

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd June 2008

- 11. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ron Ward who gave members a brief report on items of interest. He explained that the County were intending to consult on a new by-pass for Farnham in July as they hoped to tie this into the possible construction of a new Power Station build. He expected this to include consultation on the possibility of a new access road across the belts near Kenton Hills. He outlined a proposal for some fishery trials which would involve some inshore boats having their quotas removed to see what difference that would make. He drew attention to the forthcoming meeting at Southwold for those interested in the Blyth Estuary flooding and mentioned the ongoing consultation by the Boundary Committee with regard to Unitary Councils in Suffolk by passing on the possibility he had heard that next years May elections could be put off until June. Mr Lovell asked that Cllr Ward take note of his increasing concern that wind farms off the coast were seriously degrading MOD early warning radars.
- 12. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that sharing the SCDC CEO with Waveney was, at present, working very well. Cllr Nunn briefed the meeting on current recycling rates in the district which were up to 42.95% - this increased to 54% for those households on the twin bin scheme. He advertised the current scheme being promoted to recycle brassieres. Pink “bra banks” were at set locations for old bras to be deposited in with the aim of sending these to west Africa to be reused – the firm running the scheme would give £1 per kg of material collected to the Macmillan Cancer Charity. There was some small criticism of the intention of the District Council to hand out free light bulbs to visitors to their Melton offices (in return for the visitors signing up to a personal carbon reduction programme) on 3,6 and 9 June as this rather disadvantaged Leiston (and other far flung) residents.
- 13. Police Report.** Constable Green was unfortunately called away elsewhere but a report was available on the table (and is attached).

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

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
3rd JUNE 2008, at 7.36 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. J. Hawkins
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor J. Morrissey
Councillor A. J Nunn

A minute’s silence was observed in memory of Miss Daphne Oliver who passed away on 22nd May. Daphne was a staunch supporter of the Town Council, had been a Councillor herself from 1979 – 1983 and had remained fully involved in many organisations within the Town right up until her unfortunate illness earlier this year.

- 14. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 6th May 2008 be signed as a true record.
- 15. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Mr Geater, Cllr Huxley, Cllr Howard and Cllr Blowers.
- 16. Chairman’s Communications.** The Chairman addressed the meeting thus “It is a great honour and privilege to have been elected to serve as a third term as your Chairman and I would like to thank all the Councillors who supported me. On 17th May I attended and helped at the Leiston in Bloom Coffee morning. The next day I represented the Town Council at the Mayor Making at Aldeburgh. On 21st May I attended the official opening of the North Suffolk

Skills Centre at Halesworth. The opening ceremony was performed by the Rt. Hon. Jim Knight, Minister of State for Schools and Learners. The Skills Centre provides training for school pupils aged from 14 upwards on a day release scheme from their school either one day a week or one day every two weeks depending on their age. The skills they can choose from include plumbing, electrical work, vehicle maintenance, painting and decorating and hairdressing. I met some pupils from Leiston High School who were taking part in this programme and a pupil from Leiston actually showed a group of us round, she is taking a taster course in hairdressing (and she had a lovely hairstyle for the occasion). I was very impressed with the centre itself and the enthusiasm shown by the pupils and the trainers. Coming back to Leiston, two issues I would like you to consider please and we will put them on the agenda for our July Council Meeting. I have been approached on quite a few occasions about having a statue of Richard Garrett in the Town. I would like to hear your views on this. Do we want to consider a statue, or maybe a work featuring something manufactured by Garrett's? If so, what, where and when? Your thoughts also please on whether we should work towards becoming a Fairtrade Town, this was mentioned at the April meeting but has been left over until next meeting. “

17. **Film Theatre Fascia.** Members discussed the proposals for renovating the fascia of the Film Theatre again and were pleased with the recommendations received from Mr Saward as members believed they were sympathetic with, and very closely matched, their own preferences. Basically, the idea was to just replace like with like but with a much more modern and discreet lighting scheme. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Barnes and agreed that the Clerk replace the wooden fascia with a hardwood suitable for staining and then bring forward lighting ideas as budget allows. This would be put onto the July Agenda to keep members abreast of costs and timescales once the Clerk had found someone to look at the work.
18. **Cinema Admission Prices.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Nunn and agreed that the price for Adult admission be raised by 50p to £6.00, a Child's ticket by 25p to £3.75 and a Family Ticket by £1 to £15.00. This was considered a modest but necessary increase to help with the increased costs of gas and electricity. The price rises to take effect on 15th June – note – the Senior price remains at £4.50.
19. **Allotment Walkrounds.** Members noted the reports that Mr Cowee had kindly produced as a record of the walkrounds that members conducted in April with the Allotment Association. The reports were positive and the Clerk informed members that much had been done since the reports enhancing the sites even more.
20. **Boundary Committee.** Members had a good discussion evaluating all the various options the Districts and the County had put forward for the Boundary Committee to take into account for their decision on 7th July. Members were reminded by Cllr Cooper that Ipswich was central to the arguments and that a lot of money had already been spent and was still being spent preparing strategies etc. for submission. Cllr Ginger felt that a Unitary system would be better than the current three tier system and favoured the East/West Suffolk split with Ipswich on its own. Members were against any Lowestoft/Great Yarmouth option as indeed were Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. Cllr Hawkins pointed out that Ipswich would need to expand and it was also noted that Ipswich did not wish to be part of East Suffolk but were determined to go it alone. This led to the worries that members had about budgets as Ipswich would take a large slice of any Suffolk budgets with the rural areas possibly being under resourced by virtue of the spread of population. There was even the possibility of Lowestoft and Feilxstowe getting their own budget – possibly that model cascading down as far as Leiston? The main concern however was that local democracy would be watered down. Whichever system was chosen the level of representation of Cllrs on the new authority would be watered down from what it is now (certainly at District level – probably even at County level). The idea of local/area panels etc. had never worked around this area in the past and nothing would change the nature and individuality of the various towns and parishes in this area to make it viable now. Therefore Town and Parish Councils would be very important to their communities but lack representation at the higher level. To give the parishes the power they require in the new set up funding would have to be passed down – that would be the crux. Cllr Boast asked if any members could tell him what was wrong with the Unitary system that it had to be scrapped in 1974? Unfortunately no-one could remember the arguments for going to a three tier system in the first place and nobody had noted any précis of why the advantages that were put forward then were no longer valid. The Clerk was asked to respond by supporting an East/West Suffolk split (support the District Councils submission basically) but highlight the vital importance of local democracy and representation being maintained i.e. whatever happens the parish Councils must be given the funding and powers to do what their residents elect them to do.
21. **Newsletter.** The next edition will be out on 25th July. All articles to be in by the 10th July please.
22. **Finance.**
 - a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £32,747.21p along with £40,035.74p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Hawkins asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Film Theatre Support Club for their donation.

- b. **Presentation of accounts for year-end 31 March 2008.** The Clerk distributed a comprehensive pack of evidence to members which demonstrated the correctness of the Balance Sheet for 07/08. He requested that Cllrs ensure they are comfortable with all the figures and that they be prepared to sign the accounts of at the July meeting.

The meeting was suspended for 20 minutes for a natural break from 8.25 pm to 8.47 pm

23. Planning.

- a. **C08/0864 – Erection of six industrial units on land north west of Eastlands Road, Leiston.** Members asked that the normal conditions of hours, noise, smells etc. be attached common to all the other units on the site.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b. **C08/0879 – Installation of Air Conditioning condensers at 14-16 High Street, Leiston.** Members hoped that conditions would be applied to alleviate noise and disturbance to the neighbouring flats very close to the site of these units. If the units were not maintained they would need boxing in and baffled.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest in all three applications involving 14-16 High Street.

- c. **C08/0878 – Installation of two new shopfronts, creation of new entrance, infilling two existing windows & internal alterations, Leiston.** Members were very keen that a condition should be placed on the premises that smoking be disallowed in the covered passageway that the rear entrance opened out onto. This is used by many residents to and from the car park and should not be allowed to be despoiled by fag ends and smell etc.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C08/0880 – Display of non illuminated fascia signs & externally illuminated projecting sign at 14-16 High Street, Leiston.** The street scene will not contain any other projecting or illuminated signs and the erection of this one would spoil the clean lines of the frontage and actually detract from the summer floral displays that project annually from the building. The current projecting sign of the applicant is only slightly intrusive due to the recessed nature of the southern end of the shopfronts. It would be too intrusive jutting out of the northern end as indicated in this application.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- e. **Minutes from Planning meeting of 29 April.** These were distributed for information.

- f. **Waterloo Avenue - Pedestrian Crossing.** Members were very concerned that the planning conditions for Colonial House were not being met in that no crossing had yet been installed in Waterloo Avenue which members believed was a condition that had to be met before any units were occupied. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Knowles at Suffolk Coastal to request an investigation.

24. County Matters.

- a. **Junction of Park Hill/Main Street.** Members asked that the problem of turning right from Park Hill into Main Street be raised as they felt that there may be some scope for white lining to help vehicles line up.
- b. **King George Avenue – Re-surfacing.** Members asked if there was any news on when this might take place. Post meeting note – work will start before the end of June.

25. District Matters.

- a. **Haylings Pond.** Members noted the press coverage of the recent theft of fish from the pond and the concerns of the Youth Club Angling section who do not currently have funds to restock the pond. It was hoped that the notices now on display may inform non English speaking residents of the illegal nature of their fishing activities when they remove fish from the site. The pond is also suffering from the persistent wet weather as it is very difficult to reduce the high water level in the pond so that repair work can be carried out to the fishing platforms.

26. Correspondence.

- a. **Leiston Old Folks Outing.** Members noted the request for a donation from the Leiston Old Folks Outing committee and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, it was agreed to donate £150 as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

During the above item Cllrs Bailey and Cooper declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.

- b. **Film Theatre Support Club.** Members noted the request for a donation from the Film Theatre Support Club for a draw prize and, on a proposition from Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, it was agreed to donate £50 as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

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

- c. **Festival of Remembrance – 5th November 2008.** Members noted the request from the Royal British Legion and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hawkins it was agreed to donate the hire of the Theatre for the evening of the 5th November to the Poppy Appeal.
- d. **Suffolk Family Carers.** Members noted the request for a donation from the Suffolk Family Carers and, on a proposition from Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Boast, it was agreed to donate £50 as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137. Cllr Boast also suggested that the Carers might like to put an article in the forthcoming newsletter to publicise their work. He undertook to contact them.
- e. **Kenton Hills access.** Members noted the reply from British Energy which basically declined to take any action to replace the current access from Kenton Hills onto the beach with one that would allow a cycle to be pushed through. It was felt that their assertion that one could easily lift a cycle over the low fence there was misplaced and not good advice. The Clerk was asked to write and ask them to reconsider their decision.
- f. **Suffolk PCSO Pilot.** This scheme was looked at and members thought it would be best put on the next Agenda of the Safer Neighbourhood team meeting to get more information.

- 27. **Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Cooper raised the question of whether the Council should have an application form with set times of submission for all the organisations seeking grants or donations. There was some discussion but members still broadly favoured the flexible approach that they employed at the moment which allowed them to respond to emergency applications etc. and also allowed all organisations a chance to petition the Council without too much red tape. Cllr Mrs Geater enquired over progress to get the new dog bins at Sizewell. The Clerk apologised as he had not really chased this up hard enough after SCS Ltd undertook to do it.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.45 pm.

----- Chair

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