

Pre-meeting Reports
4th September 2007

- 52. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Constable Heidi Green, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a brief breakdown of crimes over the months of July and August. The meeting was very pleased to hear that two cars had recently been seized under section 59 and that the boy/girl racers were beginning to get the message and were not being so obvious with their anti-social behaviour in their motor vehicles. Cllr Geater expressed concerns about the blatant disregard many people now show for the double yellow lines in the High Street and asked that this be given some Police attention. Cllr Boast also reported a similar disregard for the no waiting restriction around the corner of Buller and Dinsdale Roads. Members discussed the number of adults (setting a bad example) and children who ride bicycles on pavements and ignore the traffic lights in the Town Centre and it was noted that, as the evenings begin to draw in, attention would also now be paid to ensuring cycles were lit correctly.
- 53. County Report.** The Chairman passed on Cllr Ron Ward's apologies.
- 54. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that nothing much had happened in August which was a traditionally quiet month anyway. Cllr Geater reported that he had attended the extraordinary meeting of the District Council which had confirmed the designated Drinking Area Order for Leiston and other Coastal Towns.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
4th SEPTEMBER 2007, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
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 T. E. Hodgson
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey

- 55. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Geater, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 7th August 2007 be signed as a true record.
- 56. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Blowers, Cllr Barnes, Cllr Howard and Cllr Nunn.
- 57. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman was pleased to report that she had had the privilege of being asked to present the prizes at the recent Allotment Holders and Gardeners Flower and Produce Show held at the LTAA. Jan Lovell won the overall shield in a show which boasted a large number of very good entries. The only other notable event in a quiet month was the workshop and tour held for Councillors by Sizewell B. Six Councillors attended and had a very informative visit.
- 58. Chairman's Badge of Office.** The Clerk informed members that British Energy had agreed on the design and inscription on the badge and had given the go ahead to order the regalia as soon as practicable. Mr Dowds informed members he was very pleased to be able to donate the cost of the set on behalf of Sizewell B and British Energy. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the design as agreed be ordered.

- 59. Allotment Walkround (25th July).** Cllr Cooper reported that he had been pleasantly surprised by the very high standard of many of the allotments. He felt that this made it even more disappointing to come across the few which were unkempt, untidy and an eyesore. He recommended that members consider taking tougher action on these to bring the overall standard up. The paths through the allotments also needed attention he felt and the idea of slowly erecting a sort of uniform fencing either side of the paths would help this. Members briefly discussed which fencing might be most suitable for this but decided to leave this until the meeting with the Allotment Association later in the year.
- 60. Town Council Accommodation – possible re-organisation.** The Clerk briefed members on the opportunity that had arisen to possibly move to new offices recently vacated by the Volunteer Bureau. This had come about due to the position of the walk in safe in those offices which the Town Council had always used. The right of way through the office the safe is in had not been a problem in the past but might not be acceptable to a commercial let in the future. The landlords had therefore invited the Clerk to consider the options.
- 61. Review of charges.**
- a) Members considered the report on the administration of the Allotments. They noted the vast increase in the cost of water over the last two years and how the charge levied on allotment holders for water had not kept pace with this. It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the charge for water should increase by 15p a rod from 1st October 2007 to cover the costs. It was further proposed by Cllr Geater, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the land rent should also rise, by 5p a rod, to cover administration and to help finance the proposed enhancements to the allotments. This would increase the rent for an average 10 rod plot from £9.15 to £11.15 a year (up to £8.65 for residents over 65). This is the first increase in 4 years. It was also proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the rent for the Coldfair Green allotments be set at £200.
 - b) Members considered the calculations that accompanied the recommended increases in Theatre Hire and, on a proposal from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed that; Hourly Charge for hire of the Theatre would be £35, Part Day Charge £140, Daily Charge £300 and a Weekly Charge of £2100.
 - c) Members considered the rent charged for the two lock up shops owned by the Council. They firstly agreed that the £400 fee quoted for a professional review would probably not be good value as circumstances had not changed significantly to warrant a full review. Secondly, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Geater, it was agreed to raise the rents by 5% from 1st April 2008.
 - d) Members then voted to keep the Theatre Admissions prices the same until next spring and to leave the hire charges for the Community Centre the same too.
- 62. LOFO – Council Sponsorship.** Members noted the letter from the Leiston Old Folks Outing Committee informing them of their difficulty obtaining adequate public liability insurance cover for the event now that the Leiston Business Association had disbanded. The Clerk informed members that he had made enquiries with the Council's insurers who had stated that the event could be covered at no extra charge if it were to become a Council sponsored event. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed, that particularly as LOFO was chaired by Cllr Bailey, it could indeed be considered a Council sponsored event and therefore come under the Council's umbrella.
- During the above item Cllr Bailey declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote.
- 63. Newsletter.** Deadline of 18th September for articles.
- 64. Victory Road Recreation Ground.** The Clerk informed members that he had commissioned Mr Robert Cuthbert to begin the landscape enhancement to the SW corner of the park and had ordered the bow top railing fence from Zuan Ltd. to go along the Victory Road boundary. He also informed members that the Outdoor Playing Space contributions from developers in the town had built up again to £10,000. This would be used to part pay the bill for the new play equipment recently installed on the recreation ground which, in turn, left the same amount in reserves earmarked for play equipment in the future.
- 65. Sizewell Stakeholder Group – 7th September.** It was agreed that Cllr Hodgson would kindly stand in for Cllr Howard at the forthcoming SSG meeting.
- 66. Finance.**
- a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £43,445.52p with £18,636.75p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting was suspended for 15 minutes for a natural break from 8.50pm to 9.05 pm

67. Planning.

- a. **C07/1487/FUL – Provision of training facilities, at Sizewell B, Sizewell Power Station, Sizewell, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b. **C07/1455/FUL – Change of use of premises to lettings office (ground floor only) at 71 High Street, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- c. **C07/1482/FUL – Erection of single-storey rear conservatory extension, at 27 Sylvester Road, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- d. **C07/1507/FUL – Erection of two semi-detached dwellings in Part Side Garden, 23 Cross Street, Leiston.** Members felt that this was a complete overdevelopment which provided an unacceptably small curtilage to all three properties involved and an unacceptable loss of amenity to the resident of 23 Cross Street. The building was too close to No 23 and the whole scheme was squashed and too high. It was commented that car parking in this area was a very serious problem which must not be underestimated or ignored. This development would take away three garages and access to on site parking for 23 Cross Street and add two properties with wholly inadequate parking provision for their own needs let alone absolutely no amelioration for what would be lost apart from a very small car space for No.23. *It should fail on this alone.* The fact that the garages are not fully used is immaterial. It did not fit into the street scene either.
RECOMMEND REFUSAL
- e. **C07/1508/FUL – Installation of new shop windows at Barclays Bank, 19 Main Street, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- f. **C07/1602/FUL – For use of building as a self contained dwelling at 67A Haylings Road, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- g. **C07/1510/FUL – Erection of side extension to provide garage store on 6 Neale Close, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- h. **C07/1523/FUL – Retention of existing annexe at Abbey Cottage, Eastbridge Road, Leiston.**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- i. **C07/0822/FUL – Erection of decking with shed beneath and excavation of adjacent ground at 7 Abbey Road, Leiston**
RECOMMEND APPROVAL

68. County Matters.

- a. **Safer Neighbourhood Team.** Reporting on the meeting held on 30th August Cllr Ginger covered all the points brought up and discussed by the partners present at the meeting. The main items of note were the progress with trying to secure the Middle School Playing Field behind St Margarets Crescent for use by the public, the changes that had been proposed for the Sizewell Road Car Park to try and help reduce illegal parking outside the Post office and to try and find ways of stopping people wrecking the verges at the top of Sylvester Road.
- b. Cllr Huxley drew attention to the lack of double yellow lines in Haylings Road which had not been replaced since the road was resurfaced.

69. District Matters.

- a. Members noted the SALC AGM on the 2nd October and the local area meeting on the 17th September.

70. Correspondence.

- a. **Buller Road/Station Road junction.** Members noted the letter from County Hall which left very little hope that something could be done to make the junction more visible/less dangerous. There was some leeway though and the Clerk was asked to write again.
- b. **Cemetery toilets.** Members noted the letter from NPS indicating that the toilets in the cemetery were for the workmen only. Members felt that this was a shame as it was felt that they should be available for mourners at funerals as the siting of the cemetery is so far from the nearest public convenience. Perhaps the Clerk could write and ask for consideration to be given to ensuring they were available for “emergencies” when the Chapel was in use.

71. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. Cllr Huxley asked whether members would consider writing to Anglian Water to give them some credit for the works they carried out to alleviate the flooding in Valley Road as they appear to have made a difference and to have helped to reduce the historical flooding problem there during the recent downpours.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.50pm.

----- Chair

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