

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009**

**174. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jackie Abbot, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during January (report attached). Mrs Reade reported the continuing problem with speeding traffic by Highbury Cottages. PCSO Abbott explained that the speed gun had been used in that vicinity regularly with tickets issued and that her team would continue to pay attention to that road, especially at school opening and closing times.

**175. County Report.** The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of Cllr Ron Ward who was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

**176. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins was asked whether SCDC would be taking over the funding for free over 60's swimming in the future – he did not know the answer but would find out. Mr Briggs asked whether any of the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LAGBI) money, held by SCDC, would be used in Leiston. Again, Cllr Hawkins undertook to find out. Finally, Mr Briggs asked whether, with the introduction of new legislation allowing Waste Authorities to be set up (like Police Authorities), were SCDC/SCC thinking of using the legislation. Cllr Hawkins was not aware of any initiative or impetus for this to happen in Suffolk but, again, would find out.

**177. Public Forum.** Mr Last asked whether the £9,000 included in next year's budget for the Cinema was for building works and conversion of the 74 High St or whether it was for the legal side of the repossession (as he had understood the cost of conversion to be at no cost). The Clerk confirmed that the money precepted was for the legal costs and compensation only and that none of the sum was for conversion. Mr Lovell asked whether he would be able to see the annual accounts for the cinema. The Clerk informed him, and the meeting, that the accounts were always open for members of the public to inspect on appointment and that he would gladly talk anyone through any aspect of the Councils' finances.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2009, at 7.30 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 (from 7.45pm)**

**Councillor C.S. Ginger**

**Councillor T. J. Hawkins**

**Councillor T. E. Hodgson**

**Councillor W.H. Howard**

**Councillor F. R. Huxley**

**Councillor J. Morrissey**

**Councillor N. Parker**

**178. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the minutes for the meetings of the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 be signed as a true record.

**179. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Geater and Cllr Mr Nunn.

**180. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported "Since our last Council meeting just three week ago I have attended meetings to discuss the proposed seats for the old Post Office Square and a Fairtrade Meeting. These are both items which appear on tonight's agenda. The Fairtrade committee consists of Cllrs Cooper, Howard, Nunn and myself. I would like to thank them for the work they are putting in to this project. They will shortly be distributing leaflets around the town to advertise our next event which will take place during Fairtrade Fortnight. This will be a Fairtrade Day and will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February at Leiston Community Centre between 10.00am - 4.00pm and 6.00pm - 8.00pm. There will be wine tasting after 6.00pm. This event will provide everyone with the opportunity to learn all about Fairtrade and Leiston's bid to become a Fairtrade Town and enjoy free samples of Fairtrade products, including coffee, tea, chocolate and biscuits. Following on from our Fairtrade Town drop-in session in October last year we now have offers of support from Shaun Wilson at Simply Delicious, Becky Greer at Alternative

and Jackie Bowis from the East of England Co-op based in Colchester. I do hope Councillors and residents alike will support this event.

**181.Old Post Office Square – new seat.** The District Council had been approached to possibly provide some seating around the trees in Old Post Office Square once more and had agreed to revisit the idea. They were unhappy to put wooden seats around the trees as of old because, without using firm earth anchors, the seats would have to be free standing – earth anchors would not be considered because of the precarious state of the trees. A grant was obtained however to produce some seating as an art work. Some members then met with an artist, Mr Les Bicknell, and provided critique and input into some ideas he had for some granite seating under the trees that could cope with being free standing. A worked up idea was presented to the meeting which showed a granite structure, bolted together with heavy bolts and with some wooden slats/panels placed on one of the seating areas for ultimate comfort. The surface of the granite would have strategic carvings on it inspired by blueprints and designs available from the Long Shop and worked on by Middle School pupils who are keen to get involved. It was acknowledged that this was a unique and innovative project which would be an asset to Leiston. Cllr Howard asked that the granite be the more conventional colour rather than the cream colour depicted in the model on show and Cllr Ginger raised his concerns that there should be a public consultation before the project is given the go ahead as he was not happy with the contemporary design. He quipped that it might become the Leiston “Scallop” although it was pointed out that if there was a huge dislike of the seats once installed this one could always be removed. With positive vibes from many of the public attending and a vote of 13 to 1 in favour of supporting the project however it was felt that there was a good chance that any controversy would be positive!

**182.Old Post Square – Bus Shelter.** Members heard that there was some disagreement with regard to the provision of a bus shelter on the north side of Main Street in Old Post Office Square. The County would only provide a “standard” design of shelter and the District Conservation Team were unhappy with this in the Old Post Office Square setting. They wanted a bespoke design more in keeping with the square but the County would not pick up the cost or be responsible for the maintenance of such a bespoke design. It had therefore reached stalemate. Members agreed with the District team and voted against the siting of a bus shelter on that side of the road unless a suitable position and design could be found which would not spoil the vista or setting that the square provides.

**183. LTAA – Funding Application to SCDC.** Members were asked to support an application the LTAA had made to SCDC for monies from the Sports Fund. The project was to renew the hardcourt multi-use surface to the northwest of the site and to install a borehole to help save money on water bills. Members heard that the borehole would not need a licence for extraction due to the limited amount that was being proposed to be taken from the ground. Members agreed to support the application.

During the above discussion Cllr Cooper declared an interest but was asked to remain in the room to answer questions.

**184.Leiston Leisure Centre.** Members noted the request that DC Leisure (the Leisure Centre operators) had made to SCDC to close the Centre to casual users after 6pm on Saturday evenings as very few people attended then. Members did not feel that this was a valid reason for denying residents of the opportunity to use the centre on Saturday evening should they want to. There were obviously some residents who used it (from the figures provided) and members were very concerned that this would set a precedent for other evenings. Cllr Cooper was also critical of the prices that were charged by DC Leisure as he did not feel that it encouraged sport and exercise. The Clerk was asked to pass on members objections to the request to Mr Wright (SCDC).

**185.Local Development Framework – Consultation.** Members looked through the drafts of the District Council’s proposed LDF Core Strategy and the accompanying Site Specific Allocations. They noted the intended allocation of 270 additional homes to be built in Leiston in the next 15 years and, although querying the wisdom of this vis-à-vis the nuclear safeguarding concerns, sorted the Site Specific allocations into a preferred order. The following comments were offered;

- The document makes reference to “working within the nuclear safeguarding limits” and the possibility of there being scope for a modest increase in houses “subject to the issue of nuclear safeguarding”. Members asked the Clerk to enquire what the nuclear safeguarding limits were.
- SP7 should include infrastructure needs
- SP8 should put more emphasis on rail and beef up the infrastructure element.
- The detailed list of sites considered is attached
- The preferred order for development would be
  1. The Blackcurrant fields behind St Margaret’s Crescent (but definitely not the school playing field)
  2. Land to east of Aldeburgh Road between Red House Lane and Goldings Lane
  3. King George Avenue old caravan park to be a priority for exclusively affordable housing.
  4. Infill ribbon development east side of Abbey Road.

- All other sites were discounted and reasons would be given by the Clerk to the LDF team
- The Clerk was to submit the field next to the cemetery for community use.
- The Clerk was to submit the Middle School site for community use and recreation
- The Clerk was to submit Coleman's Yard and Smyth's yard for community use.

During the above discussion Cllr Hawkins declared a personal interest in relation to the King George Avenue Caravan park.

The meeting took a break for refreshments for 20 minutes from 9.15pm – 9.30pm.

**186. Newsletter.** Discussed with deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> Feb for articles.

**187. Fairtrade.** Mainly covered in Chairman's Communications. Posters would be going up very soon.

**188. Finance.**

- Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £14,509.61p along with £9,446.55p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Howard declared an interest in Cheque N° 309531

**189. Planning Matters.**

- C09/0107 – Change of use from shop class A1 to hot food takeaway class A5 at 56 High Street, Leiston.** Members pointed out that this tiny, ill placed unit was long ago deemed to be wholly inappropriate for use as A1 (on its own) and was incorporated successfully into the curtilage of the shop next door. Members unanimously objected to any consideration that this unit be given change of use and be re-opened in its own right due to the dangerous front entrance for pedestrians, the possibility of cars stopping (as they will do!) close by and the whole positioning of the premise

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

**190. County Matters.**

- Traffic Order review - update.** The Clerk reported that Mr Smith from the County Council apologised for the delay (problems with Southwold's review) but hoped to progress Leiston to consultation by Easter.
- 40mph at Greater Gabbard.** The Clerk showed members the Traffic Order which promulgated this zone which, although the zone was unusually short, was legal.
- Waterloo Avenue gridlock.** The Clerk had walked the road with Mr Smith during a busy school morning and the problem was noted. Mr Smith hoped to suggest some suitable remedies as part of the Traffic Order Review. He did clarify that the yellow lines that were requested by members for outside and opposite the Constitutional Club had not been taken forward as far as the legal department before the system changed to the current TRO review process.
- St Margaret's Crescent – parking.** Cllr Ginger and the Clerk met with Mr Smith (SCC) and Mr Scrivener (Flagship Housing)) in St Margaret's Crescent to explore possible solutions to the lack of parking that exist there. The previous draft plan of proposed dropped kerbs and lay-by installations was used as a template for the discussion as there was still some merit in the ideas put forward at that time. Mr Smith undertook to work up an up to date proposal for the groups attention which would include costings so that each partner could assess whether they had the funds in place to support a scheme in that location or not.
- New development in St Margaret's Crescent.** The Clerk was asked to investigate whether the correct swathe had been built into the entrance to the new properties behind 8-14 St Margaret's Crescent iaw the plans.
- Visit to Essex and Suffolk Water.** 10 members were interested in attending a meeting with the network manager of Essex and Suffolk at their Lound Headquarters in Lowestoft. A date was arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> February. Details of travel etc. would be distributed in good time.

**191. District Matters.**

- Meeting of Parishes at Middleton.** The Clerk reported back on the meeting he had attended at Middleton to investigate forming a joint council committee to work with the government and the nuclear industry with regard to nuclear new build at Sizewell. He explained that the idea was to form a committee that would be able to take forward concerns, issues and needs to the industry and Principal Councils with a stronger more compelling remit than individual Councils might have. All the participants were, in principle, broadly in agreement with the idea and its aims and all went back to their councils to confer. Members agreed to send a

representative to the next meeting as, even if there were conflicting issues, it might still be beneficial to be part of the group. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March.

- b. **Meeting with Mr Collard (SCS Ltd.)** – Members were reminded that this meeting would now take place at 2.15pm in the Council Chambers on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**192. Correspondence.**

- a. **CATS.** Members noted the request for grant aid and a letter of support to assist other funding requests from CATS and the Community Car Service. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that the letter should be sent and, as allowed under section 137 of the LGA of 1972, £100 be donated to help the Service with their work.
- b. **Pisces swimming Club.** Members noted the request for grant aid and a letter of support to assist other funding requests from the Pisces swimming Club. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the letter should be sent and, as allowed under section 137 of the LGA of 1972, £50 be donated to help the museum with its work.
- c. **Home Start.** Members noted the request for grant aid from Home Start. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that, as allowed under section 137 of the LGA of 1972, £100 be donated to help Home Start with their work.
- d. **Friends of Leiston Airfield.** Members noted the date for this year’s memorial service and the intention to provide a flypast. It was also noted that members have supported this event over the years with a donation toward the operation of the aircraft so it was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that, as allowed under section 137 of the LGA of 1972, £150 be donated to help the Friends of Leiston Airfield run this event.

During the above item Cllr Huxley declared a personal interest and remained in the room.

- e. **Royal British Legion Band.** Members noted the cheque paid earlier to the British Legion Band for the third Party Ticket Sales from their concert in December. Members also noted that the hire fee had been deducted from the total. Traditionally members have re-imbursed the Band to cover this fee in the form of a grant so it was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that, as allowed under section 137 of the LGA of 1972, £250 be donated to the Royal British Legion Band.

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

- f. **County Councillor Locality Grant.** Members noted the kind consideration of Cllr Ron Ward in donating £1,000 of his locality budget toward the cost of replacing the single glazed windows in the Community Centre with double glazed units. The Clerk was to write and express members’ thanks.

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.

**193. Questions to the chairman.** There were no questions.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.14 pm.

----- Chair

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