

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd June 2009

- 12. Presentation of the Chairman's Cup.** Cllr Ann Nunn was delighted to be able to properly present the newly acquired "Chairman's Cup" to Mrs Nita Ling after introducing the award at the Chairman's Reception in April. Mrs Ling works tirelessly for the community throughout the year to keep the Town looking its best and heads up a dedicated team of helpers who always do so well taking Leiston into the Anglia in Bloom competition.
- 13. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Police Constable Lee Simons, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during May (a comprehensive report is attached). The main point of note was the dramatic reduction in the number of criminal damage crimes. PC Simons hoped that this was due to the focused efforts that the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Special Constables had put in to target the times and areas where damage was occurring. He explained how the SNT was working with the youth groups in town to try and find ways of providing spaces and places for young people to go after school. An initiative to get a weekly visit from the "youth bus" was currently being investigated. Cllr Ginger highlighted the fire behind Heath View in Kiln Lane last week that had been attended by the Fire Brigade. Possibly connected was the pile of dumped "Advertiser" newspapers there this week which had not been delivered to Heath View properties. Cllr Hodgson asked about the Special Constables of which there were 5 on the ground in Leiston with back up from Saxmundham and, if necessary, Ipswich. They aimed at 8 hours a month but invariably put in a lot more. Mr Lovell asked whether the 20mph limit in the Town Centre could be enforced. PC Simons explained how, unfortunately, although speed guns (contrary to belief) could enforce a 20mph limit, the problem was in gaining a good sight line and a place to pull in offenders inside the urban setting. He was working with the traffic section however to try and find away to do this.
- 14. County Report.** The Chairman received apologies on behalf of County Councillor Ron Ward.
- 15. District Report.** Cllr Geater reported that members were busy with figures at the moment to do with recycling and rubbish collection where the performance had been very good. Unfortunately this gave little scope for further efficiency savings in the future. Cllr Howard asked whether the new system for choice based allocation for the social housing stock was in place yet at District. Cllr Hawkins wasn't aware of the new initiative yet but would find out and report back.
- 16. Public Forum.** Cllr Huxley pointed out that this was the 150th anniversary of the railway coming to Leiston.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
2nd JUNE 2009, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

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

- 17. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5th May 2009 be signed as a true record.
- 18. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Nunn, Cllr Morrissey and Cllr Parker

- 19. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported where he had been pleased to meet and welcome a group of visitors from France who were being hosted by the Leiston WI. Prior to their visit to the WI they had been shown around the Long Shop Museum. He had attended the Mayor making at Aldeburgh and had also attended the Annual Memorial Service for the airmen who had lost their lives whilst serving at Leiston Airfield. This was held beside the Cakes and Ale club house this year while the memorial in Harrow Lane was being re-landscaped.
- 20. Highways Working Party – 12th May.** Members worked through the report of the meeting of 12th May and discussed the various issues that were raised. The main item was the delay in completing the current Traffic Order Review for Leiston. Mr Stiff (SCC) and his team had had their funding cut and the project was currently on hold. Mr Stiff promised to write and inform members of the way ahead and timescales for completing the review by the end of June. The Waterloo Avenue Zebra Crossing was raised and the Clerk reported that, since the meeting, SCC had commissioned an independent safety audit on the crossing and were painting emergency white “keep clear” lines back to Waterloo Mews within two weeks. Cllr Ginger drew attention to the item regarding the parking problems in St Margaret's Crescent. SCC were willing to do a survey and to draw up a plan with possible solutions but, again, did not have the funding. Members decided not to volunteer funding themselves as it was felt unlikely that, even with a clear plan, funding would be the issue in implementing it. Cllr Geater did point out though that a clear plan could attract funding from the various large scale engineering projects taking place in the parish through their amelioration funds. Finally, members discussed the possibility of various one-way systems that could be introduced to alleviate the problems that occurred in roads like Central and Grimsey. It was unanimously agreed that there was scope to implement such a scheme and, with SCC offering support to work one up, it was decided to hold a meeting of the Highways Working Party to put some recommendations together.
- 21. Minsmere Levels Stakeholder Group.** Members noted the Groups newsletter and the Group's very detailed and concise response to the recent consultation on the Shoreline Management Plan (Sub-cell 3c). They asked the Clerk to thank the group for writing to the Environment Agency and their consultants with regard to this important and ongoing consultation and noted the next meeting due 26th June to consider further responses. Members noted the request for this year's subscription and, on a proposition from Cllr Geater, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater, it was agreed to send a subscription of £25 to the MLSG. Cllr Howard agreed to represent the Council at the groups next meeting on 26th June as Cllr Boast was unable to attend.
- 22. Fairtrade.** Cllr Mrs Nunn updated members on progress toward Leiston becoming a “Fairtrade Town”. She explained that all the boxes had now been ticked and, hopefully, with a little more publicity in the East Anglian Daily Times, everything would be in place to apply for Fairtrade Status. The Steering group now consisted of four Councillors and four members of the public. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Nunn, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the steering group now officially apply for Fairtrade Town status for Leiston.
- 23. Meeting of Local Parishes at Middleton.** Cllr Hodgson had attended the meeting of the 27th April where the name of the group was formalised into the more appropriate “ Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group”. He also pointed out that he had volunteered to become a member of the steering group of the organisation which would be looking at how to finance the groups work. This would probably be by subscription levied on the member parishes if core funding could not be obtained from the County Council (for instance). Members noted the draft constitution and agreed it was appropriate. The next meeting was due on 20th July and, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, it was agreed to continue with membership of the group.
- 24. Installation of new seat in Old Post Office Square.** The Clerk informed members that the new granite seat was due to be placed in Old Post office Square early on morning 5th June. There would then be an official unveiling and celebration on Tuesday 16th June. Members would be invited to attend and meet the 40 Middle School pupils who had contributed to the design and graphics incorporated into the seat.
- 25. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £11,330.74p along with £26,638.85p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Members noted the inclusion of a substantial donation from the Film Theatre Support Club in the income which covered the final elements of the Setting the Stage project that had now been completed. The Club had fulfilled the contract they had taken with SCDC to obtain a capital grant and had raised the rest themselves. Members asked the Clerk to write and thank the club and to congratulate them on successful project.
 - b) **Annual Accounts for 2008/2009.** 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 2009. 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. Cllr Huxley drew members attention to the latest report from the

internal auditors, Heelis and Lodge, as he felt it should be minuted that the Clerk should get credit for the way he was handling his duties as Responsible Financial officer.

- c) **Cinema Admission Price Review.** Members noted the letter from the Cinema Manager recommending a 20p increase to the Children's Ticket (up to £3.95p) and a 25p increase to the Senior Citizens rate (up to £4.75p). It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Barnes and agreed that the recommended increases be accepted.

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

The meeting took a break from 8.35 pm – 8.50 pm.

26. Planning Matters.

- a. **C09/0720 – Erection of single storey dwelling & creation of new vehicular access to part rear garden 118 Haylings Road, Leiston.** Members felt that the proposed dwelling was contrary to Policies AP26 and AP39 of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan insofar as the proposal would result in a completely unsatisfactory form of piecemeal development to the detriment of the character and appearance of the area. The proposed dwelling comprised a form of tandem backland development which was contrary to the existing pattern and form of development in the area and would be extremely harmful to the residential amenity of the neighbouring properties by reason of the unsatisfactory relationship it would have with the surrounding dwellings. It would also set an unwelcome precedent. It would blight the neighbouring gardens where residents would be expected to enjoy the natural form that this long standing and traditional road provides. Cllr Hawkins abstained from the vote.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b. **C09/0708 – Erection of new dwelling in part rear garden 16 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.** Members noted that this was just a repositioning of the property that obtained permission last year. As such they were content that the neighbours would not be unduly affected by the property's 2 metre shift north although they did note that the driveway to the property had not been constructed in accordance with the original plans and that this new plan looked like a retrospective application for a repositioning. Cllr Howard wished his vote against (due to concerns about how any extra residences in the town would affect the emergency plan) to be recorded.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

27. County Matters.

- a. **General Road conditions.** Cllr Ginger expressed his concern at the visible lack of investment in road maintenance around the area. He was very concerned that this was building up trouble for the future.

28. District Matters.

- a. **SALC area meeting.** Cllr Huxley informed members that he would be attending the local area meeting of SALC at Farnham on Monday 8th June. He reminded members that all Councillors could attend if they wished and that, at this meeting, the guest speaker would be Ian Dunnet talking on making Suffolk the greenest County.
- b. **Litter.** Cllr Howard reported that Victory Road Recreation Ground (and King George Rec) had suffered quite badly from littering over the last week. It was agreed that this could be brought up at the scheduled meeting with Mr Collard from SCS Ltd which was taking place the next day.

29. Correspondence.

- a. **Middle School Centenary.** Members noted the letter from the Middle School describing their plans for celebrating the centenary of the Middle School building as a place of education and asking for a contribution toward the awards evening. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that, as allowed by LGA 1972 s137, £50 be donated to the Middle School.
- b. **Leiston Royal British Legion.** Members noted the request to use the Film Theatre for this year's Festival of Remembrance and unanimously agreed to approve the request and to waive the hire fee.

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

- c. **Neverland.** Members noted the request for financial help in staging some children's concerts in Thorpeness. Unfortunately it was an event outside the parish and, although members who had seen the concerts could attest to how entertaining the concert's were, there were limited funds to spare so members reluctantly declined to contribute.

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

- d. **CYDS.** Members noted the request from CYDS for financial support for this year and also noted that there was provision in the estimates to make a contribution to the organisation if members so wished. After an amended vote it was agreed that members wished to see the organisations latest accounts and balance sheet before committing any funds and asked the Clerk to arrange this.

During the above item Cllr Cooper declared an interest and left the room, Cllr Boast took the Chair.

- e. **Film Theatre Support Club.** Members noted the request for a prize for the Club's Grand Draw later in the year. Members appreciated that the main beneficiary of the draw would undoubtedly be the Film Theatre so had no hesitation in helping out. It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that, as allowed by LGA 1972 s137, £50 be donated to the Leiston Film Theatre Support Club

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

- 30. **Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Howard asked whether other Councillors had anything they wished him to take forward to the Sizewell Stakeholders meeting on 11th June. Cllr Bailey asked whether there was anything the Council could do to pressure the PCT to reconsider what appeared to be a withdrawal of services from Ipswich Hospital, diabetes specialists and cardiac specialist units in particular. The Clerk was asked to write and ask what the future plans were for Ipswich Hospital and to try and get a senior representative from the PCT to come and talk to members. There was particular concern about how the families of the patients using the new services so much further afield would get to those hospitals. It would be a great strain and maybe impossible to use public transport.

It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that under the Public Bodies Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

- 31. **Personnel.** The main item under personnel was the recent review of the Clerk's pension arrangements. Members noted the report from the personnel committee and on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins it was agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council join the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund as a precepting authority under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 section 144 and approve eligibility for the Town Clerk to join the pension with effect from 2nd June 2009.

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

----- Chair

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