

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**5<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

- 65. Presentation by Mrs Bridget Berry of East Suffolk Mind.** The Chairman introduced Mrs Bridget Berry who runs the Resource Centre at The Willows in Saxmundham for East Suffolk MIND. Bridget gave a very evocative and detailed description of the work that goes on at the centre and the services it provided. The meeting heard how the workload had almost tripled over the last few years whilst the funding had been reduced at the same time. This meant that paid staff were now rarely replaced when they left and Bridget relied very heavily on volunteer workers who, the meeting heard, were all extremely hard working, dedicated and caring people. During questions it emerged that the cuts in funding (and services) in the wider sphere meant that there was now very little support given to mental health patients once they left St Clements. This had increased the workload at the Willows and had also increased the importance of the centre as it was now one of the few places people and families could turn to for the help that had been withdrawn elsewhere.
- 66. Police Report.** The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of Police Constable Mortimer, Suffolk Constabulary, who was unfortunately unable to attend. A report had been sent though for members to read.
- 67. District Report.** Cllr Geater and Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report. Cllr Ginger expressed concern about the state of the recycling centre on High Street Car Park. Cllr Geater asked that residents report fly tipping or untidy sites to Suffolk Coastal (01394 444000) and something would be done to sort out the problem. Cllr Ginger appreciated this but wondered whether the periodicity of the sites inspection or maintenance was enough in the first instance. Cllr Girling expressed concern at the reported impending increase in charges for using the Leisure Centre and asked Cllr Hawkins how much this was going to be. Cllr Hawkins assured the meeting that DC leisure were unable to increase charges without consulting or gaining the consent of SCDC which, in this instance they had done, the increases were necessary to cover the huge increase in energy charges recently and would be the minimum that they could possibly be to offset this. Mr Taylor asked Cllr Hawkins whether he had any further information on the issue he had raised two months ago vis-à-vis Waterloo Mews. Cllr Hawkins reported that double yellow lines were imminent along Waterloo Avenue around the entrance to the Mews. Mr Briggs hoped that the District Councillors were aware of the grubby state of many areas in the Leisure Centre and wondered whether it got regularly inspected by SCDC to ensure DC leisure were looking after their premises correctly?
- 67a. County Council Report.** Cllr Ron Ward sent apologies.

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,**  
**5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006, at 7:48p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. E. Bailey**  
**Councillor B. A. Barnes**  
**Councillor J. L. Geater**  
**Councillor C.S. Ginger**  
**Councillor Mrs J. I. Girling**  
**Councillor T. J. Hawkins**  
**Councillor F. R. Huxley**  
**Councillor Mrs D. Y. May**

- 68. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2006 be signed as a true record.

- 69. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllrs Hodgson, Howard, Blowers, Mrs Geater and Mr Nunn.
- 70. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, she had represented the Council at a reception held by the Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council and also at the Leiston Squadron Air Training Corps' open evening at which she had presented many cadets with their hard won awards and qualifications. Cllr Mrs Nunn then thanked all the Councillors who had helped with, or contributed to, the recent Council Newsletter. Members enquired after the health of Cllr Cooper and asked the Clerk to write and express their concern and best wishes in view of the difficult time he was having with his health.
- 71. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.** Members noted that the minutes of the recent meeting of the Leiston and Saxmundham Local Implementation Group of the CDRP and were interested in the comments made about the area around the Kebab House by Mafeking Place in light of the planning application to be discussed later. Cllr Ginger also updated members on the CCTV partnership which was still looking for funding.
- 72. Film Theatre Committee.** Members noted the minutes of the Film Theatre Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August at which the Williams report had been discussed in some detail. Cllr Bailey commented on the complimentary comments made in the report and most Councillors were satisfied that the report gave a very good overview on the current state of the Cinema and were pleased at the comments which stated that the venue was being run as well as it could be. It was also noted that there was very little room for efficiency improvements. Cllr Geater was upset as he felt an opportunity had been missed by not instructing the Consultant to take on a wider remit and for him to have consulted with all the residents to see what they felt needed doing to improve the venue or, indeed to see if it was appreciated what residents were getting for their money as the Leiston precept was higher than many in Suffolk Coastal because of the Theatre deficit. He took issue with some general statements made by Mr Williams on how a cinema was the most wanted facility in towns that no longer had one – he felt a Post office and General Store would be much higher up the list. He also made the point that he felt the Cinema was a luxury and not a service (i.e. like the Leisure Centre) and was therefore not needed. Members allowed Cllr Geater to make his points and then returned to the Committee report which made some clear short term recommendations on how the venue could be improved along the lines laid out in Mr Williams report. The Clerk undertook to get some costings for a new screen and some ideas on modernising the buildings facade. Cllr Hawkins asked whether members would mind if a representative of the Film Theatre Support Club could attend future Committee meetings to which members agreed. Members also felt that they should stick with the more accurate slogan of Suffolk's Oldest Cinema rather than the more challengeable (although true!) one of Suffolk's Friendliest Cinema, as suggested in the report. Finally, members asked the Clerk to thank the Support Club for their passionate support and their excellent fundraising which was helping upgrade the live show equipment as part of the clubs "Set the Stage" campaign.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- 73. Highways.** Members noted the minutes of the Highways meeting held in July and were briefed by the Clerk on various items that had progressed (or not) since that meeting. Footpath 12 was being metalled and Cllr Ginger was soon to meet with officials from Suffolk Heritage Housing Association on site in St Margarets Crescent to discuss possible ways ahead for parking and adapting the grass verges. Cllr Huxley wished to have it minuted that the footway to Highbury Cottages, despite the lack of support from the County Council, remained this Councils top priority. This was agreed. The Clerk explained that the widening of footpath 16 by the Primary School to a shared facility had been cancelled as the tree officers from both District and County were dead against the felling of the mature poplars the works would have required. Most members were in sympathy with this decision and were pleased the trees would be allowed to remain. The Clerk was asked to write to the safe to schools officer to request an update on the 20's plenty signing due for Waterloo and Seaward Avenues. There was also a call to investigate at future Highway meetings whether there was a possibility of installing a zebra crossing by Church Road to help young families cross Waterloo Avenue on their way to use Church Walk et al.
- 74. Local development Framework.** Members reflected on the activity over the summer and were informed that there had been no further movement by SCDC or NII to substantially change the current status quo which appeared to completely discount any further accommodation being built in Leiston in the foreseeable future. Members were therefore restricted to putting forward their ideas and plans for the site specific element of the Local Development Framework on an "if possible" basis. It was hoped that more concrete guidelines would emerge in time to plan properly. In the meantime it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr May and agreed that the Clerk write to HSE and request that they instigate a Judicial Review into the passing of planning permission for Colonial House on the grounds that the proper procedure was not followed in that the plans were not referred to the NII as should have been the case.
- 75. Sizewell Stakeholder Group.** It was agreed that Cllr May would go to the next meeting in lieu of Cllr Howard. Members noted the letter on the table which was a very positive response to members concerns about the state of the beach where the Civil Nuclear Police were driving over it with their vehicles. They were also very pleased to note the

Power Stations kind offer to pay for a new boat at Crown Farm since the current incumbent had unfortunately been destroyed by an out of control vehicle. Members discussed their concern at the way the SSG were proposing to go out to consultation on the Sizewell A end state preferences right out as far as Ipswich – it was felt that this was a local matter – they also felt that it was disingenuous to consult people on end states that were clearly not going to happen. It was hoped our representatives could raise this at the appropriate point of the forthcoming SSG meeting. Members were informed that the procedures being followed were those recommended by the NDA hence the consultation forms might need to be adapted for local conditions as they were currently reflecting the “global” approach. On a similar theme Cllr Geater felt that the SSG had lost a little of the “local” flavour that the LCLC used to have as that concentrated on close liaison with the immediate neighbours to the Power Stations. Cllr Girling raised some items on the minutes of the sub group meeting which she would probably raise at the 8<sup>th</sup> September meeting. Finally, just to ensure there was no doubt about this Councils view it was agreed that both representatives would reinforce the “Greenfield” site end state option as much as possible and that the Clerk would resend the letter he sent in response to the initial consultation stating this Councils view to ensure that the SSG had received it.

**76. Victory Road Recreation Ground.** The Clerk briefed members on the limited progress being made in obtaining play equipment. He had received three quotes for swings to replace the redundant ones by the skatepark and organised a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September for the Management Committee to choose the best option. Members were concerned at the way the project was falling behind and asked the Clerk to write to the District Councillors to see if there was any way they could help bring this up the agenda a bit.

#### **77. Finance**

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** On a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr May, it was agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £3411.23p along with £13,208.29p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Film Theatre Support Club.** Members noted the donation the Support Club had made toward the new DVD player and asked the Clerk to write and thank them very much for their continued support.

#### **78. Planning Matters**

- a) **C06/1563/FUL – Erection of 1.8m boundary fence at 12 South Close, Leiston.** Members felt that this site is opposite and part of an attractive corner and the plans to put a fence up right up to the pavement would spoil this. The visibility of drivers and general outlook of all the neighbours would be degraded by this plan. Members also felt that a hedge would be a more acceptable solution should SCDC feel obliged to approve  
**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**
- b) **C06/1513/OUT – Use of land for the erection of one single storey dwelling and new vehicular access to serve 118 Haylings Road, Leiston. (re-submission)** Members felt, on reflection, that there now appeared no way that this plot could be used without affecting the trees or the building looking cramped, out of place and out of keeping. The grounds around 118 Haylings Road are an important part of the properties design and stature and this scheme would reduce the amenity enjoyed by the current property quite considerable (Garaging, garden and privacy). It should also be referred to the NII for consultation.  
**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**
- c) **C06/1538/VOC – Variation of condition 03 of C91/1095 to allow opening until 01:30 Fridays and Saturdays, and 24:00 Monday to Thursday at 37 High Street, Leiston.** Members were extremely concerned that granting this extension would exacerbate the crime and disorder problems which have been associated with this premises for over five years now. The neighbours in Mafeking Place have suffered enormously from this venue and, as members noted earlier in the meeting, continue to do so. Indeed, the only way of curbing past nuisance has been by taking planning enforcement action on the landlord. Approving this application would remove that control and subject neighbours to increased loss of amenity well into the night.  
**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**
- d) **C06/1562/FUL – Erection of detached garage at 20 Valley Terrace, Leiston.**  
**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

- e) **C06/1547/OUT – Creation of new building plot using existing modified access at the rear of 16 Aldeburgh Road, Leiston.** This proposal was considered to be an unacceptable attempt at backland development on a cramped site which would considerably undermine the amenity enjoyed by 16 Aldeburgh Road and all the neighbouring properties. It is not in keeping with the street scene and would set a very unpleasant precedent should other properties in Aldeburgh Road wish to follow suit. It was also confirmed that this application must be shown to the NII for comment.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

During the above item Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Huxley declared a personal interest, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

- f) **C06/1486/FUL – Revised position for garage/store/workshop outbuilding permitted by C05/1227/FUL at 3 Coastguard Cottages, Sizewell Gap, Leiston.** Members hoped that their previous request to make these cottages part of a conservation area was still being looked at and that suitable materials might be specified for this particular application to ensure the garage was in keeping with that ethos

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

**79. County Matters.**

- a) **White Horse Corner Traffic Lights.** Several members confirmed that they felt the phasing of these lights were incorrect and that they needed re jiggling. The Clerk was asked to action.

**80. District Matters.**

- a) **SALC.** Members were invited to the SALC AGM in October which, this year, was being presented in a different format. Cllr Huxley agreed to go and members agreed to pay all expenses.

**81. Correspondence.**

- a) Members noted the reply from Cllr Ray Herring explaining why grants had been cut this year.
- b) Members noted the invitation for a Cllr to attend the next meeting of the Film Theatre Support Club and the Clerk undertook to confirm with Cllr Hodgson whether he was available.
- c) Members were pleased with the efforts being made to put up a suitable memorial at the Bulcamp Poor House Burial Ground but asked the Clerk to enquire whether suitable long term arrangements were in place to ensure its ongoing maintenance.
- d) Members agreed for Cllrs Girling, May and Mrs Nunn to attend the Planning Seminar being held at Stratford St Andrew on 19<sup>th</sup> October.
- e) Letters from the Swimming Club and East Suffolk MIND requesting grant aid were both held over until December to be considered alongside all other similar requests.

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 continue for a further 15 minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Mrs May 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.

**82. Personnel.** Members discussed two items regarding personnel and confirmed a meeting of the Personnel Support Group for 14<sup>th</sup> September.

**83. Questions to the Chairman.**

- a) Cllr Girling quickly briefed members that the run of first of the month table top sales had been well received and asked that the subject be included on the next agenda for further discussion.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 10.17 pm.

----- Chair

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