

Pre-meeting Reports
1st June 2010

- 9. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Inspector Stonehouse and Police Community Support Officer Philip Marshall from Suffolk Constabulary. PCSO Marshall gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during May (a detailed report is attached). Inspector Stonehouse then gave members an update on how the new hub system was working and answered questions. The main points raised were that the hub system was introduced to make the police response to incidents more efficient. After running for six weeks there had been some boundary changes and tweaks to try and resolve the initial problems that had been identified although the major weakness remained the lack of local knowledge of any response officer called into Leiston on an emergency. Inspector Stonehouse stressed that the Safer Neighbourhood teams were in the town everyday but agreed that out of hours and other emergencies would need a better local knowledge from the response officers. To this end he was trying to organise familiarity days where response offers from Woodbridge and Halesworth would come and spend time with Leiston's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to get that knowledge. The meeting was pleased to hear that the SNT had got a full time constable on their strength again as this had been a serious problem over the last few weeks. Inspector Stonehouse did assure the meeting that progress was being made to tackle the considerable youth nuisance that Leiston was currently experiencing and that resources were being made available to assist this but there was no doubt that Leiston had a serious problem being caused by a lawless group of youths who currently appeared to be beyond the law. Mr Briggs raised his concerns about the intentions of the Police Authority to reduce the hubs from 13 down to 3 by 2013. The meeting agreed that this sounded like a further degradation of the service.
- 10. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Richard Smith who informed the meeting that he was getting bedded in, had been appointed to various committees and was the County Council representative on the Long Shop Trust and the Sizewell Stakeholder Group. As a member involved with appointing school governors in North Suffolk he pointed out that there were currently 2 vacancies on the Middle School governing body and 1 coming up at the High School. He encouraged members and residents to help in finding suitable candidates to take these important posts on. He gave a brief overview of news since the General Election as the proposed changes the new government were bringing in became clearer. There would be a £4-11 million pound reduction in funding to the County from central government this year, and for future years too probably, there would be more decisions devolved to the local government, almost certainly without funding to enable them and, consequently, there were to be big changes to the structure of the County Council and the way it does business. Mr Taylor was told that the current SCC budget was £1.1 billion pounds with £400 million of that set aside for education. This led on to disquiet from residents about the ongoing changes to the education system in the town from 3 tier to 2 tier, the uncertainty over previously promised government funds to help it happen and, as stated by June Oliver, the need now for strong governors at the schools to manage this change.
- 11. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report. Cllr Nunn gave details of recycling figures achieved by the District Council overall and the differences noted during the "Seven Suffolk Streets" initiative which were very impressive (details available from Cllr Nunn or Town Clerk). Cllr Ginger highlighted the ongoing problem of the noise nuisance from the Sports Centre when the windows are opened during aerobic sessions. Cllr Nunn assured the meeting that Mr Pink (Environmental health) was looking at the problem. Finally, it was pointed out by Mr Taylor and Cllr Howard that the current round of consultations being carried out by EDF (vis-à-vis a possible Sizewell C) were rapidly turning into a PR disaster – it seemed the company were having meetings with everyone in the area except Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council. There had even been one with the residents of Sizewell before talking to the Council and this meeting did not include the residents of Leiston Common who would be equally affected by the proposals – something the Town Council could have told them. It was hoped the company would resolve this as soon as possible.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Ginger 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 JUNE 2010, at 7.50 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor B. A. Barnes
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 A. J. Nunn
Councillor N Parker

12. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 4th May 2010 be signed as a true record.
13. **Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Mrs Nunn.
14. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman thanked members for his re-election in May and reported on the events he had attended since the AGM. He had represented Leiston at the Aldeburgh Mayor making and Civic Parade, at the reception given by the Chairman of Suffolk County Council and at the Beating the Retreat at Bury St Edmunds. Around the town he reminded members of the excellent display of art work the Middle School had exhibited in the High Street recently and the successful Leiston Day at the Long Shop. He had attended the Primary school to look over their plans for the next 3 stages in their improvement programme, the first stage of which should be up and running by July 2011. He finished by thanking Cllr Boast for representing the Town Council at the recent Memorial Service at Leiston Airfield. (report attached).
15. **Safer Neighbourhood Team.** Members noted the concerns raised by residents at the recent public meeting and the strategies put in place to address them at the subsequent tasking meeting. The priorities remained Youth related crime and safety around schools (particularly the congestion in Waterloo Avenue). The Mayor of Aldeburgh's request to meet and discuss CCTV was also noted and members asked the Clerk to put this on the July agenda.
16. **Town Appraisal.** Members noted all the hard work that the Chairman had put into presenting the up to date review of the Town Plan and agreed to form a committee to meet and form some recommendations to put to Council on how to take it forward.
17. **Grit Bins.** Members discussed the possibility of purchasing some grit bins for strategic locations around the Town should there be another winter like the one just gone. There was some sympathy with the principle of doing so but there appeared to be too many small

difficulties associated with the actual operation and deployment of the grit. It was therefore decided to remain with the status quo for the time being.

18. **Leiston and District Nursing Association.** Members were pleased to nominate Susan Geater as their appointed trustee on the Nursing Association for a further four years.
19. **Garrett's plaque/statue** Cllr Ginger informed members that he had been impressed with the proposed plaque that Mr Merrett had exhibited at the recent "Leiston Day" at the Long Shop Museum as it gave an excellent depiction of life on the shop floor in the Long Shop during the successful Garret years. He felt that a monument such as this to the workers would look very good on the brick wall opposite and facing the Engineers Arms. Members agreed that it would be preferable to have a monument like this rather than a statue or bust of a member of the Garrett Family (for instance) as it would be relevant to so many of the townsfolk who had worked there over the years. It was proposed by Cllr Geater, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the Council gives what support it can to help Mr Merrett take his project forward and to attract funding.
20. **Traffic Order Review.** The Chairman reported that the Traffic Order Review was finally moving forward. The Highways Committee had gone through all the proposals with Mr Caruana who had gone away to produce the final proposal paper for approval before a public exhibition later in the summer.
21. **Liaison with School Council (Leiston High School).** Members were very pleased to hear of the offer from Mr Wareham, Assitant Head Teacher at the High School, for Councillors to meet with the School Council. The Clerk was asked to arrange a suitable time and date.
22. **Finance.**
 - a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £14,117.46p along with £26,373.03p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
 - b) **Annual Accounts 2009/2010.** Members worked through the accounts as presented by the Clerk and answered positively all the questions posed in the Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the accounts presented be accepted as a fair representation of the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2010. It was also agreed that the Chairman should sign the Annual Return to confirm that the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement had been approved.
 - c) **Cinema Admission Price review.** Members noted the Cinema manager's recommendations for a small, across the board, increase in admission prices. Adults and concessions by 25p and children by 30p. Members felt that a uniform increase would be acceptable and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed to raise all admissions by 25p. The Clerk asked whether members would be happy to devolve future pricing decisions to the manager. Members felt that, like now, promotional offers and special performances could still be decided by the Manager but that the annual price review should remain the responsibility of the Councillors.

During item c) above Councillor Ginger declared an interest.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (8.40pm – 9.00pm) for refreshments

23. **Planning Matters.**
 - a. **C10/0540 – Retention of temporary building (engine shelter) to provide weather protection and security during restoration of steam locomotive (renewal of temporary planning permission C06/2218 at The Long Shop Museum, Main Street, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above item Councillors Cooper, Ginger, Huxley, Hawkins and Nunn all declared an interest and Cllr Boast took the Chair.

- b. C10/1071 – 80 temporary site investigation trial trenches, Sizewell B Power Station, Leiston.** Members were concerned that the works would be destructive to an area of outstanding natural beauty, especially as they were not part of a planning application for a power station and might not be required. They were also concerned about the affect such excavations might have on the water table on the southern site as this had caused some concern when planning for the Greater Gabbard grid connection (which was subsequently rerouted)

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above item Councillors Howard and Parker declared an interest.

- c. C10/1030 – Erection of cart lodge in part side garden 27, Southfield Drive, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. C10/1155 – Application to replace extant planning permission C07/0965 for erection of single dwelling on land to rear of 43 Sizewell Road, Leiston.** Members felt that this was an unacceptable overdevelopment of a cramped and badly situated site. It would severely degrade the amenity of the neighbouring property with its imposing height and the way it overlooks the garden and facing windows of that property. It also has a vehicle access directly opposite the Solar car park entrance and within 10m of a busy junction that would definitely need highways approval. (Cllr Parker abstained)

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above item Cllr Huxley declared a personal interest.

- e. C10/1109 – Creation of vehicular access (previously granted under consent C05/1914) at 39 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.** If highways were comfortable with this then there would be no objection.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f. C10/1348 – Erection of two-storey side and single storey front extensions on 3 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.** Although the size and form of the proposed extension was considered acceptable the loss of the garage, especially with the likely increase of vehicle ownership the extension would bring, was a retrograde step and should not be allowed.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

24. County Matters.

- a. Road Safety.** Members raised concerns about the many reports of ball games being played in the road on the junction of Kings Road and Haylings Road. The Chairman had asked Inspector Stonehouse to pass on appropriate advice to the perpetrators.
- b. Waterloo Avenue.** There was frustration that the incorrectly placed safety barrier by Colonial Park had still not been moved.

25. District Matters.

- a. SALC Area meeting.** Cllr Hodgson answered questions on a previous meeting (which he had attended) and Cllr Huxley gave the meeting an overview of the more interesting points that had been raised at the most recent meeting. One item, the greenprint forum report, was particularly interesting and members asked the Clerk to approach the SCDC Environment Officer concerned to see whether he could possibly come and talk to members on green matters too.
- b. Sizewell C – meetings between SCDC and EDF.** Cllr Howard, who had raised this item in the past, reported that he had now obtained the brief minutes that had been kept between the District planning officers and EDF at their regular meetings. The issues being discussed were obviously of great interest to Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council and he felt that LTC should have been kept in the picture. The District Councillors pointed out that these meetings were a necessary part of the planning process to ensure the applicant had an interface with the planning authority and ward members were not at all phased by the fact

that they had been unaware of the minutes or meetings as they would not have expected to be informed. Cllr Howard asked that Leiston Council be kept informed in the future however as the issues being discussed were very relevant and it would be polite to ensure that our views were sought.

26. Correspondence.

- a. **Film Theatre Support Club.** Members noted the request from the Film Theatre Support Club for the donation of a draw prize and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey it was agreed to donate £50 in recognition of the excellent fundraising the club did for the benefit of the Theatre.

During the above item Councillors Huxley, Ginger and Nunn declared an interest.

- b. **Skate Jam.** Members gave permission for SCDC to run another "Skate Jam" on Victory Road Recreation Ground this summer (on Saturday 21st August) bearing in mind the normal conditions that would apply. Last year's event had been well organised and had been much enjoyed.
- c. **Heath View Road Safety.** The clerk had received a reply from the County Council Road Safety Advisor with regard to the petition handed in by Heath View residents last month. He suggested a street meet might be appropriate to see what could be done. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Mr French.

- 27. **Questions to the chairman.** The Chairman was asked to note the current spate of fly tipping on the Haylings Road Allotments and was also asked whether he was aware of the recent problems at the HEART building. He asked the Clerk to investigate the former and reported that he was aware of the latter and that the situation was being addressed.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.50 pm.

----- Chair

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