

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**5<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

- 176. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jeannette Pither, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a detailed résumé of crime in the Town during the month of March (attached). There were only 36 crimes last month against 51 recorded last March. Members reminded Jeannette that it had been agreed that the number of speeding and parking tickets issued would also appear on the monthly stats. They also brought up the ongoing issue of parking on the pavement outside and opposite the Primary School entrance at opening and closing times. This was requested to be given further attention. Mrs Borrett felt that the number of foot patrols in the town was down and asked that the PCSO's maybe keep up the good presence they had established over previous years. This of course may have been due to PCSO Marshall's layoff with injury (currently now healed and back on the beat) and the priority of speeding which required the PCSO's to be on the outskirts of town. There was concern from Mr Briggs that, in response to a callout at Haylings Pond, it had been attended by two PCSO's in a vehicle rather than the response police from the Hub System – he felt that his fears for the Hub System were being realised. Cllr Ginger brought up the issue of underage drinking around the area of King George Avenue Rec.
- 177. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who briefed members that the leader of the County Council, Jeremy Pembroke, was stepping down and that there were three or four candidates lining up to take over. There was then a discussion on the state of the verges in St Margaret's Crescent and Seaward Avenue which he had visited with Cllr Ginger. He explained that, to concrete or tarmac over the grass would, in effect, just make them part of the pavement which, if people obeyed the law, meant that you couldn't park on them. Instead, also as a green initiative to stop surface water run off, Cllr Smith exhibited a sample of strong green plastic mesh which could be installed which would still allow grass growth and heavy vehicular use at the same time. The very rough costings for the schemes envisaged at the two sites were £9,000 and £6,500 respectively. If there was support for the measure then Cllr Smith said he may be able to find some £5,000 toward the project in year with some more the following year – the rest would have to be found from other agencies however. There was mention of the entrance road into Heath View which, if the whole 80m were to be replaced, would cost £30,000 which, in the current climate, was extremely unlikely. Another option might be another resurfacing attempt but again, this was being looked at as projects around the County were prioritised. Cllr Boast raised the problems facing many disabled residents currently living independently in purpose built accommodation. Government initiatives to raise rent and lower housing benefits has meant that many of these residents could no longer afford the accommodation. Cllr Smith suggested that the local MP should be appraised of the difficulties but he would also have a look at the changes that Cllr Boast was reporting. Mr Briggs reported an article he had read in the media on the overspend at CSD which seemed extremely excessive – up to 40% - he wondered whether this was true. Cllr Smith did not recognise the figures at all and felt they were grossly inaccurate. He undertook to ask the questions and try and find out what Mr Briggs was referring to. Finally, Mr Hawes made a statement to draw attention to the current policy of the County Council to withdraw the talking book service to our partially sighted residents, even sending postage paid packages for the residents to return the equipment needed to use the books. Mr Hawes tried to explain to the meeting just how important a lifeline these talking books were for the partially sighted and how devastated the users were at this petty costcutting. He had written to the local MP who had toed the party line and he just wished everyone to know what an absolute disgrace he thought the measure was.
- 178. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that there were 13 long standing members of the District Council standing down at this May's election who, between them, had served their communities for nearly 170 years.

- 179. Public Forum.** Mr Burns raised the issue of inaccuracies quoted in the March Heritage Coast Gazette with regard to the amount of public subsidy the theatre attracted which he wished to correct as they had had a demoralising effect on staff. Mrs Hill, Chairman of the Film Theatre Support Club, also read out a statement from the club clearly correcting the other unfortunately worded quotes in the article putting the record straight on the club's huge commitment to raising funds for the Theatre and expressing her hope that the article did not put off any future club supporters from joining and helping.

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 part of the meeting to continue.

**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> APRIL 2011, at 8.13 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. E. Bailey**  
**Councillor D. Boast**  
**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**  
**Councillor N Parker**

- 180. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 be signed as a true record. It was further proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the minutes for 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011 also be signed as a true record.
- 181. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mr Nunn, Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Mrs Nunn.
- 182. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the visit of HRH Prince of Wales on 4<sup>th</sup> March to St Edmundsbury Cathedral where they had viewed the vaulted ceiling and organ. Later, he had attended the 1379 Leiston ATC Presentation Night and, the next week, the 1379 Leiston ATC committee meeting. With fellow Councillors he had viewed the latest National Grid presentation on the Greater Galloper Wind Farm and, finally this month, he had attended the Evensong for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice.
- 183. Retiring Councillors.** With both Cllr Huxley and Cllr Geater not standing for the May elections the Chairman felt that their combined contribution over many years should be recognised at this, their last meeting. "Frank was first elected to the Urban District Council in May 1964. His talent was recognised early and he was elected Chairman of the UDC in 1968 and later, once the UDC had become the Town Council, Frank took the Chair three more times in 1998, 2003 and 2004. Since 1964 he has served almost continuously apart from a short break in the early seventies when in 1970 he lost his seat in the infamous "Knight and Day" election. It was not until 1979, after another infamous election in the town, that Frank regained his seat. First becoming a Councillor 47 years ago he has

served 38 years on the Council and is one of our most respected colleagues. We have unofficially relied upon him for many years now to ensure our proceedings remain within our Standing Orders and without you here in the future Frank we will have to keep an eye on that clock at 7.30! John [Geater] was first elected to the UDC in 1969 and, apart from a short break of 4 months has served on the UDC and Town Council for almost 42 years. In 1979, although not elected in the May he was welcomed back to fill a vacancy in September of that year and has served continuously ever since without a break. He was also returned as our elected member to the brand new Suffolk Coastal District Council in 1973 and has served almost continuously on that Council now for 37 years as well. He has been the chairman of the Town Council three times in 1977, 1983 and 1988 and was Chairman of our District Council in 1985. If I may I would like to pay tribute to you both for all the hard work you have put in to represent the residents of Leiston and for all the countless hours of your own precious time you have given to help make Leiston what it is today. The Council will be a different forum without your experience at the table but it will be in a very good place because of the years you have both spent building its reputation.”

184. **Town Appraisal.** The Town Appraisal Steering Group are well established now and have their own presence on the internet at [www.leiston.info](http://www.leiston.info) . They are progressing with the business of consulting residents and have just had their first press releases published to that effect. It is hoped they will report back to Council by late autumn.
185. **Library.** Members were pleased that a group had formed to put in an expression of interest to save the Leiston Library. Members also felt that the group would benefit from a clear expression of support from the Town Council in their endeavours to put together a rescue plan. In that light members, after some discussion, felt that the best way they could help the group, was to allocate £10,000 to an earmarked reserve to help the project in its first year (2012/2013) so that the group could use that in their initial business plan which had to be worked up by June this year. This was agreed on a proposal from Cllr Howard which was seconded by Cllr Ginger. The risks attached to such a reserve were to be spelt out by the Clerk although it was hoped that a future Council, elected in May this year, would honour the spirit of that gesture should the group ever apply for the grant.
186. **Youth Club.** Members heard a report from the meeting of the previous evening of the Youth Club Support Group. The meeting had also included Mr Keith Jennings from the County Council, the Club's youth workers, Cllr Cooper and the Clerk. The results of many discussions around the table were that the youth workers at Leiston, who had to work out their redundancy, wanted to do so at Leiston. If permission could be gained for this to happen then the open access could continue until the end of the summer term. The Support Group would be progressing that. The next issue was what happens after that. It appeared extremely likely that the school would be taking over the building and that they would be very supportive of the building still being used for open access in the evening. The terms of the rental etc. would just need to be worked out. The group discussed staffing next. The current youth workers were all committed, enthusiastic and very keen to continue if there were a way to both fund and payroll them. Members heard that CYDS had expressed an interest in helping there by taking on the payroll, training and insurance responsibilities although they could not fund the posts. It was agreed that a meeting had to be arranged with the school and then CYDS to take these ideas forward. It was also proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that £10,000 be set aside in an earmarked reserve for the next council to use as they see fit to support the continuation of open access youth provision in Leiston for the remainder of this year. The support group still had money and assets to use for this term and were very positive about the future as, once the restrictions of just providing for 13-17 year olds was lifted, they could see opportunities to expand the number of young people they could work with. Members thanked Mr Briggs for his efforts in trying to get the angling section affiliated to a national group which would help with insurance and support for that activity.

During the above item Cllr Huxley and Cllr Boast declared a personal interest as Chairman and member (respectively) of the Support group. They remained in the room to answer questions.

**187. School Crossing Patrol.** Members heard that the Middle School and the Middle School Parents Support Group were exploring ways of trying to take on the crossing patrol from September but, as yet, had had no steer from the County on how this could be done.

**188. Finance.**

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £3,850.63p along with £17,643.83p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (9.05pm – 9.25pm) for refreshments

**189. Planning Matters.**

- a. **C11/0363 – Construction of three dwellings on land adjacent garages – existing garages to remain – Garage Area, Garrett Crescent, Leiston.** There were many members around the table who, along with the District Council, had roundly refused to permit a development on this site in 1994. The area had not changed in that time and the green space has matured and developed into a safe, contained and well used play area for young residents. It was a part of the Schedule of Play space in SPG15 and was also, actually, one of the areas that addressed the main deficiency of distribution and quality in that schedule. Members were unanimous in their opinion that this was an unsatisfactory form of backland development and that it removed valuable amenity from the surrounding properties, increased traffic movements, and eroded the existing character and appearance of the area. The proposal was too cramped and would alter the feel and amenity of the site, significantly for the worse, for all time and should not be allowed to happen. The original refusal of permission, as mentioned, was pretty clear and members hoped that, like them, SCDC would still recognise the deficiencies in this application and refuse it. (Cllr Hawkins abstained).

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest and remained in the room.

- b. **C11/0418 – Retention of fifty six boreholes for site investigation purposes in association with the potential development of the site for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell Power Station, Leiston.** Members realised that the holes may need to be retained for further collection of data but did not think that an indefinite extension should be given. It was recommended that a further 12 months be approved so that the situation could be looked at again then.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- c. **C11/0456 – Erection of single-storey at 100 Haylings Road, Leiston .**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- d. **C11/0592 – Flood Defence works to improve future protection against coastal flooding of this protected (Natura 2000) site; consisting of the following works:- the raising & widening of an existing embankment to create a new line of defence;- construction & operation of replacement culvert & water control structures;- construction of two coastal bunds to protect existing sea defences.** Members realised that this is important work and a lot of thought had gone into the requirements but they still just wanted to seek assurance that everything would be done to keep the footpaths and bridleways open and safe where at all possible. They also understood that the beach footpath needed to be closed and hoped that heavy machinery would not stop residents walking along the shoreline too. Westelton's comments would be more searching but there did not appear to be any alternative to the routes suggested and there was a public meeting planned there to look at the consequences.

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e. **National Grid consultation on siting options for 400,000 volt GIS substation to connect the Galloper offshore windfarm to the grid.** Members had all put in their own feedback forms at the recent public exhibition and agreed that an official response from the Town Council should ask that every effort be made by all parties to site the substation on the Sizewell A site but, only if that proved impossible, site NGI be considered as the only other alternative (next to current substation).

190. **County Matters.**

- a. **Traffic Order Review.** The proposed changes to the traffic orders around the town are now being advertised until 9<sup>th</sup> May. The maps with the definitive markings on are available (and have been advertised as such) at the Library for viewing.

191. **District Matters.**

- a. **Leiston Business Association.** Members noted that the LBA, in their latest minutes, had stated that they felt that Christmas Lighting should be the responsibility of the Town Council. Members supported the Chairman's action in reminding them that the current outfit of lights belonged to the LBA and that, in virtually every other town, it was the Chamber of Commerce or Business Association that erected the lights as it was primarily for their benefit to increase trade and well being in the retail sector of the Town. That aside however he would continue dialogue with the LBA to try and mutually resolve this issue.
- b. **Upper Abbey Farm.** Cllr Ginger, supported by members, asked that the Clerk to write to EDF to enquire what their intentions were for the restoration and repair of Upper Abbey Farm after the fire of 2009.

192. **Correspondence.**

- a. No correspondence of note received.

- 193. **Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Huxley and Cllr Geater thanked the Chairman for his kind words earlier and thanked the other members for all their support and friendship over the many years they had served together.

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

----- Chair

----- Dated