

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd October 2007

- 72. Police Report.** The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of Inspector Lucas, Suffolk Constabulary, who regretted he was unable to attend nor could he send one of his officers. He had provided a short report however with the crime figures for September and some brief notes on current initiatives. The important point he wished to convey was that all crimes should be reported. Residents often don't think it is worth it but without the report the Police will a) know nothing about it and, therefore, b) do nothing about it – **Leiston Police Station is on 01986 835406.**
- Cllr Ginger informed the meeting that he had witnessed chaos in the High Street the previous day when various delivery lorries obstructing the street were joined by an illegal car parking on the double yellow lines. He hoped Inspector Lucas' intended clamp down on this sort of problem worked. Cllr Howard asked if the Assault figures could, once again, be split down to reveal those which were deemed to be domestic violence. The Council wished this to be highlighted and requested again that the statistics be drilled down to reveal the extent of this problem.
- Mr Holmes explained how disappointed and amazed he was when, on reporting an ongoing public nuisance incident it took 45 minutes for the police to arrive and then the officer had to come from Lowestoft. This was more evidence of the woeful under manning at Leiston Police Station. He also reported an ongoing nuisance of workers meeting up and congregating on double yellow lines in Haylings Road for up to an hour each morning from 5.30am.
- Mrs Hawes was fed up with vehicles that parked on the pavements and grass verges around the town. Members agreed that this was unacceptable in many many cases and had, on several occasions, sought a way to clamp down on the practise. The Clerk was requested to try once more to get County and District advice on how this could be reduced. Mr Lovell asked that a speed limit be considered for the road to Sizewell and Mr Holmes asked that consideration be given to widening the road in front of Gap House at Sizewell (by removing the eastern footway) as he found it difficult to pass the parked cars there with traffic coming the other way.
- Many allotment holders were present and supported Mr Coleman who had had difficulty getting any police interest in his (and others) distress. There had been a lot of damage on the allotments and it had been hoped that Safer Neighbourhood Teams might be able to concentrate on these sort of ongoing trouble spots. Lack of police manpower seemed to be an ongoing theme however and members suggested that, in the meantime, it might be useful to contact Mr Steve Barrett for Crime Prevention Advice. The Clerk asked allotment holders to report all and every incident to the police station to make sure it was recorded – it was essential that the scale of the anti social behaviour was realised.
- Mr Jones again highlighted the anti social behaviour that occurs constantly on the Sizewell Road Car Park. One particular incident raised a question – when the thoughtless individuals had broken their vodka bottles in the car park on a Saturday night for instance was there a call out number somewhere to get the glass cleared up as soon as possible to save tyres and injuries on the Sunday? The Clerk would endeavour to find out.
- Mr Briggs summed up all the discontent and exasperation at the perceived lack of any real law and order presence in the Town by pointing out that the current establishment at the Leiston Police station was well below what it should be to do its job. It was also regularly closed during its published opening hours.
- 73. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward who updated members on Ipswich's bid for Unitary status, Suffolk County Councils levy to the Environment Agency for flood protection works and an ongoing battle to get EU agreement on the size of bass that could be caught. He pointed out that his locality budget was exhausted for the current year but that bids could be received for next years. The 20's Plenty scheme in Waterloo Avenue would be completed by December but he wanted members to re-affirm their desire to see the new shared facility around the Children's centre (FP16) as his highways team had identified a log of work that would be required to achieve the diversion and needed his affirmation to warrant the solicitors time. Open to questions he explained that there were a lot of consequences that would come from the Unitary/Pathfinder bids which he would keep members updated on. Cllr Howard asked that an initiative be tried to stop school buses standing outside schools for over an hour in the evenings with their engines running while waiting for their cargos. This would help Suffolk be the "greenest" County as it was very wasteful. Finally Mr Briggs brought Cllr Ward's attention to what he considered to be a rather disgraceful state of affairs where pupils of Saxmundham Middle School had recently undertaken a sponsored walk to raise money to get their toilets repaired/refurbished. He realised this wasn't in Cllr Ward's ward but he asked whether this was typical across the County.
- 74. District Report.** The Chairman explained that all the Ward Members were at an important meeting at Melton Hill and had sent their apologies.
- 75. Public Representation.** Mrs Hogben drew the meetings attention to the problem that existed at Haylings Pond Meadow. There were currently 26 ducks residing at the pond which was causing a little bit of concern for the anglers that used the pond for fishing. She had heard that there were plans afoot to reduce the numbers and wanted to know where the Council stood on the issue. She was also concerned as she had seen ducks injured at the pond which she was sure was from fishing lines/hooks etc. Mrs Hogben felt that there were better ways of reducing the population of

ducks than by moving them which she thought would be very stressful for the ducks. Her research had found that a licence could be obtained to remove eggs and a campaign to just stop feeding the ducks might also help. The Chairman, who had had conversations on the subject before the meeting, explained that, in her research two experts had informed her that, in their opinion, there were indeed too many ducks at the pond and that this was causing pollution in the pond which would ultimately be detrimental to both ducks and fish. They had also passed on methods whereby some ducks could be humanely caught and taken to a much larger and more suitable pond in Hollesley. There was a lot of discussion around the subject but Cllr Ginger identified that, to have a debate in Council, more facts would be required and written evidence from an appropriate authority (English Nature, RSPB etc.) would enable Councillors to come to a corporate opinion on what they would recommend to be a suitable resolution to the issues. In the meantime the Council were adamant that the welfare of the ducks was paramount and no-one had any intention of removing any ducks. Also, as Mrs Hogben requested, the fishermen at the pond would be requested to respect the ducks. Mr Briggs, on behalf of the bailiffs, pointed out that the youngsters who fish there are already taught this but, as Mrs Hogben had witnessed, there were always some people who did not listen. If similar incidents occurred of harm being deliberately inflicted on ducks this was a serious matter and should be reported to the bailiffs (or if unavailable the Clerk). The Clerk was asked to Agenda the item for the next meeting where, if suitably authoritative evidence could be obtained in time, the matter would be discussed by Council. Three other items were raised. Mrs Bloomfield brought the meetings attention to the problems that occur when the Brown bins are emptied and the bin not returned securely to where it was left out for collection. Bins are often found strewn across pavements etc. and she wondered who was responsible should this cause an accident for instance. The Clerk would pass this on. Mrs Hogben reported the difficulty the waste collection operatives had getting their lorry down Central Road and, like the problems in Prospect Place, a later collection had to be done with a smaller vehicle. Finally, Mr Briggs requested that the hedge on the southern side of Valley Road be cut.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the public session to be completed. Cllr Huxley further declared a prejudicial interest as Chairman of the Leiston Youth Club in all discussions on Haylings Pond. The Youth Club owned the fishing rights there so Cllr Huxley remained in the room but took no part in the debate.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
2nd OCTOBER 2007, at 8.12 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 Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor W. H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey

- 76. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 4th September 2007 be signed as a true record with one amendment. In minute 68b Cllr Cooper had been mistakenly minuted instead of Cllr Huxley.
- 77. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Blowers, Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Geater and Cllr Nunn.
- 78. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that she had represented the Council on five occasions recently. The first event was a gathering at SALC of Councils whose Clerks had gained a Certificate in Local Council Administration. Leiston-cum-Sizewell were also able to submit their portfolio to apply for Quality Council status. A very enjoyable event had been the Anglia in Bloom awards ceremony where Leiston had been awarded a Silver Gilt. Everyone was very pleased for Nita Ling and her In Bloom team and thought it was thoroughly deserved – their hard work was much appreciated and made a big difference to the Town. Other events had been to welcome

Reverend Mark Booth as the new Minister to the United Church, attendance at Suffolk ACRE's 70th AGM and an enjoyable evening helping the Community Responders celebrate their 5th anniversary. There are 7 responders in Leiston but they really need more volunteers willing to be trained and who would enjoy the satisfaction of being first on scene and being able to make a difference.

- 79. Safer Neighbourhood Team.** Members noted the brief provided by the Clerk that identified three areas reported at Septembers meeting which, with modest investment, could make a difference to the quality of life for residents in the vicinity of the King George Avenue Recreation Ground. The Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership had requested another 5 a side goal to compliment the existing one and a picnic table/meeting spot which could be installed close to the entrance from the recreation ground onto Seaward Avenue to allow teenagers to gather away from the ramp area in the mornings on their way to school. The final enhancement was for a seat to be installed on the northern boundary of the recreation ground approximately half way down where people could sit and take the air and enjoy the view. The total cost of the goal (£950), the picnic bench (£322) and the seat (£300) could be easily afforded from the Play Equipment reserve and the Street Furniture reserve. The Clerk reported that initial enquiries to Suffolk Coastal District Council (the land owners) was favourable and there would be no objection to placing the equipment on the recreation ground. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that all the equipment be obtained and installed at a cost of £1572. Cllr Ginger informed members that Suffolk Heritage Housing Association had installed a new fence along both sides of the passageway from the recreation ground through to Seaward Avenue which had tidied up the problem that was being caused there by the previous broken fence. This had enhanced the area and members wished the Clerk to write and thank SHHA for their support. The passageway did need some work on the uneven surface however which the Clerk was asked to take forward to County.

During the above discussion Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest regards Suffolk Heritage Housing Association, stayed in the room and contributed normally.

- 80. Meeting with Mr Collard – 19th September 2007.** Members noted the report from the meeting with Mr Collard and agreed that there had been encouraging progress. They also took the opportunity to request that the Clerk write to the Leiston in Bloom team and thank them all for their hard work, dedication and achievements. They are all very much appreciated.
- 81. Sizewell Management Meeting of 25th September.** Members read through the report of the meeting held on the beach on 25th September. The main points were noted including the investigation into possibly providing additional, strategically placed, fido bins further along the beach. Cllr Morrissey suggested that this could be further enhanced by providing free bags again – the Clerk was asked to investigate. The biggest concern from the meeting was the reluctance of the local fishermen and the Nuclear Constabulary to keep the vehicle barrier closed and locked. The barrier was installed to stop vehicles gaining unauthorised access to the beach and, although the Nuclear Constabulary felt that their presence would be a deterrent, members disagreed. They felt that the gate being left open was an invitation to travellers and 4x4 joyriders etc. and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was agreed to write to SCDC to request that the gate continue to be kept closed and locked. The other interesting point from the meeting had been an undertaking for Suffolk Wildlife Trust to investigate altering the entrance from Kenton Hills onto the beach to allow bicycles through.
- 82. Community Centre.** Members noted the finalised plans for the new unisex adapted facility in the Community Centre. There would be some disruption for about three weeks and the eastern fire door would be screened off to allow workmen to access the site without disrupting clubs etc. Works should begin around 22 October.
- 83. Finance.**
- a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £10030.67p with £10147.28p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
 - b. **Budget items.** Members were asked to inform the Clerk of any projects or items of expenditure that they would like to be considered in next year's estimates. Members would start considering these at the December meeting.

The meeting was suspended for 15 minutes for a natural break from 8.50pm to 9.10 pm

84. Planning.

- a. **C07/1609/FUL – Erection of boiler house, Sizewell A Power Station Leiston, IP16 4EU.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b. **C07/1658/FUL – Erection of block of eight garages, Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston, IP16 4JD.**
Members authorised approval if the garage block did not reduce the number of planned car parking spaces already planned.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c. **C07/1670/FUL – Erection of an office/light industrial building (resubmission), Part of Colonial House, Station Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C07/1402/FUL – Erection of a project support building, Sizewell B Power Station Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C07/1706/FUL – Retention of garden shed 4 The Gables Leiston, IP16 4UZ.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f. **C07/1766/LDCE – Application for Certificate of lawful use existing: use of yard for parking and storage of vehicles & equipment in connection with the landscaping & contracting business. Contractors Yard, The Common, Leiston, IP16 4UN.**

NO COMMENT

85. County Matters.

- a. **Footpath 16 – proposed enhancements.** Further to Cllr Ward's request at the beginning of the meeting members discussed the issues he raised regarding the proposed re-routing and upgrading of footpath 16. Although members would still like to see the project expanded to take the proposed shared facility right through to the top NW corner of the recreation ground rather than to just the ramp there was consensus that the project was worthwhile and had the town councils full support. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the Clerk writes to Cllr Ward and affirm their support for the project.
- b. **A12 Industries.** Cllr Boast reported that A12 Industries was being run down and felt members should be aware of the distress and concern this was causing the families who rely on the project so much. The Resource Centre in Saxmundham was also being run down, again withdrawing valuable support to vulnerable members of our Town. The Clerk was asked to write and express our concern at this reduction in support and facilities.
- c. **St Petroc.** Members heard several complaints about the presentation of rubbish at this premises and also the state of the hedge overgrowing into Golding's lane.

86. District Matters.

- a. Members noted the concerns residents had about waste collection in Central Road and Prospect Place. Each week residents were not having their waste collected on the Thursday but were having to ring up and request a smaller vehicle to come and collect their waste. The Clerk undertook to pass on these concerns to SCS Ltd.

87. Correspondence.

- a. **CAB.** Members noted the letter from the Citizens Advice Bureau requesting a donation. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the £1,600 set aside in the estimates to support the Citizens Advice Bureau be released and a letter of thanks be sent for the excellent service they provide to our residents.

During the above item Cllr Howard and Cllr Huxley declared an interest and left the room taking no part in the discussion or vote.

- b. **Ash Tree Close.** Members noted the intended name for the close behind 49 Waterloo Avenue and, although quite reasonable, did wonder whether there might be a little confusion with Ashfield Drive in the Town.
- c. **Festival of Remembrance.** Cllr Huxley offered to represent the Council at this year's Festival of Remembrance as the Chairman is unfortunately unable to attend.
- d. **North Area Parish Meeting.** Members noted the invitation from SCDC to send two representatives to the forthcoming North Area Parishes meeting on 29 October. Cllr Howard volunteered to accompany the Chairman to the meeting.

- e. **Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.** Members noted the forthcoming LSP meeting and Cllr Huxley volunteered to continue attending on members behalf, this time accompanied by the Chairman.
- f. **Sizewell C Briefing.** Members were pleased to be invited to attend a briefing being held for District Councillors at Melton Hill on the current position of British Energy with regard to Sizewell C. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Boast asked to attend with Cllr Howard as reserve.
- g. **SALC Visioning Event.** Members were very interested in the Visioning event being organised by SALC on 21st November and Cllrs Huxley, Hodgson, Howard and Boast signed up to accompany the Chairman to the event at the Riverside Centre.
- h. **An Inconvenient Truth (film).** Members noted SALCs initiative in showing this climate change opus as part of their efforts to support Councils exploring ways of tackling environmental issues. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed, that the film Theatre be offered as a venue should a larger showing be considered in North Suffolk.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to be completed.

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard 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

88. Personnel. Members noted the Clerks report which outlined changes to the National Minimum Wage and recommended various remuneration packages for Council employees as part of the annual review of pay and conditions. The Staff Support Group had met on 5th September to discuss the report and Cllr Hawkins had produced a report on behalf of that group that set out the group's detailed recommendations for discussion by Council. It was further noted that, to date, there had been no national agreement decided by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. In light of this and, accepting recommendations from the Staff Support Group it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that all employees be awarded a 3% pay rise backdated to 1st April 2007. There were separate provisions made for the clerk who was awarded an increase in Scale Point to date 1st October 2007 in light of his recent CiLCA qualification and the Film Theatre's Assistant Manager was offered a small bonus incentive scheme.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest, remained in the room and contributed normally.

89. Questions to the chairman. There were no questions so,

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.10pm.

----- Chair

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