

Minutes of the Town Meeting held in the Community Centre, King Georges Avenue, Leiston on Tuesday 6th May 2014

The meeting was attended by 24 members of the public and 14 members of the Town Council. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Town Council, Cllr Tony Cooper. Full reports (where provided) are available from the Town Clerk. A summary follows;

- 1. Police report.** PCSO Terry Barrow gave a brief monthly report for April and then Inspector Nick Aitken gave an overview of the year. The report is attached. He mentioned the good report that Suffolk got with regard to how they deal with domestic abuse and violence issues and answered questions on the response times. The most contentious issue raised in the meeting were the increased number of incidents of vehicles parking on the pavements in the High Street. Insp. Aitken briefed the meeting on the new Scorpion Team (Sgt +4) based at Leiston who, although they are tasked for East Suffolk, work in the Town when they are lightly tasked elsewhere. It is hoped that now they are established and are able to respond to 999 calls they may help improve the below target response times from the hub.
- 2. County Councillor Smith.** Cllr Smith paid tribute to Ann Nunn for her chairmanship over the past year and gave apologies for not being available for the June meeting. He reported that he had recently given £600 to the Angling Club to help restock Haylings Pond and was pleased that the Bus Shelter outside the sixth form annexe in Waterloo Avenue was now up.
- 3. Long Shop.** Lord Cranbrook thanked the Council for their help in the past as revenue grants had been their lifeblood and enabled the trust to bring the museum to where it was today, in its 33rd Year. He explained that although the museum is of national importance the trustees had big aspirations to make it a local museum of note too. He introduced Anna Mercer, the curator, who gave a report to the meeting on the volunteer work, the forthcoming programme and how the museum was really working hard at becoming family friendly. The learning and outreach officer had worked really hard too coping with the school changes (no Middle Schools and the Victorian era now not on the syllabus etc.) and had forged some new links with the sixth form and the Primary Schools. With the WW1 commemorations

ongoing the museum is in partnership with many organisations in finding ways to do this important event justice. The main event will be on 19th July.

4. **Library.** Gayla Rowling gave a very upbeat and detailed report on how well the library was serving the community and thanked everyone, especially the Town Council, for their support and encouragement.
5. **Leiston Business Association.** Mrs Sammy Betson gave an upbeat and very interesting report on the progress being made by the Business Association and the Town Team on the Neighbourhood Plan and informed the meeting of the make up and successes of the Heritage Coast Market Town Initiative (HCMTI) which was also going from strength to strength.
6. **Leiston and Aldringham Nursing Association.** Susan Geater gave a report on the activities, help and donations made for equipment at the surgery by the Nursing Association over the last year. The Association has now found two new trustees [Doctor Jones has retired] and has found storage space for all its equipment.
7. **Leiston Angling Club.** Mr Briggs updated the meeting on the progress the club were making with restocking Haylings Pond and the maintenance that the bailiffs were undertaking to get it ready for this seasons angling.
8. **Leiston Women's Institute.** Ann Nunn read out a report from Betsy Black on the activities and aspirations of the Leiston WI over 2013/14.
9. **Royal British Legion Band.** Paul Mower kindly provided a written report of the band's activities etc. over the year as the Chairman, Bob Skinner, was unfortunately unable to attend.
10. **CAB.** Nick Mayo sent her apologies and kindly provided a written report for the meeting of the work achieved by Leiston, Saxmundham and District Citizens Advice Bureau.

The meeting closed and refreshments were served at 9.15pm

