

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**4<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

103. **Presentation of new Civic Regalia to Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council by Niki Spatchett representing British Energy.** The Chairman was very pleased to accept the new Chairman's Pendant and Chain of office donated by British Energy and asked Niki to thank everyone involved at British Energy who had made it possible. It is an excellent design and will certainly enhance the profile of the Town Council Chairman at Civic events around the County in the future.
104. **Presentation of Quality Town Council Certificate to Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council by Shona Bendix, Chief Executive Officer of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils.** The Chairman welcomed Shona to the meeting and was very pleased to receive the Quality Town Council Certificate that was presented in recognition of the Councils achievement in recently attaining Quality Status. Shona was full of praise for the efforts everyone had put in to get the award, was extremely encouraging about the future that the award might bring and congratulated everyone on their dedication and their commitment to the Town which this award had recognised.
105. **County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward to the meeting who congratulated the Council on their award and wished everyone well. He then reported on several items of interest, including disabled badge use, the Blyth Estuary consultation and new fishing regulations before moving on to Waste issues. Cllr Ward reported that the County Council was looking at ways to reduce landfill and was currently studying incineration. This produced some questions and debate and, although Cllr Ward could give no definite answers, he did undertake to keep the Council informed. Cllr Howard asked that the County look at the irritating irrationality of bus fares whereby, if you buy a return ticket to Ipswich say you have to return with the same bus company or pay another fare. He hoped that the County could rationalise this by use of their subsidies. He also asked Cllr Ward to keep a very close eye on the announced reduction in young peoples budget – this might affect some very necessary and useful young peoples organisations in the town to the detriment of everyone involved. Cllr Ginger asked, in light of the efforts now being made to make kissing gates more accessible, whether Cllr Ward could get the one from Kenton Hills onto the beach adjusted. Finally, Mr Briggs complained about the substandard road repairs he had witnessed around the Town – he felt that the County engineers should supervise their contractors more to avoid this area getting shoddy work done.
106. **Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Abbott from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Inspector Chris Lucas, Suffolk Constabulary, to the meeting. PCSO Abbott gave a summary of the crimes that had been committed through November and talked about other initiatives that had been tried over the preceding weeks. A report is attached.  
Inspector Lucas informed the meeting that he had fought for, and been promised, an increase in establishment in the Leiston Sector of 3 Officers. He also gave a brief outline of the new command structure that had been introduced which, in reply to concerns from Cllr Ginger, he hoped would not lead to an increase in extractions. Cllr Huxley asked that some attention be paid to the wearing of seat belts on School Buses and Cllr Bailey asked about the detection rate over the year as he appreciated that the detection rate reported for the crimes committed the previous month was just a snapshot. Jacqui promised to send Cllr Bailey the latest performance figures which showed the Leiston Sector in a very good light. Inspector Lucas reported that, as part of the effort to cut down criminal damage in King George Avenue he had recently had very a good meeting with the licensing authority and the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) for the Sizewell Sports and Social Club where the responsibilities expected of the PLH were gone over in detail. June Oliver expressed her concern about the regularity with which she noticed broken windows in the Town Centre after weekends. Inspector Lucas explained that every effort was being made by his team to patrol and deter as best they could during the potentially incendiary periods that occurred on Friday and Saturday nights. Finally, Mr Briggs asked a question about the recent article in the paper regarding the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) which resulted in a discussion on their role etc. It was felt the best course of action would be to invite Sgt Steve Featherstone (CNC) to a future meeting to go through the details again.
107. **District Report.** Cllr Hawkins didn't have much to report but was pleased to receive queries from Cllr Huxley on the energy audit (at SCDC Offices) and from Cllr Howard on the impact of the new proposed housing estate by Church Hill, Saxmundham on Leiston – particularly the schools. There were also some questions on housing (and provision thereof) as well as initiatives for unoccupied properties. Daphne Oliver asked that someone come and give the meeting a report of how recycling is shaping up in the District if possible and everyone was pleased to hear that SCDC were making a commitment to young people and hoped this would filter down into the Town – especially with the threatened cutbacks proposed by the County Council. Again Daphne Oliver implored the District Council to be as good as their word as the youth organisations in Leiston were fundamental to the town's young peoples well being.

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,  
4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2007, at 8.33 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

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

**Councillor D. Bailey**

**Councillor B. A. Barnes**

**Councillor D. R. 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**

108. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007 be signed as a true record.

109. **Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Nunn, Cllr Morrissey, Cllr Blowers and Cllr Cooper.

110. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman informed members that she had represented the Town and Council on 6 occasions in November. Along with other Councillors a wreath had been laid during the Remembrance Service, she had attended the brief given by Greater Gabbard on the progress with their project and had joined the many people who gathered in Bury St Edmunds to welcome home the Royal Anglian Regiment from Afghanistan. Other events included the Old Comrades Association Christmas Party and attendance at a brief given to County and District Councillors by British Energy on the possible future build at Sizewell.

111. **Haylings Pond.** No further actions have been taken vis-à-vis the ducks around the pond. They are still being fed too much but the numbers have stabilised at about 21.

112. **Report from Highways Working Party meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> November.** Members noted the report from this meeting (attached) and discussed the following points

a) The outcome of the site meeting at the entrance to Buller Road from Station Road. Members agreed to fund a SLOW sign to be painted on the road on the north of the level crossing to warn motorists of the possibility of cyclists or cars emerging from Buller Road and remaining blind to the oncoming traffic until they crossed the railway.

b) The Clerk was asked to contact the Headteacher at the High School to canvas his views on possibly looking again at a travel plan.

c) The Clerk gave some feedback from the recent meeting with various representatives at the Household Waste site. The Highways team had undertaken to look at a couple of options to improve safety around the entrance to the site and to cost them up for further discussion with the other parties involved.

113. **On Street parking ideas forum.** Members had agreed to meet and have a brainstorming session on the issue of on street parking. It was agreed to do this at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January in the Community Centre. This meeting would not be open to the public but the report would be presented at the February meeting.

114. **Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November.** Members noted the minutes from this meeting and were pleased progress was being made with obtaining use of the Middle School Playing Field (see below), the installation of a bench and seat on King George Avenue Recreation Ground and the alterations to Sizewell Road Car Park. Other items discussed were that the Clerk should continue to request that the Police do a monthly speed check on one of the main entry roads to the town and noted the invitation for the Co-op to attend the next meeting.

115. **Meeting with Allotment Association on 15<sup>th</sup> November.** The Clerk reported that he had not yet been able to get the litter bin moved from valley road to the Associations shop area. He had also not yet got a quotation for chestnut palling fencing. Once these were achieved members could discuss what they might wish to put in the estimates come January.

116. **Middle School Playing Field.** The County Council have officially responded to the recent on site meeting and will soon be offering the Field to the Town Council to be run under licence for use by the public. This includes permission to install two goalposts and, in the future, the possibility of other play equipment. The County Council would continue to mow and maintain the site and also to reserve the right to give notice if circumstances changed and another use could be found for the field.

117. **Newsletter.** Members were asked to hand in any submissions by 11<sup>th</sup> January.

118. **Finance.**

- a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £20,961.97p along with £6,572.09p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Huxley declared an interest in Cheque no 308869.

- b. **Estimates for 08/09.** The Clerk presented the draft estimates for 08/09 to allow members plenty of time to familiarise themselves with all the proposed projects members had submitted for discussion in January.

The meeting was suspended for 15 minutes for a natural break from 9.05 pm to 9.20 pm

119. **Planning.**

- a. **C07/2032 – Erection of one & a half storey side & rear extensions 8 Huntingfield Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- b. **C07/2117 - Erection of three bed dwelling and formation of vehicular access in part side garden, 27 Heath View, Leiston.** Members were concerned about the parking issues around that end of Heath View but realised (after 40 Carr Avenue) that, unless Highways objected this would not be grounds for refusal. The main concern was that this was a new property being proposed inside the DPZ around the Power Stations. The HSE Nuclear Inspectorate were statutory consultees however so their opinion would be taken into account. With these reservations;

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c. **C07/2104 - Change of use of part of existing storage building into training workshops with associated alterations to extensions at the British Energy Store, Masterlord Industrial Estate, Station Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d. **C07/2096 – Conservation Area Consent for removal of unstable wall to the rear of Barclays Bank, 19 Main Street, Leiston.** Although it was brought up the majority of members could not see the point of replacing the wall as it served no useful purpose.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e. **C07/2083 – Erection of single storey extension to infill between existing dwelling and garage at 37 Red House Lane, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

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

- f. **C07/2123 – Erection of front and rear extensions and replacement garage (resubmission) at 11 Southfield Drive, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

During the above item, Cllr Bailey and Cllr Howard declared an interest, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- g. **C07/1976 – Widen existing vehicular access at 46 Haylings Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- h. **C07/2057 – Retention of Sunroom/Conservatory, I Church View, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- i. **C07/2142 – Erection of eight B1 (business units) and one B1 office unit on site of WM Stephens and Sons, King George Avenue, Leiston.** Members were pleased at the confidence shown by the applicant in the future potential of Leiston. They had two slight reservations at the proposed plan however. The two storey building was considered to be possibly too intrusive in the prominent position it had at the end of the Avenue and units 9 and 10 seemed to unduly restrict the turning area.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- j. **C07/2160 – Change of use from agricultural/disused allotments into garden land to serve two properties – land to rear of 90-96 St Margaret’s Crescent, Leiston.** Members were supportive but were keen to find out if they were statutory allotments?

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

**120. County Matters.**

- a. **SALC Area Meeting.** Cllr Huxley gave members a brief overview of the recent SALC area meeting the highlights of which were an LSP presentation and a County Council budget statement/consultation.
- b. **Police presentation.** Members noted the reply from the Chief Constable giving members an option of who they would like to come to their February meeting. Members opted for Superintendent Ian Sidney.

**121. District Matters.**

- a. No items raised.

**122. Correspondence.**

- a. Members noted the request for a donation from Vitalise and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to donate £50 to Vitalise as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- b. Members noted the request for a donation from Headway and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed to donate £50 to Headway as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- c. Members noted the request for a donation from Optua and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed to donate £50 to Optua as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

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 be completed.

- 123. **Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Hawkins asked that the Council’s thanks to British Energy for their generous donation of the Chairman’s Badge and Chain be officially minuted. The gift was very much appreciated by the Council with the excellent design and professional construction of the regalia making it a superb approbation of the Chairman’s authority. Members also asked the chairman to pass on their thanks to Cllr Blowers and his family who, this year, had again donated the Towns Christmas Tree.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.10 pm.

----- Chair

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