

Pre-meeting Reports
2nd December 2008

125. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jackie Abbot, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during November (report attached). PCSO Abbott introduced Inspector Neil Reid, the new sector commander and Police Constable Lee Simons who is now the officer in the Safer Neighbourhoods Team with responsibility for Leiston. Cllr Huxley drew attention to the on going situation outside the Middle School at drop off and pick up times where the speed of the traffic and use of pavements by vehicles was a major worry. He acknowledged that Jackie and Lee had taken some enforcement action recently but was frustrated and felt there needed to be a better solution. Cllr Ginger asked for the speed gun to be used in Central Road where there had been incidents of speeding leading to damage just recently. Inspector Reid confirmed that speeding was one of the most often cited concerns of residents and explained to members how his team were treating it as a priority and taking action. He also briefed members on the importance his team gave to domestic violence and how there were dedicated legal teams working on domestic violence cases in the area and how his team used head cams and other aids to try and ensure that they do their very best to identify and follow up on incidents where domestic violence may be present.

126. County Report. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward who gave members a brief on various items of interest before answering questions. He informed members that he had asked his officers to brief him on the likelihood of getting a footway between the Cemetery and Highbury Cottages but was sorry to report that, each year the footway was submitted for inclusion in the estimates and, each year, did not have a high enough score to be funded. This was likely to be the case again next year. He did undertake to give it his support though and members asked that he put on as much pressure as he was able to to raise the profile of the project. He explained about Daneway and the ongoing budget process the County were going through to set next year's Council Tax rise. Members thanked him very much for his contribution (from his locality fund) toward the Christmas Lights this year of £500. Cllr Boast expressed his dislike at the way residents of Daneway were being split up and moved from their families – especially at this time of year. Cllr Howard asked if any meetings had taken place between British Energy and the County Council. Cllr Ward did not know of any and wasn't aware that any site had yet been designated. In regard to this Mr Mike Taylor asked about the lack of information that was coming out on the consultation process for the siting of new nuclear plants. Cllr Howard asked that Sizewell C be put on the next agenda for these questions to be asked. Cllr Ward informed members of a new Pupil Referral Unit being built in Lowestoft to serve North Suffolk which would help some Leiston residents. He also gave some details on the gritting procedures/rules and the Local Government review. Mr Jez Taylor informed Cllr Ward of John Gummer, MP's, support for, and his assertion that more political will should be applied to, the Highbury Cottage footway project.

127. District Report. Cllr Hawkins briefed members on Suffolk Coastal's new measures to bolster the enforcement side of their Development Control organisation. Cllr Cooper asked whether the reported drop in value of various recycled waste was causing a problem to Suffolk Coastal. Cllr Nunn confirmed that they were not getting as much for the various waste streams as before but were not in deficit yet. Measures were being taken to try and reduce the cost of collection of the more vulnerable items and a careful eye was being kept on the whole process overall.

128. Public Forum. Members of the public present had been able to make their representations at the appropriate juncture preceding this item and did not have anything for Council.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper 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,
2nd DECEMBER 2008, at 8.07 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

129. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 4th November 2008 be signed as a true record.

130. Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Geater.

131. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman informed members of her pleasure at meeting with two veterans from the second world war who had served at Leiston Airfield – both were Mustang pilots, Mr Bill Overstreet and Mr Bud Anderson – and they had been given a tour of their former base in the company of Cllr Huxley and Cllr Hawkins. Cllr Huxley expanded on their itinerary and members were very impressed with the links that existed even after all these years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Huxley and Cllr Hawkins for looking after them so well. The newsletter had come out and had been generally well received – the next deadline was 12th February.

132. Code of Conduct Paragraph 12(2). Members noted that Leiston-cum-SizeWell had adopted this element of the new Code of Conduct for members back in June 2007 but had not yet incorporated into Standing Orders any methodology on how it should be applied. The guidance from NALC was detailed but still slightly confusing. With the public session that the Council hosts at present being so inclusive it only remains to stipulate how a Councillor, with a prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda, can put forward his concerns/representations with regard to those particular items during the public forum. The recommended way was for the public session to be put onto the formal Agenda and for Standing Orders to be changed to allow Councillors to speak during that item. It wasn't clear however whether this had to be done or whether the current practise of having a public forum before the formal agenda began was compliant – having been instigated by the Council it would not have taken place unless there was a meeting so therefore it already forms part of the meeting. The Clerk was asked to investigate this and to put an item on the next Agenda to discuss adoption of the following changes to Standing Orders;

replace

70. At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may at their discretion and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, adjourn the meeting so as to allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.

with

70A. At all meetings of the council, the Chairman may at his/her discretion, and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct, which was adopted by the Council on 5th June 2007, shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting. Where, however, members of the council exercise their rights pursuant to SO 70B, below, members of the public shall be allowed to attend the meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted.

and

70B. At all meetings of the Council, the Chairman may permit members of the council (including co-opted members as defined by s.49 (7) Local Government Act 2000) who have a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business to be transacted at that meeting to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted. Such sessions form part of the Council meeting in law and shall be duly minuted. The Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on (insert date) shall apply to members of the council in respect of the entire meeting.

133.Dinsdale Road Toilets. Members noted the increasing ongoing annual maintenance cost of the Public Conveniences in Dinsdale Road but all thought that they were an essential facility in the north of the Town, especially being positioned in the main area that tourists visit and next to the main bus stop. It was regretted that the District Council did not recognise the need to keep these facilities open so, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley it was agreed to take the lease for another year to ensure the toilets remained open and available to residents and visitors alike rather than be demolished and lost for ever.

134.PCSO Partnership. Mr Jenkins from the Suffolk Constabulary was unable to attend the December meeting but would be available to come to the January meeting. Members would have to wait until then to question him on what Leiston could expect were the Council to enter into a partnership to fund a second PCSO in the Town.

135.Speed Camera. Members had heard earlier how speeding concerned many residents around the Town and Cllr Nunn briefed members on a very interesting day he had spent with the Police where a speed camera had proved very useful in monitoring various cars speeds resulting in the issue of tickets to the more blatant abusers. He went on to explain how the police at Leiston would benefit from having a further camera for the sector to enable them to make more use of the capabilities it provides. They cost £2000 but the Council were only being asked for a contribution. Some members thought that the operating area of any camera bought or part funded by the council should be clarified first as they were not comfortable buying a camera which was used in Saxmundham for instance. The Clerk undertook to see if he could find out more details. Ongoing costs (calibration and maintenance) was one issue and why the police felt they needed another gun was also queried.

136.Highbury Cottage Footway. Members reaffirmed their commitment to getting a footway put in out to Highbury Cottages and resolved to keep this item on the agenda until this had been achieved.

137.Christmas Lights. The Clerk explained how it was unfortunate that the town did not currently have an active Chamber of Commerce or Business Association to take advantage of the seasonal cheer that the Christmas Lights engendered. It was hoped that efforts could be made in the new year to try and employ someone to “manage” the town centre and build up and promote the town’s excellent commercial bedrock. Organising late night openings or other headline events could benefit businesses in the town enormously. In the meantime members were pleased that partners had been found to help fund the lights again this year as they did make a huge contribution to residents well being as they visited the town centre.

138.Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £16,451.58p along with £10,899.64p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Audited Accounts for 2007/2008.** Members noted the external auditors report for the Council’s accounts for 2007/2008 and discussed the Action Plan put before them by the Clerk which detailed how he intended to address the issues arising in that report. The main item was the failure to have minuted last years risk assessment with some recommendations also offered on how to minute items of expenditure, how letters requesting grant aid should be detailed on the Agenda and the frequency of budget monitoring. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the auditors report and the action plan be accepted.
- c) The Clerk distributed a rough draft of the anticipated items that could be up for discussion when members decide what should be included in next year’s estimates in January.

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

139.Planning Matters.

- a. **C08/2005 – Insertion of 3 windows, insertion of glazed screen into large door opening. Unit 2B & 2C Eastlands Industrial Estate, King Georges Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b. **C08/1993 – Erection of industrial units and construction of estate road (submission of details under outline Planning Permission C05/1347) on Land South of the Old Pump House, Abbey Road, Leiston.** Members noted the outline permission which detailed operating hours and the need to thoroughly test the soil etc. but wished to point out their recurring concern about the entrance. The access to the new estate was on a

busy road where traffic travels at the full 30mph allowed and it was hoped that the visibility splay was going to be sufficient. Members also asked that particular attention be paid to light pollution.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c. **C08/2076 Erection of detached two-storey dwelling (resubmission) in Part side garden, 42 Paradise Place, Leiston.** Members noted the efforts that had been made to downsize the property for it to be more in keeping with its unusual position and accepted that the land could probably now support the development. Members acknowledged the efforts made to incorporate off street parking but were still concerned about the impact another property would make to the impossible parking problem in Paradise/Southfield area.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C08/2091 Erection of conservatory on 74 St Margaret's Crescent, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C08/1738 Continued use of part of former public house as restaurant/takeaway, alterations to external doorway, retention of smoking shelter and re-siting of beer garden at Black Horse Inn, High Street, Leiston.** This proposal was considered unacceptable on two levels. Members felt that there was no way the takeaway should be allowed to be accessible from the public house. It should be a separate business on clearly separate premises with a separate licence and clearly defined opening hours that match those of similar takeaways close by (particularly the kebab shop at 31 High Street). Members were confused by the reference to former public house as they were unaware there had been any change to the licence. The proposed smoking shelter/beer garden was too close to the neighbouring property where, during the summer, there already has to be constant vigilance to ensure windows and doors are kept closed to stop noise pollution. The entrance into the smoking area would be a constant source of noise and nuisance. The car park should continue to be used as a smoking area where the front entrance can be used with less nuisance

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- f. **C08/2107 Erection of two four-bed & three three-bed affordable houses with associated car parking (resubmission) on Land adjoining 91 & 142 Heath View, Leiston.** Members were still very concerned at the inconvenience and loss of amenity that the removal of so many parking spaces (currently enjoyed on the land in question) would cause and the loss of amenity to the current residents. They were also still quite adamant that the reason building was stopped at that point was because of the proximity of the power stations. It was appreciated that the NII is consulted on each application in this sort of area but some members were still unconvinced that there is any difference in the danger now than when they were instructed to stop building Heath View as an Urban District Council.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

140. County Matters.

- a. **Proposed footway upgrades in town centre.** Members noted the proposed plans to repair and upgrade various sections of pavement in the town centre and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley it was agreed to request that East Area Highways do the works as planned in January. The Clerk was asked to try and get the "no waiting or unloading at any time" markings by the traffic lights re-instated as part of the project too.
- b. **Highways matters.** Cllr Huxley asked that something be done about the unfinished zebra crossing in Waterloo Avenue. Members asked that the police be vigilant and proactive in stopping people parking on the pavements once the new flagstones have been put in in the High Street.

141. District Matters.

- a. **Old Post Office Square Seats.** Members unanimously agreed to support the District Council's efforts to re-instate seating around the lime trees in Old Post Office Square.

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

142. Correspondence.

- a. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting 5th December.** Cllr Mr Nunn was unfortunately unable to attend – Cllr Mrs Nunn volunteered to accompany Cllr Howard to the meeting as the Council's representatives.
- b. **Parish Liaison Meeting 7th January.** Cllrs Hodgson and Mrs Nunn volunteered to represent the Council at this meeting.
- c. **Children's Centre and Footpath 16.** Members noted the minutes of an inaugural meeting called by the Children's Centre to explain their new status and to investigate ways of speeding up the construction of the

new Footpath 16 which would put the Centre nicely in the curtilage of the Primary School. There were lots of other issues to be resolved too with regard to cars using the back lane of KGA and parking for staff at the centre and the school. Cllr Ginger was asked to attend the next meeting with the Clerk to help put across members concerns and to give their support where required. It was also requested that the centre contribute an article to the newsletter for February.

- d. **Anglia in Bloom.** Members resolved to enter the competition again next year with an entry fee of £55.
- e. **Headway.** Members noted the request from Headway for grant aid and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Morrissey, it was agreed to donate £50 as allowed under section 137 of the LGA 1972.
- f. **Dropped Kerbs – St Margaret’s Crescent.** Members noted that residents who drove across raised kerbs to park their cars on the frontages of their properties in the west of the town had been sent a letter from the County Council pointing out the legal position of doing so. Cllr Ginger felt that the time was right to close up another meeting with Flagship and Highways to try and reinvigorate the plans drawn up to reduce parking congestion in the Crescent at least.
- g. **Letter from Middleton.** Members noted the letter from Middleton Parish Council giving a date for the first collaborative meeting of parishes neighbouring Sizewell. Cllr Howard would attend.
- h. **Long Shop Museum.** Members noted the request for grant aid and a letter of support to assist other funding requests from the Long Shop Museum. It was quickly proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the letter should be sent and, as allowed under section 137 of the LGA of 1972, £1,250 be donated to help the museum with its work.

During the above item Cllr Huxley and Cllr Hawkins declared personal interests.

- i. **Leiston and Aldeburgh Safer Neighbourhood Team Tasking Meetings.** Members noted the minutes from the first tasking meeting for Aldeburgh and were briefed that one for Leiston would be held on 11th December. Cllr Ginger informed members that he would be bringing up the issue of who should be invited to such meetings and whether they had replaced the more inclusive crime and disorder partnership meetings of old.
- j. **Shared Ownership scheme – Flagship Housing.** Members noted the e-mail from the sales negotiators for the Flagship Groups Shared Ownership scheme and suggested that they be contacted to put an article in the next newsletter.

143. Questions to the chairman. Cllr Howard asked whether the Chairman would accept a vote of thanks and the best wishes of all the Councillors for a very merry Christmas for all the hard work she had put in throughout the year. As long as Councillors and all the public would accept her thanks for their support and, in turn, take her best wishes for a happy Christmas too!

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

144. Personnel. Members went through a Staff in Confidence report submitted by the Clerk on aspects of Council business of a confidential nature.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.45 pm.

----- Chair

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