

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**

- 65. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Richard Gubbins, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during August (report attached). Cllr Ginger asked about some recent incidents he thought might be connected – a fire in Kiln Lane, a fire behind Archway Cottages, some flower boxes pinched from front gardens and a garage in South Close which was damaged. Sgt Gubbins reported that there was no indication that they were related although Mr Briggs informed him of two similar fires that occurred in July although it was unfortunate that the fire authority did not have to report them to the police as they were not (individually) classified as suspicious. Cllr Mrs Geater reported that the disorderly behaviour that she had witnessed in the High Street at nights made her feel very uncomfortable walking or cycling there. The offensive language and rowdy behaviour was very intimidating. Sgt Gubbins confirmed that this was the sort of low level anti social behaviour that his team could look into if informed about it at the time and asked for help in identifying it when it occurred. Members heard that Inspector Chris Lucas was leaving in September and asked the Clerk to write and thank him for all he had done during his tour.
- 66. District Report.** Nothing to report from Cllr Hawkins or Cllr Nunn. Mr Briggs asked what the Districts stance was on the boundary review and a small discussion ensued on the ins and outs of the various options.
- 67. County Report.** The Chairman passed on apologies from Cllr Ron Ward who, unfortunately, could not attend this evening's meeting.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Nunn and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the reports to be completed.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008, at 7.42 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. E. Bailey**  
**Councillor B. A. Barnes**  
**Councillor D. R. Boast**  
**Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater**  
**Councillor C.S. Ginger**  
**Councillor T. J. Hawkins**  
**Councillor T. E. Hodgson**  
**Councillor W.H. Howard**  
**Councillor J. Morrissey**  
**Councillor A. J Nunn**

- 68. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008 be signed as a true record.
- 69. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Huxley, Cllr Cooper and Cllr Geater.
- 70. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman addressed the meeting reporting that she had attended the Leiston Allotment Holders show earlier in August which had been extremely well supported by the public and had contained some quite wonderful exhibits. The Fairtrade Working Party had been busy too with the results reported below.
- 71. Support for Vulnerable People.** Cllr Howard had asked for this to be put onto the Agenda as he was getting increasingly concerned about the withdrawal of funding for the organisations and institutions that specialised in looking after our more vulnerable residents. Cllr Boast explained that, in his experience from working in the sector, there always seemed to be new strategies and initiatives which were invariably just about saving money. Members felt powerless to stop the deterioration in services and wondered just where it would all end. The Clerk explained that he had asked Mr Gatehouse (the Director of ACS at County Hall) where the residents of Daneway Lodge would be going and what the future of the building might be but had not yet received a reply.
- 72. Fairtrade Town Initiative.** Cllr Mrs Nunn and Cllr Howard explained how the Fairtrade Working Party were putting together an action plan with the most imminent event being a Fairtrade drop-in session for local businesses and organisations to explain to them just what Fairtrade was all about and to enlist their support in the campaign to get Fairtrade status for the town. Cllr Howard explained the ethos behind the brand and gave a short history of how the organisation had moved forward over the years. He put a proposition on the table which, if members agreed to it,

would see the next step being the building up of the working group to include representatives of many other organisations and businesses. Cllr Cooper had worked hard to get all sorts of samples of how Fairtrade worked which would be shown at the open day which members would be welcome to attend. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Nunn and agreed that “Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council resolves to contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the Fairtrade Mark by striving to achieve Fairtrade status for Leiston-cum-Sizewell as detailed in the Fairtrade Foundation’s Fairtrade Towns Initiative”. It was further proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the Council allow the Working Group to use the Community Centre at no cost to stage their awareness day and drop-in session.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest that did not preclude him from taking a full part in the discussion.

**73. Boundary Committee – confirmation of response on unitary proposals.** Members noted the draft letter the Clerk had produced and all agreed that it summed up the deliberations and discussions that had taken place at the August meeting. The two extra paragraphs the Clerk put forward for inclusion were also approved and, with some small grammar adjustments, the submission to the Boundary Review Committee was agreed.

**74. Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group meeting (4 Sept).** Cllr Nunn informed members that Cllr Hodgson would be attending on behalf of the Council. Members noted the minutes of the sub group meeting and also discussed the letter Councillors had received from CANE drawing attention to the answer given by BE on their water usage. The claims that water quality and pressure problems in the town were caused by BE’s water usage were anecdotal unfortunately although some pressure periodic pressure problems had been due to the power stations in the past. The Clerk was asked to try and get someone from Essex and Suffolk Water to come and talk to Council to explain whether there was any substance to the claims in the letter.

**75. Casual Vacancy.** A notice was posted on 6<sup>th</sup> August regarding the vacancy on the Town Council created by the death of Cllr Clive Blowers. The period of fourteen days within which ten electors could give notice claiming an election expired without any such notice being received and the Council was therefore directed to fill the vacancy within 60 days by co-option as provided for in Rule 8(3) of the Local Elections Rules of 1986. Members were unanimous in their agreement that Mr Nigel Parker be co-opted being, as he was, the next highest polling candidate after the 15 successful members elected in 2007. His nomination was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Nunn and unanimously agreed.

**76. Finance.**

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Nunn and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £7,887.71p along with £9,666.21p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **PCSO –** Members noted the correspondence with regard to the part funded PCSO scheme and opted to take Mr Leigh Jenkins, Suffolk Constabulary, up on his offer to come and explain the scheme further to members, preferably in November.
- c) **Review of Charges –** Members noted the report on allotment rents and discussed each site individually. The Valley Road site was still falling short of covering the water charge from the element of the rent taken for that purpose so it was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the water charge for Valley Road allotments would increase 8.5p from 51.5p to 60p a rod from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008. This would take the overall cost of a 10 rod plot from £11.15p up to £12.00p (£9.50p for those in receipt of a state pension). The allotments owned by the Council in Knodishall did not have a water charge attached and was currently rented at £200 per annum for 2 acres (approx 320 rods). Members considered the current rent and felt that an increase to approx 78p a rod would be fair so, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was agreed to raise the rent for the Coldfair Green allotments to £250 from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008. Members asked the Clerk to look at the detail for the Theatre hire charges (which it was deemed would not increase) just to ensure the rapidly increasing energy charges were being taken into account. Members also agreed to keep the current charges for the Community Centre static for another year and to look at the shop rents in November.

The meeting took a break for refreshments for 20 minutes from 8.50pm – 9.10pm.

**77. Planning Matters.**

- a. **C08/1475 – Erection of one bungalow (existing dwelling to be demolished) resubmission at 97 Abbey Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**
- b. **C08/519 – Alterations to existing living room window to match existing & insertion of additional window at Abbey Cottage, Eastbridge Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c. **C08/1471 – Installation of new Shop Front, 73 High Street, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d. **C08/540 – Erection of single storey rear extension, 73 Carr Ave, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e. **C08/555 – Proposed loft conversion (re-submission of C08/1050), 11A Victory Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- f. **Pedestrian crossing Waterloo Avenue – update.** Members noted the letter from the County Council which advertised the start of works for the installation of a zebra crossing in Waterloo Avenue.

**78. County Matters.**

- a. **PYP (Play Your Part)** – Cllr Howard explained how he had had some problems using the service which, and members concurred, hadn't really lived up to its stated aim at all so far. The Clerk was asked to pass this on.

**79. District Matters.**

- a. **Sizewell meeting.** The Clerk informed members that the annual meeting with the District Council's Countryside Manager was set for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September. It was hoped to have someone from National Grid there to talk about the works that were scheduled in the car park for over winter.
- b. **SALC AGM.** Cllr Howard asked members to support a motion "that all commercial and agricultural loads should be sheeted in a manner that prevents danger to the public and debris being blowing onto the public highway". Members all noted the amount of veg seen on the highway, particularly at roundabouts. There was also the problem of straw bunging up drains and gulleys. Members agreed to forward this motion to SALC.

**80. Correspondence.**

- a. Members noted the new Safety Scheme being introduced at Halfway Cottages on the Sizewell Road. Road markings, cats eyes and reflective posts were being installed to try and warn speedy motorists of the bend. The Clerk was asked to ensure the reflective posts being installed on the Cyclepath were very visible and were not being put in a position to impede cyclists.
- b. Members noted the invitation from The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust to become members as they progress toward their stated aim of gaining foundation trust status. It was agreed to apply for membership which would enable the Council to remain informed of the hospital's intentions.
- c. Cllr Boast offered to be the representative member on the Minsmere Levels Stakeholder Group with Cllr Howard as reserve. The Clerk to inform Mr Rae Price.

**81. Questions to the chairman.** None

- 82. Personnel.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Hodgson 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. Members quickly discussed some personnel matters which did not require any resolutions.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.55 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated