

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

- 99. Police Report.** Members welcomed Sergeant Richard Gubbins, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a report of the crime statistics for October (attached). He praised the young people in the Town for the way they enjoyed Halloween this year. There were no incidents reported on the night and everyone enjoyed the evening. He brought everyone's attention to the forthcoming public tasking meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November and took questions. Cllr Ginger highlighted the continuing episodes of criminal damage in King George Avenue after events held at the Sizewell Sports and Social Club. Inspector Reid explained how the police were working with the club to give them guidance on how to control the problem and what the process would be to ensure that, eventually, this problem was sorted. Cllr Boast asked about the incidents in Dinsdale Road where loud music regularly disturbed the residents. Inspector Reid explained that environmental health officers were working on the noise aspects and that his team were aware of the problem and were policing the other issues arising from the problem. Cllr Geater thanked the police for the work that they did in the Town which was considered one of the best policed in Suffolk Coastal. June Oliver highlighted the perennial problem this time of year of cyclists without lights.
- 100. Future Response Policing Plans for Suffolk.** Members welcomed Inspector Neil Reid, Suffolk Constabulary, who briefed members on the proposed changes to policing in the County due next spring. He explained that the increasing demands and expectations put on the force combined with a potential fall in funding meant that a radical review had had to be undertaken. The idea was to look at everything the force did to ensure that it worked smarter and more efficiently to deliver its core business more effectively. He outlined the concept of hubs which meant that Suffolk response officers would soon be operating out of 9 stations instead of the current 23. The present practise of working and being tasked within the officers parent sector would also be changed with officers now being tasked from a central control room. Each vehicle will have an Automatic Vehicle Location Device onboard so that the control room knows exactly where all the assets are at all times. They would then move them around the county to ensure that there was an officer suitably placed or on patrol within 15 minutes of every community. A revamped Resource Management Unit would ensure that the county had a full establishment of response officers on call at all times and would also be fully aware of the skills that those officers possessed. He emphasised that the current Safer Neighbourhood Team would still be based in the Leiston Police Station and, as far as he knew, there were no plans to shut the station down and sell it. Other initiatives being tried to free up police officers time and therefore allow them to be more visible and on the beat included a Crime Investigation Bureau and a Diary Car. Basically, when a crime is reported, instead of automatically sending a response officer around to talk to the victim a telephone operator establishes as many facts as possible, and asks them whether they would like a police officer to visit – often they find that members of the public do not particularly want a visit. However if the operator feels that there is a chance of solving the crime and possibly apprehending a villain then he will send the Diary Car to investigate and to follow through on any evidence the victim or scene might give up. Inspector Reid then explained the problems with custody and why Leiston is no longer used to lock offenders up. The nearest custody centre is Lowestoft until Martlesham comes on line in 2011. The new hub system will overcome the current problem whereby, currently, when an officer from the Leiston sector arrests someone and goes to Lowestoft there is frequently reduced cover left in sector until he comes back. With the hub system and vehicle location system the control team will automatically put cover in place when that situation occurs in the future. This system will possibly allow officers to engage more proactively and make arrests when, maybe, in the past, they would have had to weigh up the tactical situation should they leave their patch. The final element of the new plan involved a return to "common sense" policing where officers, with the correct training, would be encouraged to use their initiative and make judgement calls where, recently, they have been over regulated and rulebound. There were lots of comments, questions and discussions during the briefing and Inspector Reid invited anyone at the meeting, (or who reads these minutes), who wished to find out more about the proposed changes, to visit him at Leiston Police Station.
- 101. County Report.** County Councillor not present.
- 102. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report.
- 103. Public Comment.** Mr Ron Geater petitioned the Council to lend support to the current efforts to save the red oak trees at Westleton which the forestry commission have earmarked for felling. He produced a photograph and map which showed their maturity and position. They were planted as a screen for a crop of conifers which were now going to be harvested. Mr Geater felt that, far from felling the screen first, it should stay in position to hide the devastation that is produced during felling operations. The position of the screen is such as to make it a valuable aesthetic feature close to the village and would

also allow the very popular footpath alongside the trees to continue to be enjoyed for the next 5 – 20 years whilst heathland is restored behind them.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard 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,  
3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2009, at 8.23 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. E. Bailey**  
**Councillor B. A. Barnes**  
**Councillor D Boast**  
**Councillor J. L. Geater**  
**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 Mrs A Nunn**

104. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be signed as a true record.

105. **Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Nunn.

106. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman gave members details of his attendance at a number of events in October including the Girl Guide Centenary celebrations and the Skate Jam on Victory Road recreation ground. He described the culmination of the Big Draw at the Leisure Centre and mentioned Suffolk's Harvest Festival at Bury St Edmunds and the Mayor's reception at Beccles.

107. **Allotment Association.** Members noted that a meeting with the Allotment Association was scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> November.

108. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG).** Members noted the efforts of the group and the proposal to request a £150 levy from the Town Councils who were members of the group to help fund the groups' work.

109. **Finance.**

a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Barnes and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £12,127.84p along with £12,913.96p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting took a break from 8.35 – 8.50pm

110. **Planning Matters.**

a. C09/1527 – Erection of two storey side extension, 9 Eastward Ho, Leiston.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

b. C09/1557 – Erection of front porch to existing single-storey dwelling, 85 Abbey Road, Leiston.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

c. C09/1514 – Erection of 15m pole with 0.8m dish at proposed Electricity Sub Station, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d. C09/1577 – Erection of single-storey flat-roofed rear extension at 38 Eastward Ho, Leiston. Members were not particularly happy with the size of the proposed extension but, as it did not seem to affect the neighbours amenity unduly, decided to leave the decision to the planning officers discretion.

**NO COMMENT**

- e. C09/0292 – Replacement of two windows at Leiston Abbey, Abbey Road, Leiston.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

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

**111. County Matters.**

- a. **Highways.** The overhanging trees along the side of 23 Buller Road were highlighted as being a hazard still.
- b. **Trees at Westleton.** Members noted the comments raised earlier in the meeting regarding the desirability of retaining the red oaks at Westleton. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the Forestry Commission to register our disapproval of their strategy and also to the Rt Hon John Gummer MP who is campaigning to save the trees at his level.

**112. District Matters.**

- a. **SALC AGM.** Cllr Hodgson agreed to attend on members’ behalf and was pleased to hear members’ views on the proposed motions that were due to be discussed at the AGM.
- b. Cllr Howard brought up a disturbing incident that required some investigation into how the new partnership between the District Council and Flagship Housing handled lettings. Cllr Hawkins asked for details so that he could look into it.

**113. Correspondence.**

- a. **Airtricity.** Members noted the intention of Airtricity to increase the size of the wind farm off the coast at Greater Gabbard and agreed to wait until Mr Easton provided more details, possibly in the new year.
- b. **Lightweight Community Transport.** Members were pleased to note the positive support from the Go!Co-operative to use the railway between Leiston and Saxmundham for a passenger service. Their suggestion of an LCT vehicle and the accompanying costings were very interesting and the Clerk was asked to forward them to the County Council for their opinion.

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

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

**115. Personnel.** Members noted the comprehensive recommendations made by the Personnel Committee which broadly followed the NJC (National Joint Council) guidance of 1% - 1.5% backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. On a proposition from Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to implement the recommendations in full.

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

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.40 pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----