

Pre-meeting Reports
1st February 2011

- 136. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PC Paul Downey, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a detailed résumé of crime in the Town during the month of January (attached). There were only 37 crimes last month against 47 recorded last January. Members and the public then asked various questions. PC Downey explained that, without a byelaw in place (which there isn't) parking on grass verges was not illegal, just anti social and very annoying for everyone in the roads where it occurred. Mrs Oliver drew attention to the inconsiderate parking in Southfield drive and asked that this be investigated and Mr Barrett asked that the SNT put in a presence around the leisure centre and Red House Lane at lunch times when there were often incidents of anti social behaviour and high spirits. Cllr Ginger asked for more details of the crime figures and Cllr Howard asked for a breakdown of the speeding and parking tickets. PC Downey undertook to send the information on as soon as possible.
- 137. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Richard Smith who reported that he had looked around Seaward Avenue, Heath View and St Margaret's Crescent with a Highway Officer and had asked for a quote to tarmac some of the worst affected verges. Cllr Ginger mentioned the initiative from two years ago when the Flagship Group had been inclined to work in partnership with Highways to improve areas of St Margaret's Crescent and agreed to give Cllr Smith more details after the meeting. Heath View was bad but would probably be too expensive to refurbish although a figure had been requested he said. Cllr Smith then went on to explain what resources were being put into the Middle School as a consequence of their latest poor Ofsted report which had placed the school back on special measures. The meeting then turned to the very upsetting decision of the County Council to close Leiston Library unless 30% of current costs could be saved. He pointed out that full funding for the library would continue until the end of March 2012. Cllr Smith explained that the consultation on this decision was running until the end of April although it was noted by the meeting that this consultation was just for residents of Suffolk to send in ideas on how they could run their own libraries to save the closures. Many residents expressed their very real disbelief that such an important service was seriously going to be closed. The Chairman offered to invite the Head of the Library Service down to come and speak to everyone at a future meeting so that they could ask questions on the way ahead. Following on from Libraries, Cllr Smith reported that 7 Household Waste Sites were earmarked for closure but he could not confirm whether Leiston was on that list. The County would not allow the affected sites to be released until they are announced at the cabinet meeting of 17 February.
- 138. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that the government had recently relaxed the rules brought in under the previous government which stipulated the maximum number of car parking spaces that had to be accommodated in any new development. This had been far too low and SCDC were now in a position to formulate their own more realistic policy to ensure that the problems caused by this unsustainable control would not add further to the massive on street parking issues that had arisen because of it.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, and agreed, that standing orders be suspended to allow the public part of the meeting to continue.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
1st FEBRUARY 2011, at 8.10 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor D. Boast
Councillor J. L. Geater
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W. H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey
Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn
Councillor N Parker

The meeting observed a minutes silence in memory of Mrs Josie Howard who, sadly, passed away last week. Josie had been an active member of the Council for 12 years before retiring in 2003.

139. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 11th January 2011 be signed as a true record bearing in mind a correction to the pre meeting report regarding mitigation for the proposed new fuel store at Sizewell B. Mitigation had been agreed. EDF would be giving Suffolk Coasts and Heaths an upfront payment followed by ongoing annual payments for improvements to the AONB.
140. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mr Nunn.
141. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the Royal British Legion Women's Section Christmas Dinner, the inaugural meeting of the newly formed "Leiston Works Railway Trust", chaired the public meeting held to form a Town Appraisal group and had attended the AGM of the 1379 Leiston ATC Squadron. The Railway Trust were formed to look at purchasing the railway line from the works up to the Buller/Station Road junction.
142. **Town Appraisal.** The public meeting on 19th January had attracted 25 residents who registered an interest in helping to take a new Town Appraisal forward. Suffolk ACRE had volunteered to attend the next meeting on 2nd February to advise and help the group go forward.
143. **Grit Bins.** Members noted the quite strict rules regarding the placement and the use of grit bins should the Town Council be disposed to purchase them. The grit can only be used on the public highway and, if the bin were to be placed on private property (i.e. Flagship Housing or District Council owned land), then the bins would not be replenished. Bins had to be locked and a list of volunteers kept by the Clerk. It was noted that Flagship currently did quite a good job of looking after their areas of Charles Adams and Paxton Chadwick and the only other requests for bins had been for private property. The information given was to help Councillors should they be approached by residents if we get another cold snap.
144. **Libraries.** Members asked a lot of questions about what sort of support any group that could be found to run the library would receive from County. There were also queries on

what was meant exactly by that group having to find a 30% saving. It was agreed to ask Mr Roger McMaster (Head of Library Service) to a future meeting to explain.

- 145. Youth Club.** Members heard that the Clerk had discussed the situation with the Headteacher of the High School and he too was awaiting details of how the divestment of the Youth Club was going to be handled. There were space pressures on his school as the two tier system ramped up and he was keen to have use of the Youth Club building during the school day. He was also keen to see it used as a Youth Club in the evening and gave his full support to that aim as he realised, like the Council and SNT, that it was an important asset for our young community. Both could well be achieved but, in the absence of any detail, it was difficult to take the discussion any further. Cllr Huxley was due to meet a representative of the County Council on 11th February to [hopefully] find out more of what was happening. He undertook to report back once (and if) the situation became any clearer. Members could then look at what was achievable, how the divestment might affect the fishing club and whether the Clerk needed to write and request a delay to the decision to close (if it remains April).

During the above item Cllr Huxley declared a personal interest.

146. Finance.

- a) Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £6685.52p along with £12902.01p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Hawkins thanked the Council on behalf of the Long Shop for the generous grant agreed in January.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (8.10pm – 8.30pm) for refreshments

147. Planning Matters.

- a. C10/3246 – Erection of 8 homes for affordable housing (demolition of existing garages) and provision of displaced car parking spaces on the garage site behind South Close and 47-51 Red House Lane, Leiston.** Cllr Ginger gave a report of the site meeting that he had attended with the planning officer, the architect and representatives from the Flagship Group. Residents from Seaward Avenue and Quakers Cottage were also present. On the planning issues members heard that residents were much keener to have replacement parking spaces closer to Seaward Avenue. It was not considered a realistic option for anyone to use the proposed car park spaces behind Red House Lane due to them being out of sight and in an area of potential anti social behaviour. It was therefore agreed to recommend that the plans be changed to keep the area behind Red House Lane as grass and to put in as many parking bays as possible along the north side of the old shop (protecting the existing tree). It was also asked that the architect explore ways of maintaining access rights where they existed to the rear of the properties in Seaward Avenue. With these amendments members would be happy to recommend approval.

RECOMMEND CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest in the above item

- b. C10/2992 – Erection of two storey rear extension at 2 Wood Farm Cottages, Westward Ho, Leiston.** Members noted the latest plans which clarified the impact the proposals had on the listed curtilage next door. It was still thought that the scale of the plans were too much of an extension on the original building and the zinc cladding was out of keeping to the area.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- c. C11/0088 - Erection of single storey side extension at 16 Huntingfield Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C11/0080 - Erection of rear extension to create shower room and rear access ramp for disabled at 38 Seaward Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C11/: SCC – Removal of existing modular unit and formation of new extension to rear and external lighting to footpath at Leiston Children’s Centre, King George Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

148. County Matters.

- a. **Station Road.** Members were pleased with the resurfacing of Station Road and the repairs done to the White Horse Corner.
- b. Cllr Howard asked members if they would support him in asking the Clerk writing to the Prime Minister to express their deep concern at the way the current cuts being imposed on local authorities is devastating public services in our community and town. This was seconded and agreed.

149. District Matters.

- a. Nothing raised

150. Correspondence.

- a. **Chernobyl Anniversary and probable protests.** Members noted the replies from the District Council and the police with regard to the protest that occurred last April on the Anniversary of Chernobyl. It was sincerely hoped that the demonstrators were more considerate to our residents if they considered doing it again and realised the disruption and inconvenience they caused them by their actions. It was particularly hoped that they would camp on the proper site (and help our residents) rather than upset everyone by camping on the beach.
- b. **Optua.** Members noted the request for grant funding from Optua and, on a proposition from Cllr Geater and seconded by Cllr Huxley it was agreed to gift £50 to Optua from the grants budget.

151. Questions to the chairman. There were no questions.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.40 pm.

----- Chair

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