

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**5<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**138. Police Report.** The Chairman introduced Superintendent Ian Sidney, Eastern Area Operations Manager for Suffolk Constabulary. Ian was accompanied by Chief Inspector Terry Byford, Sgt Gubbins and PCSO Jacqueline Abbott. Supt. Sidney introduced himself, albeit he was a familiar face in Leiston having completed two tours in the sector during his career, one as Inspector and the Sector Commander. He briefed the meeting on the current organisation effective in Suffolk which is now split into just two areas, Leiston is in the East. Although there was a reduction in administration and support that the decrease to two areas had saved the force, everyone was still on a very tight budget which meant there would be no money for any increase in strength this year and, in future years, recruiting might well take a hit as more savings are demanded. Suffolk's first priority, Ian explained, was the successful completion of the investigations and the trial involving the Ipswich murders. Suffolk were under the spotlight and wanted to show that a small force could still handle the major events (after the abortive attempt to combine the Eastern County's forces last year). The second priority was to meet the targets set by the Home Office. Crime in the East [Suffolk] area is reducing – 7.5% down on last year – 12% in the Leiston Sector. Detected crimes were currently running at 32% (target 27%). East Suffolk also had the highest national figure of residents who feel safe. Part of the strategic overview Ian briefed members on was the problem of safe detention. The Constabulary had a duty to look after prisoners and the like in their custody and only had certain modern facilities where prisoners could be kept safe from self harm etc. This meant there was still a lot of travel and police time involved when an arrest was made in a rural area such as ours (not to mention the paperwork!). The Safer Neighbourhood Teams were proving to be a positive step forward with PCSO's accepted as a good idea and one that benefited towns and parishes with a useful conduit to their local police station. The idea was still for PCSO's to be active in the community without the handicap of having to be on a radio and on response like normal sector officers would have to be. This allowed them to take a full part in any projects where they could contribute or help organise. Chief Inspector Byford pointed out that she was currently consulting all the partners in the Safer Neighbourhood Teams on where they thought the scheme could go next – the Councils views would be appreciated. On the subject of dispersal of manpower Supt. Sidney explained that, unfortunately (!), Leiston did not have enough crimes to warrant more officers at present – his job was to ensure that the high workload areas (Lowestoft and Ipswich) had enough staff to cope. He outlined the formula he used to apportion manpower but members realised there was little hope of Leiston getting a better establishment in the current climate. In answer to a question he also outlined the procedures and strategy used on a daily basis to back fill any sector which reported itself down on establishment through illness/leave etc. The Civil Nuclear Constabulary were mentioned and Supt. Sidney's views sought. He pointed out that their duty was to protect national infrastructure and that they had their own Police Authority albeit that the Government had more of an input into its composition/appointments than the County force did possibly. He stated that the CNC were never used or considered as back up when looking at establishment numbers. Once everyone had had a chance to question Supt. Sidney PCSO Abbott gave a brief summary of crimes committed during January – a report is attached.

**139. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Ron Ward who had very little to report. He assured members that Council Tax would not rise above 4% and reported that the Boundary Committee had announced that they would be looking at ways that Suffolk could be "unitised" – the Pathfinder initiative between the County and all the District Councils was therefore finished. He undertook to investigate the situation vis-à-vis double yellow lines in Waterloo Avenue and to get more information on enforceability of the 20's plenty scheme. He was sorry he couldn't offer a solution to Cllr Howard's dilemma of different bus companies not accepting each others return tickets to the same destination but did report that all bus services/contracts were now being reviewed and he hoped he had fed this problem into the review.

**140. District Report.** Members were very pleased to see Cllr Hawkins at the table and wished him well. Neither he nor Cllr Geater had anything to report and there were no questions.

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,  
5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2008, at 8.10 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 T. E. Hodgson**  
**Councillor W. H. Howard**  
**Councillor F. R. Huxley**  
**Councillor J. Morrissey**

- 141. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 be signed as a true record.
- 142. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Nunn and Cllr Blowers.
- 143. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman informed members that January had been a very quiet month with no civic activity. She had however received some very positive comments with regard to the latest newsletter delivered last week. Other Councillors had also received similar unsolicited comments from residents.
- 144. Congestion on C228 at security checkpoint at Sizewell.** Members discussed the disruption caused by the recent security alert at Sizewell whereby staff and visitors to the power station site were stopped at the bottom of the private road to the stations and were checked before they were allowed entry. This caused a back up of traffic which inconvenienced residents who lived at or wished to visit the beach. Cllr Geater explained how the Right to Roam legislation made it impossible for the landowner (British Energy/Civil Nuclear Constabulary) to do anything other than ask trespassers to leave should they, (as previously), stage a sit down demonstration on the approach road – hence their decision to scrutinise entrants on the main highway where the police have more powers. Cllr Howard felt that, even if this was the case, our residents should not be inconvenienced by Sizewell's problem. Members agreed and asked the Clerk to write to the Stations and express our disapproval of this procedure.
- 145. Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008.** Councillor Ginger briefly ran through the minutes from the SNP meeting highlighting the parking problems in St Margarets Crescent. The bollards mentioned had actually been installed albeit that they did not stop residents parking on the verge. Flagship would be sending a senior manager to the next SNP meeting to discuss these issues. (See 146. below).
- 146. Discussion on results of car parking forum held 15<sup>th</sup> January.** Members agreed that they they had thoroughly exhausted the on street parking problems in the Town and were frustrated because there was no real (effective) solution to them. Cllr Howard reminded members that they were still hoping to take some pictures and to piggy back onto some forthcoming exhibitions/appraisals to consult with residents on what they would like to see. The lay by in Sizewell Road was mentioned specifically and the ideas for its use would be discussed at the next meeting as an Agenda item.
- 147. Chairman's Reception.** Members agreed that the 17<sup>th</sup> April would be suitable date for this year's Reception.
- 148. Film Theatre Committee.** Members agreed that the 26<sup>th</sup> February was a suitable date for the next committee meeting.
- 149. Community Centre.** Members noted the rather obvious crack that had appeared in the internal wall of the centre and asked the clerk to get advice on the cause.
- 150. Newsletter.** Members were asked to hand in any submissions before 10<sup>th</sup> April.

## 151.Finance.

- a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £6,769.61 along with £10,074.53 paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Howard declared an interest in Cheque no 308933.

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

## 152.Planning.

- a. **C08/0037 – Erection of two-storey dwelling with amended design to previous application C05/1313 approved at Appeal on Part Side Garden, 7 Buller Road, Leiston.** Members felt this new design was suitable and in proportion.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- b. **C07/2142 – Application amended to allow use of proposed buildings for B1, B2 & B8 use at W M Stephens & Sons Ltd, King Georges Avenue, Leiston.** The Clerk was asked to ensure all the normal caveats were applied to this site to ensure no deliveries or work was done out of normal hours, on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c. **C08/0087 – Retention of white PVCu conservatory to rear of property at 14 The Gables, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d. **C08/0113 – Erection of industrial building for storage & distribution (B8) purposes (to replace that destroyed by fire), at Unit 11 Eastlands Industrial Estate, Leiston.** Members asked for the normal caveats that applied other Eastland businesses to ensure residents were not disturbed out of hours or on Sundays or bank Holidays.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e. **C08/0165 –Erection of first floor rear extension, at 25 Crown Street, Leiston.** Members were concerned that the size and bulk of the proposed extension was too overpowering for the northerly neighbour and that it might cause a moderate loss of amenity. The Clerk was asked to discuss this with the case officer and support her judgement.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- f. **C08/0187 –Erection of single storey kitchen extension, at 11 Prospect Place, Leiston.** Although a small extension members felt that it might still be too imposing on the neighbouring property by virtue of its close proximity. Again members felt that this would be a fine judgement and were content to leave this to the Case Officer.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- g. **C08/0163 –Erection of single-storey rear extension at 37 Garrett Crescent, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

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

## 153.County Matters.

- a. **Crown Street/Valley Road junction.** Cllr Ginger raised the ongoing problem of people who parked on the double yellow lines in Valley Road right up close to Crown Street. This was very dangerous by forcing eastbound traffic out into the wrong carriageway just where people swung out of Crown Street round a blind bend. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the police to try and clamp down on this if possible.

- b. **HGVs through the Town Centre.** There was increasing concern about the number of lorries trying to get through the Town and ignoring the weight limit signs. The Clerk was asked to request County to do a thorough review of the adequacy of the current signage and routing instructions for HGVs around the Town. Cllr Howard was also asked to raise the issue at the next SSG.

#### 154. District Matters.

- a. **Litter Bins.** Some were being overlooked again. All members to be vigilant.

#### 155. Correspondence.

- a. Lovers Lane signage scheme. Members noted the new scheme proposed for the entrance to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Lovers lane that Mr Skilton had prepared after the November on site meeting to discuss road safety. Unfortunately there was no progress on any fundamental change to make the site entrance safer (reorganising entrance/extending site) so members agreed that, although this was only a small improvement, it should be supported while larger changes are campaigned for. Cllr Ginger wished to record his vote against as he was still of the opinion that, unless major change happens, the site should be closed before a resident is killed. The new scheme at least put some new surfacing down around the "slow" signs to emphasise the dangers.
- b. Members noted the date (25<sup>th</sup> May 2008) for this year's Memorial Service at Leiston Airfield.
- c. Members noted the ongoing consultation on the new regulations relating to the conduct of Councillors. This basically outlined the shift of responsibilities and decision making down to a more local level with regard to assessing and managing complaints. Members felt that this was a step in the right direction.
- d. Members noted the request for a donation from the Leiston Royal British Legion Band and also noted the request for members to waive the hire fee for the December Concert (2007). On a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed to donate £250 to the band, as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137, and also to waive the hire fee as requested.

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

- e. Members noted the request for a donation from the Pisces Swimming Club for the Disabled and, on a proposition from Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to donate £50 to Pisces as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- f. Members noted the request from the History Recorder for a donation toward expenses and asked that the clerk contact the Recorder to get a more detailed list of expenses to help them decide the level of their contribution.
- g. Victory Road Recreation Ground Fence. The Clerk informed members that the quotation from Zuan Ltd for installing bow topped railing fencing right along the south boundary of the Recreation Ground had increased from last year due to the cost of metal going up. He did assure members however that the cost was still well within the amount put into reserves to cover the project but explained that he felt it would be prudent to go firm on the current estimate (£14,000) rather than wait until the new financial year when metal may increase further. The work would be done in March/April so would not incur costs until the new year in any case. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the quotation from Zuan be accepted and that the fence be completed. It was further agreed that the fence be black in this instance (rather than Garrett Green) as the bespoke colour would be difficult to source and costly to implement.
- h. Members noted the correspondence on the table from SCDC to the County Council discussing the type and positioning of a bus shelter in Old Post Office Square. This was put onto the next Agenda for further discussion.

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

- i. Members looked through some correspondence from a resident who wished to make Councillors aware of certain personal concerns held by that resident and which required members to respond. The Clerk was asked to write to the correspondent and convey members' assurances on the matter raised.

**156. Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Howard asked whether the Clerk had been able to get the Ambulance Response times for Leiston. Unfortunately he had not been able to penetrate the new regional HQ in Bedford yet but was still trying. Cllr Mrs Nunn briefed members on the situation with regard to Travel Cannon at Saxmundham station and the possibility that the company may soon close thereby losing us the facility to buy and book train tickets at Saxmundham. The Clerk was asked to make this an Agenda item for next month to discuss the situation. Finally, members were asked whether they would like to have a private viewing of the hard hitting road safety presentation, mentioned earlier, as Mr last had volunteered to present it to them should they be interested. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and the Clerk asked to arrange a date.

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.

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

----- Chair

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