

Pre-meeting Reports
7th October 2014

- 101. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Carl Lawrence, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for September (attached). He reported that the response time for September was 85.8%. Cllr Howard voiced his concerns about the HGV (tractor) skidmarks in Haylings Road which showed they were travelling at an inappropriate speed. Mrs Bloomfield asked for the builders at the site in Valley Road to be advised to carry out traffic management when they have deliveries as the large vehicles block the road at a blind corner and cause a dangerous obstruction.
- 102. County Council.** Cllr Smith began by paying his respects to June Oliver. He then informed the meeting that he had heard that the Housing Association were willing to try and address the state of Orchard Road if funds could be found. Some alterations to the entrance are currently being discussed with the police and Cllr Ginger asked that Cllr Smith remain involved with those meetings if at all possible. Cllr Smith apologised for missing the Show Me event and gave a positive report of the Youth Club AGM which he had attended. He updated members on the ongoing conversion of the High School to an Academy which was still being negotiated between BrightTribe and the County Council. Cllr Howard voiced his fears once more that BrightTribe did not appear to have any track record but accepted that they had been put forward by the DofE. Cllr Smith was pleased to have been asked to award certificates to 60 young children who had completed the Summer Reading Challenge at Leiston Library. A really lovely event. Cllr Last brought up the transport difficulties many sixth form students are having attending courses at Suffolk One, especially the connection between train and bus at Saxmundham on their return. Cllr Smith agreed to investigate.
- 103. District Council.** Mr Briggs asked what plans the District Council had for the Caravan Site in King George Avenue.
- 104. Public.** Many residents were in attendance to voice their concerns and fears over the proposal to erect two semidetached houses opposite 17 Long Row. There were very deep concerns about the access to the site up an unmade track only 9 feet wide in places and the fact that the existing houses had no footings. Emergency vehicles have had trouble accessing Long Row and there is no way builders lorries can access the proposed site. The new build overlooks the existing cottages quite obtrusively and, would, if approved, set a precedent for the adjacent plots of land which would exacerbate an already unsuitable situation. Mr Briggs raised his concerns about the gas generators being proposed for Carr Avenue and felt that the application had not been publicised sufficiently for the potential impact of the development. Mrs Bloomfield reported that the white lines at the bottom of Crown Street into Valley Road were now not visible and constituted a road safety hazard.

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,
7th October 2014 at 7.45 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor R. 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 N. Parker
Councillor J Sparrow

The Chairman asked for a minutes silent repose and thought for four residents, well known and respected in the Town, who had passed on since the last meeting. Mr Lew Howard had been an Urban District and Town Councillor for many years taking the Chair of the Council in 1991. Mr Bob Morris had been the Clerk to the Council for 20 years until 1992. Mr John Perrett had been, first, the honorary treasurer and secretary of the Long Shop Trustees before becoming a long serving trustee himself and then a life long patron. Miss June Oliver was a keen supporter of the Council and friend to many in the room.

105. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2nd September 2014 be signed as a true record.
106. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Nunn and Cllr R Bailey.
107. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman had nothing to report.
108. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard as a member of TASK and CANE and RBL. Cllr Parker and Mrs Geater in 11b (planning) and Cllr Cooper and Hawkins in all planning matters.
109. **Planning – DC14/2788/FUL proposed pair of semi-detached dwellings on land opposite 17, Long Row, Leiston.** Proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded and agreed that this item be brought forward in the Agenda. Members agreed wholeheartedly with the various correspondents that the road was totally unsuitable to take anymore traffic and would certainly not take any building traffic. The whole area of Long Row was ancient and the new proposals would be totally out of keeping with the street scene and would be overlooking the existing properties. The exit onto Valley Road was completely unsuitable for vehicular traffic and any work for sewage etc. in Long Row would mean residents would not have access to their homes. The site itself, if approved would set a precedent for the adjacent gardens and this would be entirely unacceptable and exacerbate an already difficult access problem. There is not

even any way that the developer could mitigate for this by metalling the road as it is just too narrow to be adopted. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and unanimously agreed that this be recommended for rejection. (Cllr Cooper and Hawkins abstained)

- 110. Highbury Footway – Lighting.** Members discussed the proposal and quote for moving three lamp poles across the B1119 (Saxmundham Road) to be put in the verge beside the new footway being constructed inside the hedgerow along the field edge. This would be to ensure that the path was illuminated rather than cast in shadow from the hedgerow. Cllr Parker posed the question of whether this was a lot of money for little benefit but most members were supportive as the money had been in reserve for two years awaiting this very project which they still felt was relevant and necessary. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that £12,842 be spent to get the work done. (2 against).
- 111. Haylings Pond- installation of a water meter.** Members noted the quote from Essex and Suffolk Water for them to provide a permanent supply from the washout end in the footpath (adjacent to the pond) down to a lockable standpipe tap outlet to allow the pond to be topped up when needed. This would be metered and water paid for at £1.79 per cubic metre. To raise the pond 1 foot would cost approximately £500 but this would probably be the absolute maximum needed in dry years – probably half that most of the time. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger and seconded by Cllr Boast that £1,200 be spent to install the pipework, meter and lockable standpipe in a convenient position by the pond. All agreed with 1 against.
- 112. Youth Club.** Members were pleased to note Cllr Howards report from the Youth Club AGM and also the report from Mr Gary Butler the Youth leader. The new premises were working well at present and the club was settling in nicely.
- 113. Meeting with SCS 15th October.** Items were raised for discussion on 15th October. The main one was for the administration and maintenance of Haylings meadow now it was in the Council’s ownership followed by a litter bin in Heath View and undergrowth needing attention at Sizewell gap.
- 114. Sizewell Emergency Arrangements.** Members discussed whether they thought it would be useful or not to accept Mr Skelcher’s invitation for him to come and give members his views on the Sizewell Emergency Arrangements. It was felt by some that his expertise, history and independence would add insight to the process whilst others thought that it would not add anything to the ongoing debate. This difference was born out with another tied vote, which, with the Chairman loathe to use a casting vote, meant this item would be carried over to November.
- 115. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £22,443.28p along with £19,556.20p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
 - b) **Auditors Report 2013-2014.** Members were pleased to accept the Auditors report and noted their opinion. On a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hawkins it was agreed to accept and approve the Annual Return and Auditors Certificate for 2013/2014

The meeting took a break from 8.20 – 8.50pm for refreshment

116. Planning.

- a) **DC14/2786/FUL – Erection of a rear single-storey extension – 40 Carr Avenue, Leiston.** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **DC14/2928/VOC – Application to vary condition 2 of C/13/0073 to allow 5 pitches to be used for periods up to 10 months to accommodate workers on variable length contracts – The Orchard, Abbey Road, Leiston.** Members asked the Clerk to refer their original comments to the District as they were still relevant. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained.
RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above item Cllr Parker and Cllr Mrs Geater left the room and Cllr Geater declared an interest and abstained.

- c) **DC14/2762/FUL – To develop a small scale standby electricity station generation plant at the site in Carr Avenue – Electricity Sub Station, Carr Avenue, Leiston.** This was a sizeable project and members considered it to be a most unsuitable location for what is planned. The landscape is such that a hollow could be formed for fumes to be retained and, along with the noise and light pollution this should not be being considered for a residential area. The noise may not be at a level considered a nuisance (by the experts) but the intermittent nature of it and the current quietness of the neighbourhood would mean a loss of amenity to those residents close by. There are other sites around the town that could be used. One such project has got permission for Eastlands Industrial Estate – that would be a more suitable site surely. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- d) **DC14/2696/FUL – Erection of two double stacked portacabins for use by civil nuclear constabulary – Sizewell Power Station, Sizewell Power Station Road, Sizewell.** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins abstained.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **DC/14/2820/FUL – Application to vary Condition 2 of planning consent DC/14/1007/FUL to substitute drawings to allow revised design of frontage building (revised access and fenestration arrangements to café) at Smith's Bakery, 69 High Street, Leiston.** The plans did not really make sense as the new entrance appeared to be an obvious Health and Safety risk. Clarification was needed.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- f) **DC14/2788/FUL – Proposed pair of semi detached dwellings on land opposite 17, Long Row, Leiston.** This was considered earlier.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- g) **DC14/14/1573/FUL – Erection of hammer head parking bay in front garden of 62 King George Avenue, Leiston.** Members thought that this would set a precedent and unduly interrupt the street scene. They were sympathetic but wondered why the rear lane and garage at the rear of the property was not utilised like the neighbouring properties?

NO COMMENT

- h) **DC14/2978/FUL – Change of use part of Unit 1, Sizewell Crossing, to accommodate domestic self storage and siting of containers for use for domestic self storage to rear of building. New rear access doors at Unit 1, Sizewell crossing, King George Avenue, Leiston.** Apart from concerns about the possibility of storing hazardous material members were not opposed to this although it would generate a lot of additional traffic around that site.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- i) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Show Me event and current ongoing consultation was going well with a lot of comments coming in. The inclusion of an underground car park in the Town Centre plans surprised many (not pleasantly) and residents near the earmarked sites for housing were understandably concerned too. Many called for an alternative large retail unit in the Town Centre but overall there were a lot of positive comments for the proposed “market square” initiative and an overall acceptance and support for this as the best opportunity to change and modernise the town centre for the future generations.

117. County Matters

- a) **Highways** It was agreed that the new yellow lines just painted, being of a different specification to the ones adjoining them, looked terrible. There seemed to have been an accident with yellow line painting (and then removal) at the top of Sylvester Road and there were an awful lot of white lines and other road markings that needed renewal in the town.

118. District Matters. Nothing raised

119. Correspondence.

- a) **Service of Remembrance – Sunday 9th November.** Members noted the date for this years Service of Remembrance and the intention to form a parade at 1020 at the Cadet Centre.
- b) **Leiston Citizens Advice Bureau.** Members noted the request from the Citizen’s Advice Bureau for continued financial support this year and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed to grant £2,000 to the Bureau to support it for 2014/15.
- c) **Age UK Suffolk.** Members noted the request for support from Age UK Suffolk and also noted the work they do around the town. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater and agreed that £50 be donated to the organisation to help their work.
- d) **SALC.** Members noted the invitation to the SALC AGM. Cllr Howard volunteered to attend and it was expected that Cllr R Bailey (absent) may also wish to attend as our representative.
- e) **Southfield Drive Payphone.** Members noted BT’s intention to remove the payphone at the bottom of Southfield Drive. The report logged zero calls from the phone in the last 12 months, which, if true, indicated that it was no longer required.

- f) **Road Names.** Members noted the letter asking whether it would be possible to name a road after Lew Howard in recognition of the work he had done for the town, it was also noted that John Perrett's family had made a similar enquiry. The Clerk explained that the SCDC Gazetteer had not allowed this when asked recently but wondered whether the District Councillors might be able to find out the reasons or whether the guideline was reversible? Cllr Cooper undertook to investigate.
- g) **Sizewell management meeting.** Members wondered if the annual management meeting at Sizewell could be organised for October. A date was set but, post meeting, this was changed to 3.30pm on Thursday 23rd October.
- h) **Sizewell C – Community benefit.** Members noted the minutes from previous meetings held in 2009 and 2012 where Sizewell C had been discussed and the s106 issues that needed to be addressed had been detailed. These were out of date now and members agreed that, in November, a further discussion should take place, ahead of the Stage 2 consultation, to ensure the Council had a robust and compelling case for certain community benefits to be provided by EDF to mitigate the 15years disruption and nuisance the construction site would have within the Parish.

120. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) **Cllr Howard** asked that the Boules court be progressed now that the other work on the recreation ground had been completed.
- b) **LOFO** – Members asked the Chairman to record a vote of thanks to Cllr David Bailey and his team for organising and undertaking another successful Leiston Old Folks Outing this year. It had been a great event enjoyed by all who participated.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.55 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----