

Pre-meeting Reports
3rd October 2006

84. **Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Richard Gubbins, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a brief report on crime figures for Leiston over the last month. He highlighted the significant year on year reduction – 20% down on 2005 overall. The highest proportion of crimes was still assaults although these were invariably minor in nature and between people who knew each other – very very few were unprovoked assaults on strangers. He briefed the meeting on the current licensing initiative whereby Inspector Underwood was visiting pubs, clubs, etc. and talking landlords and owners through their responsibilities under the new act. Patrols had also increased to do periodic enforcement on hours of operation on the establishments who were pushing the boundaries. In reply to Cllr Gingers query Sgt Gubbins briefed the meeting that the Kebab Shop at 37 High Street was one of those establishments being watched and the owner had been spoken to.

Other items raised included cars jumping the lights coming down gas hill, cyclists riding on paths, cyclists jumping the lights and cyclists not having any lights now the evenings were getting darker. Cllr Ginger informed the Sergeant that people had been observed drinking in the cemetery at night which he wanted stopped and Cllr Blowers wanted speeding past the Household Waste Site stopped too. Mr Briggs felt that speeding in Valley Road was becoming a problem and members all felt that there was far too much speeding on all the roads in the Town. Sgt. Gubbins informed members that Simon Mortimer would be taking many of these points to the schools in his next round of educational visits and would be passing on the speeding concerns to the traffic unit.

85. **District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that no resolution had yet been obtained to the ongoing discussion with the HSE (NII) with regard to the virtual moratorium on building they had recently caused with their review of remote site criteria around our power stations. Cllr Nunn was pleased to announce some good results on recycling whereby the new bin scheme was reducing landfill waste as much as hoped in the areas where it had been introduced. Cllr Geater informed the meeting of the hard work that is put in by SCDC environment staff at Felixstowe Docks checking all the food imports etc. and also dealing with the constantly changing regulations that keep being made in that discipline that they have to enforce. He also primed members to expect a good positive report from the auditors who were currently assessing the District Council's performance.

Mr Briggs informed the meeting that he has been in contact with SCDC about the problems with cleanliness at the Leisure Centre Swimming Pool. He also asked about lifeguards and other running issues but was referred to the contractor, DC leisure, who runs the centres on behalf of SCDC. There was some discussion on the Healthy Living Centre and the progress being made in acquiring the support of the District Council to use the High Street Car Park as a site for the Centre. Cllr Nunn informed the meeting that the officer concerned with asset management was soon meeting with the Clerk on site to form an understanding of the proposals. This would be reported at the next meeting. Miss Oliver wished the Council to pass on her compliments to the dustbin men who service Heath View as she found them to be most helpful, cheerful and patient.

86. **County Council Report.** Cllr Ron Ward sent apologies.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins 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,
3rd OCTOBER 2006, at 8:03p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor B. A. Barnes
Councillor C D C Blowers
Councillor J. L. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger (until 9.55pm)
Councillor Mrs J. I. Girling
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T E Hodgson
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor A J Nunn

- 87. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2006 be signed as a true record with the following amendments; In minute 72 Cllr Geater pointed out that he had said that Leiston had the highest precept in Suffolk Coastal (not one of the highest) and that he had not said that the cinema was a luxury and not needed but that it was non essential.
- 88. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Bailey, Cllr Mrs May, Cllr Mrs Geater, Cllr Howard and Cllr Cooper.
- 89. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, she had attended the SALC area meeting, the Anglia in Bloom awards at Thurrock and the AGM of the Volunteer Bureau. Leiston had obtained a Silver award in the in Bloom competition which, although disappointing after last years Silver Gilt, was still a very creditable achievement and an excellent base to mount next years assault on the Gold! There was however a dire need for more volunteers to help and join the In Bloom Team. Talking of volunteers the Volunteer Bureau were also desperate for more drivers to help with the Community Car Service – anyone who could spare just a couple of hours a week would be very welcome indeed.
- 90. Sizewell Management Meeting.** Members noted the minutes on the table of the management meeting held on Sizewell Beach on 28th September. The main items discussed included support for initiatives to re home the kittiwakes currently on the off shore platforms and Lorries parking illegally on the Sizewell Beach Car Park. It was agreed to take the problem of lorries to the SSG and to also continue raising the need for a lorry park in the vicinity with District and County at the relevant forums. The Kittiwakes were not an immediate problem and there would be time to investigate the various ideas over the next couple of years. It was noted that the bin at the top of the top car park had not been removed and members voted for the Clerk to write and request very strongly that it be so removed. The Clerk was also asked to inform the Rights of Way Manager of the need for Footpath signs by Coastguard Cottages. Finally, Cllr Ginger wished to have recorded that he had requested a concrete base be put down where the area had been cleared for recycling bins to be put out upon opposite Corner House.
- 91. Meeting with Suffolk Coastal services Ltd.** Members noted the minutes on the table of the meeting held with Mr Tim Collard of Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd. on 27th September. The main item was the patchy performance still being witnessed when it comes to having bins emptied around the Town. The schedule clearly includes most litter and dog bins in Leiston to be emptied on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Everyone's help was required to monitor this and make sure it was happening. Members noted the attacks on the new trees on Victory park and just couldn't understand who could do such a thing. On a positive note though Cllr Girling pointed out just how worthwhile all the effort Cllr May put in to save the Lime Tree Avenue up to Leiston hall had been as the display this year had been magnificent.
- 92. Table Top Sales.** Members noted the figures presented to show how the Table Top Sales had performed over the 6 months they had been run. All in all members felt that they were a success and should be thought about again for next spring/summer. The Councillors who had attended them had used them very effectively to meet the public and many organisations had profited from them. One of the things they had highlighted was the lack of a sign post in town indicating where the Community Centre was and also one outside the centre itself making it more visible at the roadside. Members thanked Cllr Girling very much indeed for organising and running the sales. In turn Cllr Girling thanked the Leiston gazette for publicising the events as there had been a poor response from the other "free" papers in doing so.

93. Newsletter. Members discussed getting the Autumn/Winter newsletter out at the end of November. It was agreed to get all the submissions together by 13th November. Members were urged to write suitable items on issues they felt they would like to see in the publication or, if they were uncomfortable writing, to just let the Clerk know their ideas and he would sort out someone else to scribe out an article.

94. Finance

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** On a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, it was agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £3339.09p along with £7843.36p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

95. Planning Matters

- a) **Local Development Framework.** Members noted the minutes of the meeting held with the Planning Policy Team from SCDC with regard to formulating the Site Specific element of the forthcoming Local Development Framework. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the Household Waste Site should be mentioned in the document and whether the proposed Station site could be altered from Masterlord to the Old Gasworks site in Carr Avenue.

- b) **C06/1701/FUL – Erection of two storey extension (resubmission of C06/0607) at 18 Central Road, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **C06/1609/FUL – Erection of one and a half storey dwelling house in part side garden of 44 Haylings Road, Leiston.** Members considered this plan to be acceptable and sympathetic to the street scene. Unfortunately, whilst recommending approval, it was also policy to recommend that the NII be consulted on any new build proposals and this was currently leading to approvals being deferred. Cllr Hawkins abstained.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above item Cllr Mrs Girling declared a personal interest and left the room.

- d) **C06/1692/FUL – 5 in number double storey prefabricated office buildings; 1 in number breathing apparatus workshop; 1 in number sub-change room in connection with decommissioning of Sizewell A Power Station, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above item Cllr Hodgson declared an interest, remained in the Room, but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- e) **C06/1719/FUL – Erection of two storey extension and installation of two roof top wind turbines on the Longhouse, Haylings Grove, Leiston.** Members were happy with the proposed extension but felt that a lot more detail was required before they could give an opinion on the two proposed wind turbines. Details on height, diameter, noise and reflection (off the blades) was needed and more information on possible interference to neighbouring TV reception was also sought. Members recommended approval however subject to these items being satisfactorily addressed by SCDC.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

96. County Matters.

- a) **Wall by Flats as Footpath 16a crosses Sylvester Road.** Cllr Barnes asked the Clerk to draw Highways attention to the danger presented by the wall by the new flats at the bottom of Sylvester Road whereby vehicles cannot see children running out of the footpath until the very last moment. He also pointed out that vehicles coming out from the rear of Grimsey Road could not see pedestrians using the Sylvester Road pavement until the last moment either.
- b) **SALC AGM.** Cllr Huxley read out the two propositions due to be put at the forthcoming SALC AGM and got members opinions on how he should vote.
- c) **Household Waste Site.** Members heard how residents and other users of this site were being put in danger by the lack of parking outside the site. When the site was busy, full or closed for bin removal there was a build up of clients parked outside on the side of the road. With the speed of traffic at this point they placed themselves in extreme danger of being hit by vehicles coming over the hill from Sizewell. The Clerk was asked to write to Lucy Robinson at SCC to explain our concerns, make her aware of the highways issues and the difficulty being experienced in finding a resolution to this problem (recent request for 40mph refused)

It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Mrs May 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.

97. Personnel. Members discussed the report from the recent meeting of the personnel committee and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Girling, it was agreed to accept the pay awards recommended by the Committee of 3% to all staff backdated to April with higher increases to those staff on National Minimum Wage to ensure compliance. It was further agreed to meet with the Cinema Manager at 7.30pm on Monday 23rd October to discuss various items raised by the committee to allow members to get familiar with staff duties and responsibilities at the Film Theatre.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room – due to the lateness of the hour he also left the meeting.

With personnel matters complete the meeting was re-opened

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 continue until complete.

98. District Matters.

a) **Healthy Living Centre.** Members asked for this item to go on the Agenda for November.

99. Correspondence.

- a) Members noted the forthcoming Rural Housing Seminar and asked either Cllr May or the Clerk to attend.
- b) Members noted the update from the County Council on the state of play with regard to the 20's Plenty scheme and when it will be installed outside the various schools in Leiston. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Ward, copying the letter, and ask for his views.
- c) Members noted Mr Briggs letter to Network Rail and applauded his persistence in getting a reply. The promise of a newly refurbished crossing in Station Road next February was very well received.
- d) LSP. There was some discussion on where the LSP might be going these days and Cllr Huxley was asked to attend the next meeting and report back.

100. Questions to the Chairman.

a) Cllr Huxley asked the Chairman if it would be possible to get a copy of the ambulance response times for the past few months as this was something members had asked for last year. He was particularly keen to note whether the poor response time he had noted at a recent event in Main Street was endemic.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 10.18 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated