other Bodies.**

Members gave their preferences as to which Committees, Working Parties or Organisations requiring a representative from the Council they wished to be involved with for the coming year. The main changes came from the change of Chairman and the Clerk noted the new compositions for the coming year.

7. **Signatories for Cheques.** It was proposed by Cllr Sparrow, seconded by Cllr Boast, and agreed that, in addition to the Town Clerk, signatories for Town Council cheques should include any two of the following Councillors: - Cllr C.S. Ginger, Cllr T.E Hodgson, Cllr A.M. Cooper, Cllr W. H. Howard and Cllr Mrs A.V.Nunn.

8. **Loan of Artefacts.** The Clerk reported that various artefacts, including a working model steam tractor in a glass case, a wooden model steam lorry, a Garrett bust on a plinth, a collection of Garrett hats and a trunk, were on loan at the Long Shop Steam Museum. He further reported that the School Bell from the former Church of England Elementary School in Waterloo Avenue was similarly on loan at the Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that these loans should continue. (Cllr Hawkins abstained).

There being no more business the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

Chair

Dated
