

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd March 2010

164. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed Police Community Support Officer Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during February (a detailed report is attached). He reported that the detection rate was 35% for the last six months which is above average and advertised the forthcoming Public Priorities meeting on 11th March. Cllr Hawkins asked whether Philip could find out how many officers were engaged in policing the recent demonstration at Sizewell, how much it cost and who was paying – this was in response to the many enquiries he had received from residents. Philip undertook to take that away and also report back on the actual CNC involvement in the incident. Mr Briggs raised the issue of how a possible degradation in service (through a reduction from 23 stations to the hub system of 9) would affect emergencies at Sizewell. County Cllr Rae Leighton was present and, as the area representative on the Police Authority, described the methodology driving the move to the hub system and how this covered all the queries raised by Mr Briggs (including use of the new custody centres). [A fuller description can be found in the minutes of 3rd November 2009]

165. County Report. The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Ron Ward who briefed the meeting on various issues that he had been involved with since the last meeting. He was asked by Cllr Ginger to revisit the problems he had witnessed on a walk round last year regarding potholes in Heath View and weeds in Paxton Chadwick Close. Cllr Ward undertook to inform Mr Oldham of the problems but warned that, although Heath View might be a priority the weeds in Paxton Chadwick might not be tackled until later in the year. Cllr Howard asked for Cllr Ward's support in trying to resolve a problem with water run off from the upper Middle School Playing Field – it collects in the corner behind St Margaret's Crescent and runs off through the two properties that back on to the field. Cllr Howard was working with the Education Grounds Manger, Mr Middleditch, to try and design a solution and hoped that Cllr Ward could make himself aware of the problem. A resident asked that the Cyclepath to Sizewell be swept and that some attention be given to picking the dreadful amount of litter out of the verges and hedges around the Counties roads.

166. District Report. Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report. Mr Taylor asked, having noted that SCDC were setting up a Sizewell Task Group, how the 7 members of that group were going to be briefed and brought up to speed on the issues currently ongoing and where they were hoping to get their independent advice from? He also noted that SCDC had recently responded to the NPS consultation but wondered whether they had responded to the associated Ionization consultation too. Cllr Hawkins did not know the answer but undertook to find out. Back on rubbish it was pointed out that the beach was getting a lot of debris being washed up at the moment.

167. Public Forum. Mr Taylor made a representation with regard to a later Agenda item - that of the Forestry Commission's screening meeting last week. He pointed out that the subject area for deforestation was in an AONB and that an EIA would most certainly need to be done to ensure that the whole range of species affected by the proposal was taken into account and not just the presumption that you could move reptiles easily from one habitat to another. He further stated that he felt that the submission was just a piecemeal part of the overall Sizewell C planning process and should therefore be included in that. He asked the Council to consider inviting EDF to hold an open meeting in Leiston to set the record straight on just what they were currently looking at regards the Kenton Hills/new road scenario. Mr Briggs then drew members attention to the plans he had brought along for a revamp and landscaping of Haylings Pond Meadow.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
2nd MARCH 2010, at 7.58 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
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

168. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2nd February 2010 be signed as a true record and that the Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement be officially signed.

169. Apologies. Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Nunn, Cllr Parker, Cllr Barnes and Cllr Bailey.

170. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman reported he had recently attended the 1379 (Leiston) Squadron ATC's Presentation Evening where 3 new cadets had been enrolled. At the event he had been asked whether any Councillor would be interested in serving as a representative on the Squadron's civilian committee which he passed on to members. There had also been a visit to the Suffolk's Got Talent show held in the Film Theatre which had impressed him no end and which, he reported, showed the Council in a very good light as sponsors and owners of the venue. There was a working breakfast at the Leiston Enterprise Centre – held to showcase another asset in the town whereby new and start up businesses can rent very well appointed and serviced rooms for their venture. He mentioned the increased complaints he had taken recently regarding dog fouling and, finally, he highlighted the problem people were beginning to discover as the bus timetables, set for change in April, became known with one casualty being the 501 service via Haylings Road, Knodishall, Friston and Saxmundham.

171. SCDC Member's briefing by EDF. Three town Councillors and two District Councillors attended a briefing held at Melton Hill on 23rd February where senior members of the EDF New Build Team had given them an update on where the project now stood. Councillor Ginger read a prepared report of the meeting and members discussed the issues raised. The report gave a broad outline of what can be expected should new build go ahead with the main changes to the last brief being an increased period of work from 2013 for 5 to 8 years and an increase in cost to 5 to 8 billion. The disruption caused by installing a jetty was mentioned and National Grid expanded on the new sub station and pylon re-alignment that would be required. There would be in excess of 5000 workers on the site at the height of the construction. Exploratory bore holes would soon be constructed (and filled in once complete) and a guarantee was given that the station would be safe from sea level rise for over 100 years. Finally, they acknowledged that virtually all the visitors to the recent DECC consultation in the town had expressed grave concern about the construction of a new road through Kenton Hills. Bearing this in mind, and mindful of the next agenda item regarding the deforestation request, it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that the Clerk write to the EDF new build team and request that they hold an open meeting in the Town to discuss with residents the options they are currently considering for the Kenton Hills area so that the townsfolk can then be considered to have been truly consulted.

172. Fairtrade Day 25th February. A Fairtrade Day was held in the Community Centre on 25th February which confirmed the Towns standing as a Fairtrade Town and showcased the many retailers who supported and subscribed to the Fairtrade ethic. Cllr Mrs Nunn thanked the Co-op for their tremendous support for the event (and to Fairtrade overall) as well as Cllr Howard, Simply Delicious and Becky Corbett for the time and energy they put in on the day to make it such an educational event. Cllr Nunn then reported on the meeting the Fairtrade Steering group had had recently with Mr Innocent Muhereza, a project co-ordinator with the Uganda Co-operative Alliance. He explained how, in his country, he worked with rural farmers to form co-ops and supporting credit unions and gave advice on crops to grow to try and improve food production, income and livelihood of the farmers in an area where most people have been living in camps for around 20 years. It had been very enlightening.

173. Forestry Commission Screening meeting held 26th February. Many members had attended the screening meeting held by the Forestry Commission in the Westleton Village Hall to discuss the application to deforest 4 hectares of Kenton Hills. The options open to the Commission were to allow the deforestation or to request an Environmental Impact Assessment to further show why the applicant felt the project was needed. Bearing in mind all the points raised by the public, which were broadly echoed by the members who had attended, on a proposition by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley it was agreed to lobby the Forestry Commission to demand an EIA on the area and for area 2A to also be included in the mitigation. Area 2A is an area next to the proposal area which has already been deforested but was meant to be replanted. It should therefore be included as part of this submission.

174. Finance.

a) Accounts for Payment. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £10,201.55p along with £9,370.13p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

175. Planning Matters.

a. C10/0258 – External refurbishment, alterations, additions & insertion of windows, provision of new external cladding & construction of new vehicular access at Corner House, Sizewell Gap, Sizewell, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

b. C10/0283 – Erection of a pair of semi detached dwellings on Land between 7 & 15 Kitchener Road, Leiston. Members considered the actual building element of the proposal to be poor design by virtue of its scale, form, proximity to neighbouring properties and the restricted size of the site. Moving back from the building line would look very untidy and make the property too imposing on the properties in Buller Road, affecting their amenity as well as being detrimental to the character of the existing street scene. The number of off street parking spaces was woefully short of what is required and members were bemused by the Access Statement asserting that “future occupiers have access to a wide range of local services and the Council should be requiring lower levels of parking provision to encourage future occupants to walk or cycle” – whilst an admirable aspiration it was hoped that everyone involved in the planning system was living in the real world and realised that Leiston’s transport links and employment opportunities required the same mobility and, ergo, parking provision, as a rural location. The area in question has reached saturation point vis-à-vis on street parking already. This proposal would add at least three cars to be parked on street which would be impossible without affecting all services to Kitchener road. Members have been told that the minimum government enforceable parking provision is 1.5 spaces per property which. In this instance, is short of the two that are required. This proposal does not even provide 1.5 so, even if this was the only objection, it would mean instant refusal.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

c. C10/0079 – Erection of garage at The Laurels 1a Haylings Grove, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C10/0403 – Change of use from hairdressers to tattoo parlour at 49-51 Cross Street, Leiston.** Members wished it noted in the permissions that any illegal parking on the adjacent grass sward, associated with the business, would not be tolerated.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C10/0453 – Provision of landing platform, ramps and guardrails to serve existing Medical Decontamination Unit (MDU) at Sizewell A Power Station**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f. **C10/0508 – Erection of two-storey rear extension and reconstruction of existing conservatory at 62 Carr Ave, Leiston.** Members noted that the existing single storey extension on the adjoining neighbour would mean that this proposal did not affect their amenity unduly as it did not extend as far as the extension did. With other properties in Carr Avenue already having erected similar extensions members felt that this was a reasonable proposal.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

176.County Matters.

- a. **Litter.** The clerk was asked to get the verges delittered on the way to Knodishall and on King George Avenue east of the level crossing.
b. **Waterloo Avenue.** The rail still hadn't been moved from in front of Colonial Park.

177.District Matters.

- a. Nil raised

178.Correspondence.

- a. **Royal British Legion Band.** Members noted the request from the Leiston RBL Band for a donation toward their running costs and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed to grant £250 toward their costs as allowed by the Power of Well Being.

During the above item Councillors Howard and Ginger declared an interest and left the room.

- b. **Friends of Leiston Airfield.** Members were pleased to note that the Friends of Leiston Airfield were preparing to host their Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cakes and Ale Park again this year and, on a proposition from Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to release the £150 earmarked for the event as allowed by the Power of Well Being.

During the above item Councillor Huxley declared an interest and left the room.

- c. **The Big Freeze.** Members noted the report from the recent Big Freeze seminar that was held at Endeavour House. There were a few helpful observations but there needed to be more work done on responsibilities and insurance regards snow clearance. Members hoped to discuss the issues in the summer in good time for next winter.

- 179.Questions to the chairman.** The Chairman was asked if he knew of anyone who would be willing to take on the post of Clerk to the Leiston and District Nursing Association. The present incumbent wished to retire. It involves a very small but important amount of admin and would not be too onerous a task at all should anyone wish to help.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.22 pm.

----- Chair

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