

Pre-meeting Reports
7th April 2015

- 245. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Sam Maples, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief report on the crime statistics for March (attached). Sam answered some questions and Cllr Howard asked him to pass on his thanks for the sensitive way that they recently dealt with a domestic incident.
- 246. County Council.** Cllr Smith reported that Colin Noble had been elected as the new leader of the County Council but that no further appointments or positions would be resolved until after the elections. He went on to thank all the Town Councillors who had served Leiston so well over the previous four years and thanked them for working so well with him in Leiston's interests. Cllr Ginger brought up the issue of the Leiston students who were still having difficulty travelling to study in Ipswich. This had been brought up before by Cllr Last whereby the bus and train connections were such that students had to leave lessons early in Ipswich to be able to get a bus connection at Saxmundham to get home. This had an adverse effect on their education and it was hoped that County could bring some pressure on the bus companies to make adjustments to timetables to allow this situation to be resolved. At a previous meeting Cllr Smith had asked for a list of those students affected and Cllr Ginger was able to present him with at least 16 names of those students currently suffering for him to take to Endeavour House as evidence. Cllr Howard asked questions about JLAG
- 247. District Council.** Nothing to report.
- 248. Public.** A resident pointed out that the lack of road markings at the junction of Valley Road and Crown Street was causing a problem and had become a Road Safety Hazard. A resident then explained to the Council their views on the planning application in for behind 31 High Street and how this would affect parking in Neave Road. Mrs Betson briefly explained the Business Associations interest and involvement as a member of the SNT in getting CCTV for Sizewell Road before Mr Hawes drew members' attention to how the pedestrian crossing lights by the Black Horse were currently obstructed by other signage. He also felt that a new sign needed to be put on the gate to the gated play area on KGA recreation ground to try and stop the drinking and littering that currently went on there.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY, 7th April 2015 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor R. 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 Mrs J. Sparrow

249. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr R. Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3rd March 2015 be signed as a true record.
250. **Apologies.** There were apologies from Cllr Nunn.
251. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman held up the newly awarded certificate which had been presented to Leiston renewing its status as a Fairtrade Town until 2017. He thanked the Fairtrade Committee for all the work they had put in to retain this status.
252. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Howard as a member of TASC, CANE and RBL. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Hawkins in all planning matters. Cllr R Bailey in Haylings Pond and also as a member of TASC. Cllr Ginger in planning applications 15a and 15b, Cllr Hawkins in item 12 and 15d and Cllr Geater in 15c.
253. **Long Row.** Cllr R Bailey explained that he had got advice from some legal and planning consultants who had helped him to construct a letter to the Secretary of State to Communities and Local Government, which, under the Planning Act 1990, section 100, allowed him to make a request to the S of S to revoke the planning permission for the land opposite 17 Long Row. He read out the proposed letter and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Sparrow, it was agreed to send it.

- 254. Film Theatre.** The Clerk explained that the negotiations to acquire the small plot of land beside the Cinema had reached an impasse as the owner of the land, for good reason, was unable to realistically sell the land for the price that members had identified as best value at their previous meeting. A motion to hold the discussion in camera was defeated and, after the Clerk had explained where he had got to in the negotiations it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that the Council revisit the decision reached at the last meeting in light of the new evidence. The landowner was still supportive of the project but couldn't lower the price any further than £12,500 without inconveniencing himself. The Clerk explained that both he and the Theatre manager were convinced that this was still reasonable value against the benefits that would be gained by progressing on this land rather than the Car Park. Members noted this and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Sparrow, it was agreed to offer £12,500 for the land to complete the deal. The extra £2,500 would have to be found from the earmarked reserves for this project but could be deferred for 6 months.
- 255. Outdoor Fitness equipment.** Members noted that the estimated cost of installing the favoured option (replicating Aldeburgh's) had risen to £17,500 in the three years since theirs was installed. (The Clerk had estimated £15,000). The Outdoor Fitness Company representative which provided that equipment did not visit before the notes for the meeting were sent out so members had to consider whether they wished to proceed at the new figure or not. There was £43,000 in the playground equipment reserve which could be used for this project. Cllr Last informed members that he had taken many calls and comments since the Newsletter had asked residents views on this and was very happy to propose that the Council purchase and install the equipment detailed by the Outdoor Fitness Company for a sum of £17,500. This was seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed.
- 256. Victory Park – installation of benches by Boules Court.** Members agreed that the two new benches be situated either side of the new Boules Court.
- 257. Victory Park – Waterloo Avenue Gate refurbishment.** Members noted the Clerk's report which explained that the Jubilee Memorial Gates in Waterloo Avenue were in need of refurbishment. They were last sand blasted and painted 24 years ago. The Clerk pointed out that the £4,000 put aside in the precept for this work was an estimate as, at that time he had been unable to get a contractor to quote. It was difficult to find someone willing to take on the work but Mr Pegg from Aldeburgh, (who refurbished them 24 years ago), agreed to do the work for £6,500. This would involve removing the gates and refurbishing all the metalwork on site too with modern galvanising techniques which should mean the work would be good for over 30 more years. Members agreed that the work needed done and, on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to find a further £2,500 from the street furnishing reserve to place the contract with Mr Pegg.
- 258. Cemetery Fence.** Members noted the report from the Clerk which gave a resume of the problem reported to them by Mr Green of the trespass and dog fouling that was currently blighting the Cemetery. The site is owned and run by SCDC and, although they have patched the boundary fence, it is all too easily breached allowing the situation to continue. The Clerk got a quote for

referencing the complete western boundary of the site of £5,000. Negotiations with SCDC moved them to offer £2,500 toward the work but they would not undertake it all themselves. Members realised that this was a realistic offer in the current climate and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed that, to get this situation sorted then £2,500 be taken from the devolution reserve to commission this project.

- 259. Haylings Pond.** Members noted that the grounds team had finished their clearance work but it was a surprise to some as to the extent of the work. The laurels had not been cut back for many years so it did look a little bleak and some saplings had also been removed that had encroached the scheme. The Clerk also reported that the northern entrance could be easily sorted out with a little concrete or some paving slabs to just get rid of the muddy part of the entrance.
- 260. Primary School Playing Field.** The clerk informed members that it now looked extremely likely that the entrance to the Primary School Field from KGA (beside number 78) would be retained in the deed and handed over with the field thereby giving the Council unrestricted access. He informed members that, in accordance with their wishes from the previous meeting, should the paperwork indeed confirm this then he would complete the acquisition. Cllr D Bailey was very concerned however that the official entrance didn't actually have a gate installed which would entail extra expense. There was also the anomaly that the gate into the field from beside 102 KGA (which had been there for over 40 years) did not actually have any rights of way to access it! Members agreed that this would be an agenda item once the field was in Council ownership.
- 261. May Annual meeting.** The Clerk apologised for not having identified the clash of bookings for the Community Centre for 19th May much sooner. The Police and Crime Commissioner booked the hall for his area meeting on that date well before Christmas. The fact that this is an election year and the Council's own annual meeting is two weeks late escaped him. Members agreed that the PCC would be a good opportunity for everyone to catch up on Constabulary issues so agreed to suspend standing orders to hold the Annual meeting on Wednesday 20th May.

The meeting took a break from 8.20 – 8.40pm for refreshment

262. Finance and Personnel.

- a) Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed that accounts presented in the sum £13,088.88p along with £40,210.34p, paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.
- b) Administrative Assistant.** The Clerk informed members that he had received a letter of resignation from Mrs Ellis. The letter explained the reasons and members were sympathetic and quite understood how reluctantly she had reached her decision. Cllr Howard proposed, on members' behalf, a big vote of thanks to Claire for how she had promoted and helped the Council over the last 3 years and wished her every success in the future. The Clerk pointed out the difficulty of timing with regard to recruiting a replacement with the elections looming and hoped that he could arrange a meeting of the Personnel committee soon to consider the way ahead.

263. Planning.

- a) **DC/15/0286/FUL – Proposed semi-detached building to comprise of 2 No. 3 bed dwellings – 27A Heath View, Leiston, Suffolk.** The residents of Heath View were quite right in their huge concern for the effect this proposal would have on car parking in that area. With just one space per property this was clearly a major issue in a dead end as everyone knows households these days have the capacity for at least two cars – most more. Members also felt that this was an overdevelopment of the area and recommended refusal on the grounds of this and loss of amenity to neighbouring properties.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b) **DC/15/1006/ADI – Replacement illuminated and non-illuminated signage – 43 Sizewell Road, Leiston, Suffolk**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **DC/15/0789/FUL – Single Storey rear extension and alteration – 80 King Georges Avenue, Leiston, Suffolk**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **DC/15/1023/VOC –Variation of condition 7 of Application C12/1923 (development of four houses) to enable completion/occupation of plots 1 and 2 without completion of the boundary wall surrounding the car parking area. Condition to be varied to require this to be completed prior to occupation of plots 3 and 4 and thereafter retained on Land Rear of 31 High Street, Leiston, Suffolk.** Members were very concerned about this. They could not see how this condition needed to be varied. It was put into the permissions for extremely good reasons and nothing had changed to alter those. In fact, the situation would be exacerbated by this with new residents having to find a car parking space elsewhere in a private road with no permissions for these properties. This would be a recipe for neighbourly disputes and should not be allowed. Cllr Geater abstained.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- e) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk updated members on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan has been done and the plan was out for consultation with the statutory bodies. A Habitats Regulations assessment had also been requested. This was being done and the Clerk was hoping to get funding to cover this.

264. County Matters

- a) **Highways.** It was pointed out that the new double yellow lines were already breaking up and cracking. This would appear to be a very poor contract return for Highways

265. District Matters.

- a) **Public Toilets.** These were closed in Leiston on Saturday 4th April.
b) **Litter.** The litter in the boundary shrubs on the northern side of King KGA Recreation Ground still had not been removed.

266. Correspondence.

- a) **Safer Neighbourhood Team – CCTV coverage.** Members noted the letter from PCSO Cowles explaining how the SNT was trying to fill the gaps in CCTV coverage in Sizewell Road. The CCTV in the town has been an enormously useful and much appreciated resource and he was trying to secure various funding to complete the coverage. He asked Leiston Town Council, as a member of the SNT, whether they would contribute £300 to the installation with £500 being sought elsewhere. Members were pleased to help this initiative and, on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was agreed to contribute £300 to the project. Cllr Howard and Cllr R Bailey voted against.
- b) **CRUSE Bereavement Care.** Members noted the work being done by this organisation in the East Suffolk Area and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to grant £50 toward their costs.

267. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) There was a vote of thanks to all those retiring Councillors who had contributed so much of their time and experience over their time in office. They had all taken part in the work of the Council and also outside the Council in the community and everyone wished them best wishes for the future.
- b) **D2.** The Clerk was asked to download the D2 and B1122 study that had been published on the County Council website.
- c) **Victory Park Bollard...** The Clerk was asked to get this installed as a matter of urgency.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.15pm.

Chair

Dated
