

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**

**174. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jacqueline Abbott and Sergeant Richard Gubbins, Suffolk Constabulary who gave a brief summary of crimes committed during March – a report is attached. Other items raised included the recent damage in King George Avenue on a Saturday night again, the current spate of youth nuisance involving climbing onto buildings and how the Safer Neighbourhood Team were working with Allotment Holders to introduce and raise crime awareness measures around that site. Jackie explained that 999 should be used if residents saw youngsters trespassing on roofs etc. as there was a clear danger to life involved and/or potential damage about to be caused. Cllr Geater congratulated PCSO Abbott on her recent award of the Sheepshanks Trophy in recognition of her consistent high level of performance to the communities covered by the Leiston Safer Neighbourhood Team, whilst achieving a balance between community contact, crime reduction and law enforcement. Cllr Howard again highlighted concerns about domestic violence and the way reports were given as “domestic incidents”. Sgt Gubbins explained that when his team are called to a domestic incident then they do not leave until the situation is sorted out and everyone is considered safe and will make an arrest if a crime has been committed (assault for instance).

**175. County Report.** The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of County Councillor Ron Ward. Members noted the report that Cllr Ward had left, in particular, the explanation on why return bus fares cannot be used on buses from different companies before 6pm. Cllr Howard undertook to contact Cllr Ward directly to try and improve the situation.

**176. District Report.** Cllr Huxley requested details of the twin bin role out scheme (post meeting; Aldeburgh Road, Seaward Avenue quadrant in April 08 – Abbey Road and Waterloo Avenue in July 08). There was then a long discussion and conjecture about what the Boundary Committee would be considering and what SCDC and Suffolk County were hoping for with regard to the review into local government structure in the County. Cllr Ginger asked the District Councillors which model SCDC were supporting being SCC had come out in favour of an all County Unitary. Cllr Geater couldn't give a clear response as there were so many options and factors to be taken into consideration. Mrs Girling asked for written details of the Chief Executives salary both at SCDC and what he receives from Waveney (including remuneration details to SCDC if Waveney do not pay salary). Cllr Hawkins undertook to look at the issue. Cllr Ginger asked for his concern at the increase in salary of £70,000 to the Chief Executive of the County Council to be noted in the absence of the County Councillor too. Mrs Girling then asked if SCDC or County had been in any meetings or discussions with British Energy with regard to a new access road to the prospective Sizewell C site. She also asked whether a definitive map existed of what was being considered as, if District and County were talking to British Energy she felt the Town Council should see the proposal. Cllr Hawkins replied that he had had no meetings with anyone with regard to the road and he thought that the road mentioned in a recent public meeting was an indicative one along the lines of the one proposed for Sizewell B.

**177. Public Forum.** Mrs Pickett expressed her disappointment at the way she felt she had been treated with regard to the recent announcement that the Council had asked the Theatre manager to do a study and report into the feasibility and business case for extending the Theatre Foyer which, unfortunately, entailed the possible use of the lock up shop that Mrs Pickett currently rented. Councillors apologised to Mrs Pickett for the insensitive way she had been informed of this decision and assured her that, although the report would continue to be put together no decision could or would be made until a full presentation and discussion in Council later in the year. Everybody's views would be taken into consideration at that meeting which is why members felt that the commissioning of the report should not have been in camera as they always hoped that what they did was transparent.

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 session to be completed.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,  
1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2008, at 7.35 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. Bailey**  
**Councillor B. A. Barnes**  
**Councillor D. R. Boast**  
**Councillor A. M. Cooper**  
**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**

**178. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 be signed as a true record.

**179. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Nunn and Cllr Blowers.

**180. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman informed members that March had been a very quiet month with little civic activity. It was also her last meeting as Chair before the Annual Meeting so she took the opportunity to thank all the Councillors, the Police, the Council Staff and all the public who had helped make her year so enjoyable.

**181. Traffic Order Review.** Members noted the report from the Highways meeting to discuss proposed changes to the waiting restrictions around the town (which had been very well attended). On a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley, it was agreed to adopt the report and for the Clerk to liaise with the County Council to move onto the next step of the consultative process. Cllr Geater raised the issue of the humps in the High Street which he had had reported by an elderly cyclist as beginning to come loose and difficult to cycle across.

**182. Film Theatre.** Members discussed the proposals for renovating the fascia of the Film Theatre including the verbal advice they had received from a resident's son who works in the lighting and design industry. There were concerns from some Councillors that the current wooden fascia was part of the building and was integral to its image as the oldest Cinema in Suffolk – they didn't agree with Mr Williams report which recommended that "old" didn't give a modern image. Members heard a view that the venue didn't need a "flashy" sign or "gaudy" lights as everyone knew where it was although some members felt that a more modern appearance would be more appropriate in this day and age. Some members felt that no lights on the frontage would save energy and others felt that the frontage was a major feature in the Town and deserved discreet, effective lighting to highlight it. There was no consensus however and members asked whether Mr Tim Saward would consider a small commission to do a more detailed impartial written report on the options he would consider appropriate for the venue to give members some guidance on aesthetics and design.

**183. Haylings Pond Meadow.** Members were concerned at the high water level and the number of ducks which seemed to have become permanent residents on the meadow. The water level and structural damage caused by the high water was being looked at by the Bailiffs and SCDC (who own the site). There was no consensus as to what to do about the ducks however as the reason they were so prolific was the amount of food they were being given by visitors to the park and from nearby residents (top quality grain!). If feeding continued then the ducks would increase and paddle even more areas of the grass to a muddy mess. Unfortunately it may be very difficult to dissuade residents from feeding the ducks as the youngsters enjoy it so much. Stowmarket have similar problems which they are trying to alleviate by running a campaign to discourage residents from over feeding the ducks.

**184. Sizewell Car Park.** Members heard that the experiment to encourage visitors to be responsible with their rubbish by removing the litter bin on the top car park at Sizewell had failed. Visitors just chucked their rubbish out willy nilly anyway. Members voted to replace the bin.

**185. Bus Shelter – Old Post Office Square.** Members had a deep discussion on whether to degrade the visual amenity offered by the re-vamped Old Post Office Square by going ahead with the erection of a bus shelter. Members noted that the SCDC conservation officer was trying to get the most suitable see-through design he could but they were still unsure of whether it was worth the overall visual impact. It was a close vote but members did decide to allow the erection of a suitable shelter on the north side of main Street for residents comfort and convenience. The planned

siting by the road was chosen as experience shows passengers waiting for buses stand in positions where they can monitor the approach of their bus. This is psychological as they suspect, against all assurances, that the bus driver will not stop unless they are visible and ready to hop on. Even in Knodishall you see passengers under brollies in the rain waiting directly opposite the village bus shelter. Cllr Bailey won support for asking SCDC to at least look at a lean-to in the recess by the Council Office wall as being a less visually intrusive option if possible.

**186.Fairtrade.** Members discussed the whys and wherefores of getting Fairtrade Status for Leiston (like Framlingham has just achieved) and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Geater, everyone agreed, in principle, to support Leiston gaining Fairtrade Status in the future. The Clerk was asked to investigate who could come and address or advise the Council on how to achieve the aim.

**187.Newsletter.** The next edition would be out on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Articles to the Clerk by 10<sup>th</sup>.

**188.Finance.**

- a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £9,270.31p along with £9,534.31p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting was suspended for 20 minutes for a natural break from 8.20 pm to 8.40 pm

**189.Planning.**

- a. **C08/0329 – Redevelopment of static & touring caravan site, including extension of static caravan site with replanned layout (total of 54 static caravans). Provision of 20 static caravans within touring caravan site & construction of access road & parking spaces. Submission of Wind Turbine Details under Condition 08 of Planning Permission C05/0400 at Cliff House Caravan Site, Sizewell Hall Road, Aldringham cum Thorpe, Leiston.** This site is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which members have, in the past, been keen to protect from any form of development. They viewed this current application, as it was presented, as a business proposition which would possibly increase tourism – or, at least, the standard of accommodation offered to tourists (including pet friendly holidays). Members felt that there were advantages to tidying up the site and, although they were initially wary of touching anything on the touring side, were swayed by the design and the fact that no trees that side would be touched and the wall beside the footpath would remain at its current height. The footpath would therefore be unaffected other than the view into the site which would become more regimented than the current attractive randomness tourists can achieve. The reinstatement of a flint wall on the north side was also welcomed. The major concern was for the statics and timber clad “lodges” on the touring site to be totally lettable i.e. not **second homes – if that were allowed to happen it would be totally unacceptable** and against all the spirit of tourism that is encompassed in this plan. Members suggested a two month moratorium on the vans here being occupied although, if there was another valid planning condition that could be applied to ensure the vans on the touring site were, as stated, able to be let on a weekly basis (by different occupants!) then this would be much more preferable and allow the coast to be enjoyed by more people all year round perhaps. **Any conditions applied to achieve this aim would be fully supported.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- b. **C08/0466 – Application for Certificate of Lawful Use Proposed single-storey extension at 6 Highbury Cottages, Saxmundham Road, Leiston.**

**NO COMMENT**

- c. **C08/0488 – Erection of two bay cartlodge (resubmission) at Abbey Cottages, Eastbridge Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d. **C08/0489 – Replacement of existing porch at Abbey Cottages, Eastbridge Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e. **C08/0527 – Erection of two-storey extension to rear & removal of old shed & replacement of laundry with sun room extension (resubmission) at Smyth House Residential Home, Leiston.** The design was not quite as overbearing on the neighbouring bungalows as the previous application but members still felt that the officers should be allowed to reject the application if they felt that the bungalows on the north boundary suffered an undue loss of light and amenity.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

During the above application Cllr Cooper declared an interest, stayed in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- f. **C08/0528 – Replacement of cycle sheds, alterations & resurfacing to overspill car park & minor associated works at Sizewell A Power Station, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- g. **C08/0616 – Erection of a Dwelling in Part rear gardens of 1 & 1A Kitchener Road, Dinsdale Road, Leiston.** Members thought this was a complete and total overdevelopment of a small site in a most inappropriate area. The site lines to the entrance were dangerous, especially to cyclists and this would put pressure on the removal of some on street parking opposite. Members considered this to be an undesirable backfill and a small unnecessary dwelling in the wrong place impinging on the rear of too many properties

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

- h. **C08/0619 – Erection of a New Dwelling in Part rear garden, 16 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.** Members were all of the opinion that the property presented was too large in footprint and block for the site. It was not in keeping with its surroundings and needed to be reduced in height and size so as to not blight all the surrounding neighbouring properties.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

#### **190. County Matters.**

- a. **Proposed Sizewell Access Road.** Following on from the pre-meeting discussions members asked the Clerk to write to Cllr Ward and ask for a definitive map of the proposed road.
- b. **High School success.** The Clerk was asked to write to the High School to congratulate them on the re-attainment of their Technology Status – a very good achievement and a real bonus for the Town.
- c. **Cycle Track to Sizewell.** This badly needed sweeping – the Clerk was asked to organise this as soon as possible. The Clerk was also asked to try and get the track surveyed for repair work where tree roots had pushed through.
- d. **Sizewell A – smelly screens.** Members asked the Clerk to write and request that the screens close to the foreshore at A station be cleaned to get rid of the nasty rotten smell that is currently emanating from there.

#### **191. District Matters.**

- a. **Tourist Information.** Cllr Boast asked whether it would be possible for SCDC to set up a Tourist Information site in Leiston. Members informed him that, historically, Leiston had tried to get a TI office but that SCDC had sited it at Aldeburgh. The Long Shop Museum had a small gallery of leaflets etc. and was probably the best place to direct anyone seeking tourist information for the area.

#### **192. Correspondence.**

- a. Members noted the current consultation with regard to moving the Head and Neck Cancer Services from Ipswich to another hospital. The Clerk was instructed to write and inform the PCT that members were strongly in favour of the status quo and did not want to see any changes to the current cancer specialist set up.
- b. Members noted the forthcoming Parish Liaison meetings with the District Council and agreed to send Cllr Howard and Cllr Hodgson.
- c. Members noted the Boundary Committee meeting at Kesgrave on 7<sup>th</sup> April and asked Cllr Hodgson to go along.
- d. Members noted the request from the Constitutional Club Bowls Section for a letter of support for their plans to build a shelter which they could use with funding applications. This was agreed.

During the above application Cllrs Barnes and Boast declared an interest along with Cllrs Geater and Hawkins. They all stayed in the room, but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- 193. Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Bailey asked if there was anyway to persuade the Co-op to sort out their car park – the potholes had got very bad indeed now. The Clerk explained that he had badgered the Co-op head office for a number of months now but just kept receiving promises. He would keep on it however.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.45 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated