

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd March 2009

194. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jackie Abbot, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during February (report attached). Cllr Huxley commented on the very noticeable increase in minor criminal damage over the last two weeks and drew attention to a letter from Mr Mael (The Museum Manager) which highlighted the lack of manpower the Constabulary had on patrol overnights when this damage was being done. PCSO Abbott explained how she too found this sort of damage very annoying as it really upset people and was so unnecessary. She asked that all criminal damage, however minor, be reported when it occurs or when it is discovered. Cllr Ginger reported that boy racers were still speeding along King George Avenue and driving the wrong side of the bollards in the centre of the road. He also relayed a report that there were underage drinkers congregating on the Heath View garage site. Cllr Howard asked about burglaries. PCSO Abbott expanded on her report and explained that the one burglary in the town in February did not appear to be part of a pattern but was being investigated. Mr Briggs expressed his concerns that, with the arrival of a second PCSO in Leiston the Chief Constable would use it as an excuse to reduce the establishment of regular police officers.

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

196. District Report. Cllr Hawkins reported that free swimming for over 60's would commence in April. Cllr Bailey brought up the atrocious amount of dog fouling on Sizewell Beach – he wondered what could be done about it.

197. Public Forum. Mr Briggs pointed out the fly tipping in the lay-by outside Leiston on the B1119 (going to Saxmundham). He also wondered whether members had considered enquiring whether the Safe Cam partnership might be able to provide some funding toward installing a footway to Highbury Cottages. Cllr Ginger commented that he hoped that he would soon be able to see an interim account for how much the new Foyer Project had cost to date (including the compensation paid to the tenant).

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Ginger 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 COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Main Street, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
3rd MARCH 2009, at 7.47 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 N. Parker

198. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3rd February 2009 be signed as a true record.

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

200. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman reported "In early February I attended a showing of 'Bolt' at Leiston Film Theatre. This was an advance screening for dogs and their owners and proved to be a great success, The event attracted media attention and received good coverage on Anglia News. I would like to thank Wayne Burns, our Film Theatre manager, for arranging this special event, thus promoting the Theatre as well as Leiston. Several Councillors, the Town Clerk and I attended our regular meeting with Tim Collard of Suffolk Coastal Services to discuss cleaning, waste and grounds maintenance matters concerning Leiston. Six Councillors, the Town Clerk, one member of the public and I attended a meeting with Essex and Suffolk Water at their Lound Treatment Plant to receive a

presentation on the water supply arrangements for Leiston and the two Sizewell Power Stations. I would like to thank Cllr. Cooper for driving us to Lound which is near Blundeston. Towards the end of February two Councillors and I staffed the Fairtrade Day which was held in the Community Centre. This was attended by more than 80 residents and was part of Leiston's bid to become a Fairtrade Town. I would like to thank our small committee for moving this project forward and we now have members of the public who have expressed an interest in joining the committee. Our next task after a general committee meeting is to draw up a directory of those either selling or serving Fairtrade products. At the beginning of May I attended the special screening at the Leiston Film Theatre of the BBC TV series 'Summerhill' which told the story of Summerhill's battle with OFSTED in the late 1990's"

- 201. Visit to Lound – Essex and Suffolk Distribution Centre.** Cllr Howard gave the meeting a comprehensive report of what those members who went on the visit to Lound were told. There were some interesting figures on how, in the Blyth area, the water was extracted from boreholes (3 in Knodishall and one in Leiston amongst them), how much was used daily throughout the area and how much was expected to be used in the future. It was interesting that, in the Blyth area, we are self contained and have no pipework in place to bring in water from elsewhere in the county or country. Sizewell B currently takes almost 10% of the daily total used in Blyth and the team from Essex and Suffolk explained how they thought they would be able to cope with the increase in demand that Sizewell C might make in the future. It was also noted that plastic pipes carrying a water supply through contaminated ground were sometimes susceptible to chemicals seeping through to give the water a "nasty" taste – it was emphasized that, if residents did get discoloured or nasty tasting water, they should report this immediately to Essex and Suffolk who would look into it. Overall members were pleased to report that the team at Essex and Suffolk were genuinely interested in providing a very good service as well as maintaining a sustainable water supply to their customers well into the future.
- 202. Service Level Agreement for the provision of a PCSO.** Members looked through the draft Service Level Agreement that would soon be signed as the contract between the Town Council and the Chief Constable to part fund the Town's second PCSO. There were some points noted but, overall, it was deemed to be fair and thorough. It ensured that, whatever the circumstances, Leiston received the services in the Town of a PCSO for an actual 24 months i.e. if there were a six month gap due to illness or a PCSO leaving and another being trained the contract would run for two years plus six months (to replace the months lost). There were no extra or hidden costs and the Council would be a primary partner in the team that tasked the incumbent. On a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed to sign the Agreement as presented.
- 203. High School cricket square.** Members noted the request from the High School to SCDC for a grant from the Sport Fund to help toward a new artificial cricket square to be laid at the High School. This would also be for Community use. Members were delighted to be able to support the application as the town did not currently have any cricket provision.
- 204. Fairtrade Day.** The Fairtrade committee thanked everyone for their support at the recent Fairtrade Day held in the Community Centre. Special thanks were extended to Shaun Wilson from Simply Delicious, Becky Corbett and the Co-operative Society who set up stalls and helped promote and explain the Fairtrade ethic throughout the day. Over 80 members of the public dropped in to discuss the reasons for promoting Fairtrade and to sample what was available through the scheme. Members were pleased that some of the visitors felt strong enough about the ideal to volunteer their time to become part of the committee taking the project forward to Leiston one day becoming a Fairtrade Town.
- 205. Meeting of Local Parishes at Middleton.** Members noted the minutes from the inaugural meeting of the local parish councils at Middleton which discussed the idea of joint working to ensure that there was a strong voice when dealing with the forthcoming nuclear build at Sizewell. They agreed that the parishes involved should be widened (to the Leiston High School catchment as a guide) and they also agreed that they should continue to take part despite possibly not agreeing with everything the group might try and achieve. Leiston-cum-Sizewell (and all the other parishes) would still retain their own independent right to make representations but, if there were accord, then the group could be an excellent conduit to take issues forward. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that Leiston continues to take part but that the Council's representative take the line that no new link road from the A12 is required although the existing local road network should be upgraded. As this was one of the major issues the group was formed to promote it was felt best to ensure members opinion on it was known from the outset.
- 206. Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting 5th March.** Cllr Howard drew members attention to the reports on the table that would be discussed at the meeting. He explained that the public were always welcome and were always allowed to speak. Cllr Hodgson would be attending in lieu of Cllr Nunn.
- 207. Foyer Project – update.** The Clerk informed members that Mrs Pickett had kindly handed back the keys to 74 High Street earlier than agreed and that Mr Burns was now working very hard on the conversion with the aim, if all goes well, of opening in time for the Easter holidays. There was a lot to do however and there was only 4 weeks before the schools broke up. The Clerk was aware that some members wished to see the accounts on a regular basis to see how

the project shaped up but was unable to show anything to date other than the legal and planning fees. The best indication would come in October once the project had had time to settle and bed in and the half yearly figures could then be compared with last years.

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

208. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £9,365.30p along with £9,350.54p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Howard and Cllr Ginger declared an interest in Cheque N° 309572

209. Planning Matters.

- a. **C09/0010 – Erection of front porch at 21 Prospect Place, Leiston, IP16 4AL.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b. **C09/0159 – Change of use from barber shop (Class A1) to theatre foyer in association with film theatre at 74 High Street, Leiston, IP16 4BZ.**
NO COMMENT

210. County Matters.

- a. **B1119 – Fly tipping.** The Clerk was asked to report the fly tipping identified earlier on the B1119 in the lay-by between the junctions with the 2301 and the 2417 (Knodishall Green).
- b. **Daneway.** It looked very much like the site would be put up for sale.
- c. **County Council Pension Fund.** The Clerk was asked to find out what proportion of the Council Tax went toward the Local Government Pension Fund.
- d. **Art on Waterloo Avenue.** The Clerk was asked to write to the Middle School's Headteacher and congratulate him and his team on the excellent initiative of displaying art on the fence around the Colonial Park building site. Very much appreciated.
- e. **Bollards at Halfway Houses.** The Clerk was asked to get the reflective parts of the bollards on the cycleway at Halfway Houses cleaned. He was also asked to investigate getting the conifers trimmed in the layby opposite the bollards.

211. District Matters.

- a. **Boundary Review.** Members noted the meeting called at Kesgrave on 30th March by the District Council to discuss the latest developments in the LGR process. Cllrs Howard and Hodgson showed interest in attending on Leiston's behalf.
- b. **Presentation by EDF.** Members noted the invitation to attend a presentation being given to the District Councillors on 11th March. Cllr Ginger, Cllr Howard and Cllr Bailey would try and attend.

212. Correspondence.

- a. **Speeding traffic in Abbey Lane.** Members noted the letter from a resident in Abbey Lane describing the excessive speed and inconsiderate driving displayed by motorists using the lane as a rat run. The letter was a copy of one which he had sent to the County Council requesting speed bumps or other traffic calming measures be installed to make the corner by Gypsy Lodge safer. Members agreed that there was a problem on that road and moved to put the item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Highways Working Party.
- b. **Shoreline Management Plan Review.** Members were invited to attend a seminar reviewing the Shoreline Management Plan at Stratford St Andrew on 31st March. Cllr Howard and Cllr Boast expressed an interest.

213. Questions to the chairman. Members asked whether it was known when Greater Gabbard would be finished in the bottom car park at Sizewell (currently fenced off). It was thought that they intended to be complete by the summer holidays but, for Easter, would be laying a protective surface in the top car park so that could be used during the season until the bottom park was finished. There were some distribution issues with the newsletter delivered in the February Community News which would hopefully be resolved in May (the next issue).

It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, 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

214. A letter from a tenant was discussed and the Clerk given guidance on how to reply. Cllr Cooper updated members on the LTAA application for grant aid from the sports fund to renovate the hard court playing area – the borehole element of the application had now been removed.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.10 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated