

Pre-meeting Reports
4th November 2008

104. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jackie Abbot, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during October (report attached). PCSO Abbott emphasised the proactive policing which the new Safer Neighbourhood Team structure allowed and also invited a Councillor to spend a day at the Station and an evening on patrol with the team perhaps on Thursday 20 November. Jackie was unable to give anymore information as to what happened with the car that demolished Baker Bros and was pleased to receive thanks, on behalf of her colleagues, from June Oliver for the actions they had taken and the help they had given her when she had recently been the victim of a purse snatch.

105. District Report. Cllr Nunn briefed the meeting on the current recycling rates and the good progress being made rolling out the twin bin scheme. Over 33,000 households were now in the scheme. Mrs Worsley commented on the size and inconvenience of the bins in some roads in the town and how it was quite difficult for some elderly and infirm residents to move the bin out for collection. Cllr Nunn pointed out two schemes that might help whereby residents could get smaller bins if that was more suitable for them or they could even share. If residents had difficulty presenting their bins they could ring 01394 444000 and ask to be put on the assisted collection list (thereby not having to move the bin too far). Mr Block asked who was responsible for replacing said recycling bins when they were damaged. The procedure was reported that, if the collection vehicle damaged the bin the Council would replace them but they would charge to replace them if the damage was malicious or caused by other events. A resident pointed out the need for the High Street bus shelter to be cleaned properly (and repainted) and another asked how to get glass swept up on roads outside the Town Centre. The Clerk offered to pass on both observations and asked residents to report broken glass to Suffolk Coastal Services on the 444000 number so that they could then take the necessary action.

106. County Report. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward who gave members a brief on various items of interest before answering questions. The main item that was raised was the frustration and desperation of the families who live at Highbury Cottages and who have to run the gauntlet along the poorly lit B1119 everyday to walk to school. The lack of a footway was considered a really glaring safety issue which members and residents again asked Cllr Ward to look into which he promised to do. PCSO Abbott also undertook to concentrate some resources in that area to make motorists aware of the seriousness speeding and carelessness when children had to walk along the carriageway. Members asked for Highbury to be put on the agenda again for next month to raise the profile once more of this very real problem. Cllr Ward was also asked to find out whether all the residents of Daneway had been provided for adequately in view of its imminent closure.

107. Public Forum. Mrs Hill read a short statement out on behalf of the Film Theatre Support Club to inform members that the club fully supported the proposal to extend the foyer (item 4 on the agenda) and hoped that they would take the decision to increase the profile of the Theatre on the High Street. They also supported the increased space the project would bring, the disabled access and the improvements to the box office and refreshment kiosk the proposal would allow. Mrs Pickett made a short statement drawing attention to the 900 signature petition that had been collected in support of her business and against the extra burden that they thought this project might inflict on the taxpayer. Alison Lamb felt that members should look very closely at the cost of materials, the loss of rent and all the other costs of the project to see if they felt it was worth it. Mr Burns again re-iterated that it was not intended to open as a coffee shop and gave his opinion that the better facilities the project would create would increase income. Much had been said at the last meeting so Mrs Pickett just asked that members make the decision so that she knew one way or the other.

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,
4th November 2008, at 7.52 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)

Councillor D. E. Bailey

Councillor B. A. Barnes

Councillor D. R. Boast

Councillor A. M. Cooper

Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater

Councillor. J.L. Geater

Councillor C.S. Ginger

Councillor T. J. Hawkins

Councillor W.H. Howard

Councillor F. R. Huxley

Councillor J. Morrissey

Councillor A. J Nunn

Councillor N. Parker

108. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 7th October 2008 be signed as a true record.

109. Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Hodgson.

110. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman addressed the meeting "I often think how very lucky we are to live in this area. I went along to the Long Shop Museum's Final Fling Day and what a great day it was. Many local people were there and it also attracted many visitors including a large group of holidaymakers from France. Along with the Clerk, I attended the Business Crime Forum at Martlesham Police Headquarters. Cllr Howard and I attended the SALC Road Infrastructure Conference followed by their AGM at Henley on 21st October. I attended the Chairman's Reception at Saxmundham. As part of Leiston's bid to become a Fairtrade Town, we held a Fairtrade event for businesses and organisations on 29 October. Following on from this we are arranging, with the councils permission, to hold a Fairtrade Day in Leiston on Thursday 26th February, this will be within the Fairtrade Fortnight. There will be a separate report on the agenda. For me, the highlight of October in Leiston has got to be the successes of Leiston Town Football Club. They played a great match at home when they drew with Lewes and an even greater one away when they won 3-1. I would like to offer my congratulations to all concerned and extend my best wishes for their continued success."

111. Film Theatre Foyer Project. Cllr Boast opened the debate by informing members that he was fully in favour of the proposed project as he believed very strongly in removing any barriers that led to discrimination against disabled residents. Cllr Howard also reluctantly gave his support as he had been convinced that the other options for providing disabled access were not really viable and although he felt uncomfortable doing so, he would support the project because of the internal ramp. Cllr Geater felt that the current situation where disabled customers rang a bell outside and waited for a member of staff to become available to help them down the side passage into the fire exit by the stage was adequate. Other members felt that things had moved on and what was adequate 10 years ago wasn't necessarily so now. Cllr Geater detailed some robust points in opposition to the projects projected figures and felt that the improvements to the facilities and working conditions would not bring in any more income and would only add to the deficit. Cllr Hawkins agreed and pointed out a possible flaw in the projected savings put forward whereby staff costs for the possible extra opening hours were not mentioned. Cllr Nunn however was convinced that the one off costs to improve the venue were worth it, necessary and would give the Theatre the scope to improve income and flexibility. Cllr Bailey saw the improvements as the next step in a long line of improvements that the Council had made to the Theatre since they took the initiative to save it from closure and preserved the venue for the town and its current and future residents. Cllr Bailey seconded Cllr Nunn's proposal that the Council support the plans put forward by Mr Burns taking all the necessary steps to regain possession of their shop to use it for their own business thereby enhancing the Theatre's facilities, providing scope for operational savings and providing full disabled access. Members voted on this proposal which was passed by 7 votes to 4 with 2 abstentions.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote. Cllr Nunn, Cllr Mrs Nunn, Cllr Huxley and Cllr Bailey declared a personal interest before taking part in the debate.

112.School Organisation Review. Members discussed the proposals put forward by the County Council for consultation on the future for schools in the Leiston and Saxmundham area. Members were supportive of the move to a two tier system but were adamant that it should not be diluted by using split sites and temporary accommodation. “Everyone knows that temporary very quickly becomes permanent” and members felt that this major change should be done properly with pupils being moved to two sites only – the High School and the Primary School – with the correct buildings built for purpose in place and in good time. The Clerk was asked to convey members concerns to Rosalind Turner.

113.Large Council Chamber map. The Clerk informed members that the large, wall hung, 110 year-old parish map in the Council Chambers had been fully restored and rehung by Mrs Wiesner and her team. The cost was £400 over budget due to unforeseen carpentry requirements with the roller and map housing.

114.New shrub bed in Waterloo Avenue. Members heard how Leiston in Bloom were considering asking Suffolk Coastal to install another permanent shrub bed on one of the green swards in Waterloo Avenue around the St Margaret Crescent junctions. There was only one objection from Cllr Ginger who would rather they stay as grassed areas so members agreed to leave the actual siting to the In Bloom Working Party. Members also gave a vote of thanks to the In Bloom team who continue to work hard all year round to keep the Town looking so good.

115.Fairtrade Town Initiative. Cllr Mrs Nunn and Cllr Howard briefed members on how the Fairtrade Working Party had had a successful drop in event on 29th October. They were given excellent support and help throughout the afternoon and evening by the Leiston Guides and were able to promote Fairtrade to several businesses. The next public event was proposed for 26th February during Fairtrade Fortnight when it was hoped to open for a public residents drop-in. Members voted to donate the use of the Community Centre for that event.

116.Newsletter. The Clerk reported that there were already some articles in. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Huxley offered to prepare some more and Cllr Huxley pointed out that, after a previous article the Youth Club had gained another valuable member of the support club. Perhaps an article aimed at other Town organisations could encourage them to use the newsletter to promote themselves in a similar manner.

117. Energy Saving Event. It was agreed to open the Community Centre on a suitable day in December to host an Energy Saving drop-in event where residents would get information, sign a personal carbon reduction pledge and receive a free energy saving light bulb.

The meeting took a break for refreshments for 20 minutes from 8.50pm – 9.10pm.

118.Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £13,755.50p along with £6,413.61p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Request for items for inclusion in 2009/10 estimates.** Members were asked to think of any items that they might wish to see in next year’s estimates and pass them to the Clerk.

119.Planning Matters.

- a. **C08/1923 – Use of land for storage of building materials together with erection of security fencing at Units 2B & 2C, Eastlands Industrial Estate, Eastlands Road, Leiston.** Members felt unable to comment until they knew what “building materials” would be stored on the site.

NO COMMENT
- b. **C08/1711 – Erection of one two-storey dwelling with basement level on Land rear of Dinsdale Lodge, Buller Road, Leiston.** This site is on a dangerous and busy junction. Members have worked with the County Council to investigate ways of making this junction safer through engineering quite recently too. This site egresses right onto the junction itself which is totally unacceptable. This proposal must be sent to Highways for comment. The design is a totally out of character and does not fit into the street scene at all – it is in a very prominent position and does not give a very good impression of the town as motorists arrive. It is also an example of the very worst kind of backland development which would seriously effect the amenity of the neighbouring properties in Station Road, Buller Road and Dinsdale Road that back on to this site. It would also be an uncomfortable place to live in. Members unanimously dismissed this out of hand and could not find one redeeming feature in the design or siting.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

120. County Matters.

- a. **SALC AGM.** Cllr Howard reported back on the outcome of Leiston-cum-Sizewell’s motion which unfortunately fell. The wording wasn’t quite correct and other delegates still felt that the law already provided for unsafe loads and were not convinced that that law should be tightened by insisting that certain loads should be netted.
- b. **Lighting in Central Road.** Cllr Ginger reported that there was some concern that, with the new energy saving street lamps now installed, there was an area close to the top of Central Road where it was a bit dark.
- c. **Greater Gabbard security lighting.** Cllr Boast had had the security lights at the sub-station works brought to his attention as they shone into the eyes of drivers going to Sizewell and were a bit of a hazard. The Clerk undertook to report this to the appropriate authority.

121. District Matters.

- a. **Greenprint.** Cllr Huxley gave a report of the recent Greenprint meeting he had attended where there had been an interesting talk on how BT employees are really working hard to cut down on car use and reducing the sites carbon footprint. They were employing lots of initiatives including the simpler ones like cycling to work! There was also a talk from Felixstowe Docks on areas where they were improving and a talk from CRED too.

122. Correspondence.

- a. **BERR Siting Criteria consultation.** Cllr Howard brought it to members’ attention that the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform were currently consulting on the siting criteria for future nuclear power station sites. The Council had not been contacted directly to respond and only had until 11 November to do so. The Clerk undertook to find out what was happening.
- b. **Letter from Middleton.** Members noted the letter from Middleton Parish Council which extolled the possible benefits of communities working much closer together with regard to any future consultations and getting the most from the possible future nuclear build at Sizewell. Members agreed that there was a lot to be gained from knowing what each community wanted/desired/feared etc. and asked Cllr Howard to be our initial representative at any exploratory meeting Middleton might wish to organise.
- c. **Draft Fire Action Plan.** Members noted the consultation.
- d. **Code of Conduct consultation.** Members took away some questions to mull over with regard to the DCLG consultation on code of conduct.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing orders be suspended to allow business to conclude.

123. Questions to the chairman. None

It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper 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

124. Personnel. Members went through the Staff in Confidence report submitted by the Staffing Committee that gave their recommendations on this years wage review. Members approved all the recommendations which, broadly, resulted in a 3% pay rise across the board backdated to April to all Council employees.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.35 pm.

----- Chair

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