

Pre-meeting Reports
4th March 2008

157. Police Report. The Chairman introduced PC Trudie Beckwith, Suffolk Constabulary who gave a brief summary of crimes committed during February – a report is attached. Other items raised included the vandalism of the Skatepark lights (stolen fuses), the ongoing problem of youngsters climbing over the fence from FP16A into Paxton Chadwick gardens and the dangerous parking at the Valley Rd/Crown Street junction. Cllr Howard asked that the profile of Domestic Violence be raised more within the Police Reports as he was concerned that the current system of classifying calls to domestic residences as “non-crimes” (where no clear assault had taken place) disguised the problem.

158. County Report. The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of County Councillor Ron Ward.

159. District Report. Cllr Geater reported that the recent Audit Office assessment of SCDC had been very good indeed, our District Council was one of the very best performing Districts in the East of England and was close to the top nationwide. The Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Baker, had overseen many changes which had increased efficiency enormously. This and other reasons had led to him being keenly sought after by other Councils. District Councillors had recently in fact agreed to share their CEO with Waveney District Council. This had caused some concern but the benefits of the time share were explained (shared coastline, rail links and A12 in common etc.) and members had agreed. The current consultation by the Government on boundaries for Unitary authorities also means that he is well placed to respond for both authorities – especially with the unpopularity of the “yartoft” proposal! Members had a brief discussion on the news that the Boundary committee had produced an extraordinary tight schedule to review boundaries and were disappointed that there did not appear to be any constructive consultation built into the process. Cllr Geater finally informed the meeting that Leiston was again the highest rated town in Suffolk Coastal – members noted that this showed an active and committed Council who worked hard for their residents and to improve the Town

During the above discussions, 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 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,
4th MARCH 2008, at 7.35 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 J. L. Geater
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor W. H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey

160. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 5th February 2008 be signed as a true record.

161. Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Nunn, Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Blowers.

162. Chairman’s Communications. The Chairman informed members that February had been a very quiet month with no civic activity although, unfortunately, an invite to the ACF had to be MRU’d as it was the same evening as this Council meeting. The Cadets have asked that they be borne in mind to be allowed to help with any event in the Town where they could take part and be of use.

163. Traffic Order Review. Members noted the maps of the Town, which showed all the current waiting restrictions correctly marked. It was agreed to hold a meeting of the Highways Working Party on 18th March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre to formulate all the additions and alterations members hoped could be included in this current review. Cllr Hawkins was concerned at the length of time it took to get yellow paint on the road once limitations had been decided. He quoted Waterloo Avenue as a prime example.

164. Saxmundham Railway Station – provision of railway advice and ticketing. Members noted the sad facts that had led to Canon Travel no longer being able to provide a service to rail users at Saxmundham Station.

165. Meeting of Film Theatre Committee – 26 Feb. Members noted that the Committee had given Mr Burns permission to produce a report ready for members attention in September that would lay out his ideas for an extended foyer and would also incorporate a business plan to illustrate its viability. Members noted that the proposals for a new contemporary fascia would be on the Agenda for April when costings would be available. Cllr Cooper felt strongly that the current look should be retained but accepted that the discussion would have to wait until April. Finally, members noted the arguments for commencing online bookings and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley, it was agreed to purchase the software from Nortech to enable customers to book online via leitonfilmtheatre.co.uk – in answer to a query this would not entail the Theatre or Council processing any credit card details etc. as the site linked to a company that specialises in online bookings around the country with all the correct qualifications etc. for online finance.

166. Bus Shelter – Old Post Office Square. Members hoped that the District and County could reach a mutual agreement on the style of a suitable shelter for the Old Post Office Square and hoped for early completion.

167. Finance.

- a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £7,772.81p along with £9,455.50 paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Howard declared an interest in Cheque no 309018.

The meeting was suspended for 20 minutes for a natural break from 8.20 pm to 8.40 pm

168. Planning.

- a. **C08/0218 – Erection of pergola over existing seat on grass verge on corner Sylvester Road and King George Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above application Cllr Huxley and Cllr Morissey declared an interest, stayed in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- b. **C07/0298 – Erection of open fronted shelter on the Bowling Green of the Constitutional Club, Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above application Cllrs Barnes and Boast declared an interest and left the room whilst Cllrs Geater and Hawkins also declared an interest, stayed in the room, but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- c. **C08/0302 – Insertion of side entrance doors and two windows to west elevation and erection of conservatory at 2 Ash Tree Close, Leiston.**

NO OBJECTION

- d. **C08/0398 – Erection of three bed dwelling and formation of vehicular access (revised scheme) in part side garden, 27 Heath View, Leiston.** Members were very concerned at the way the system appeared to be being played here. The practice of gaining permission for something modest and then applying for extensions before it is even built is becoming more prevalent and is not welcome. Members would also expect this to be referred to the HSE NII again as it is a new application. (Two Councillors against and Cllr Hawkins abstained)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **Planning enforcement.** Members asked the Clerk to write to SCDC and ask them to ensure that they operated an active, robust and timely enforcement policy in respect of the Colonial House development in view of the many time sensitive and road safety items in the permissions.

169. County Matters.

- a. **Sizewell Road lay-by.** Members had a long discussion on the use of the lay-by in Sizewell Road and whether the double yellows there were necessary or not. The three aims members wished to meet were not to allow vehicles to park there all day, not to encourage more vehicles to squeeze into the lay by than it could take (as they protruded into a busy carriageway) but to allow the lay by to be used for what it was intended – dropping off and picking up. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Boast and agreed that a 10 min restricted parking limit would be a better control than the current double yellows which were blatantly abused.

170. District Matters.

- a. **Greenprint Forum.** Cllr Huxley reported back on a recent meeting of the forum that he had attended on their behalf. The speaker had been an officer of the Environment Agency whose responsibility was to issue flood warnings.

171. Correspondence.

- a. Co-operative refurbishment plans. Members noted, and were pleased by, the letter from Mr Andy Moore (East of England Co-operative Society) which promised not only to refurbish the rapidly deteriorating car park (possible before July) but also, later in the year, the interior of the Solar Store itself. Members asked the Clerk to point out that the disabled spaces were not wide enough.
- b. HGV's – members were encouraged to use the HGV Incident recording forms so that the County Council could follow up on firms whose lorries use the Town Centre unnecessarily. It was also suggested that the issue be raised with the Power Stations at the SSG so that they can ensure their contractors follow the set routes.
- c. Members noted the public meeting being held by British Energy at the Sizewell Sports and Social Club the following Tuesday 11th March.
- d. CURIE. Members noted the letter from CURIE seeking financial support for the upkeep of their instruments. Members declined to help.

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

- e. Air Ambulance. Members noted the request from Mrs Roberts who raises funds for the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Mrs Roberts is a well known and bona fide fundraiser. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed to donate £100 to the EAAA as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

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

- f. Greater Gabbard. Members noted the letter from Greater Gabbard on how things were progressing and wondered how negotiations were going with regard to possibly achieving some community amelioration for all the disruption. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.
- g. Clerks and Councils Direct. Members agreed that the publication was useful, interesting and of value. They agreed to continue the subscription.
- h. Thorpeness Cycleway linking project. Members noted the letter from Mr Laschet calling a meeting to discuss the possibilities of opening up some interesting cycleways around the area and it was agreed that Cllr Howard would attend with the Clerk.
- i. SLOW road markings – Abbey Road. Members noted the proposed positioning of the SLOW sign on the carriageway to the north of the level crossing in Abbey Road and hoped that this might encourage motorists to proceed with more care as they come around the corner onto the junction with Buller Road. It was hoped the work would be done sooner rather than later!
- j. Sizewell Stakeholder Group – meeting due 6th March. There were some concerns raised which Cllr Howard agreed to raise at the forthcoming meeting. These were the generality in the prose regards permitted emissions, the mention of redundancies in the NDA plan and a huge concern that the NDA were preparing to avoid removing fuel or waste from the site.

172. Questions to the chairman. Cllr Huxley informed members that he was very soon attending a meeting of the Leiston and District Nursing Association who were still desperate to find storage space for their hire equipment. Cllr Howard wondered whether Cllr Ward had anything further to report on how the bus review was going and Cllr Morrissey wondered whether other Councillors had noted the litter around the top car park at Sizewell – should the bin be replaced? Haylings Pond was mentioned and was also placed on the April Agenda.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.00 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated