

Pre-meeting Reports
5th October 2010

66. Cllr Graham Newman. Cllr Newman addressed the meeting in his position as Portfolio Holder for Children and Young Peoples' Services at Suffolk County Council. He explained where the County were at with regard to the current move from three tier to two tier education and answered questions on the possible effect on this process that Saxmundham moving to a "Free School" would have. He could not give any re-assurance about future funding for Youth Clubs however as this was one of the many items still under review. Cllr Newman answered all the other questions he was able to and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the members and residents at the meeting for coming.

67 Police Report. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshal, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a detailed résumé of crime in the Town during September (attached). One item Philip was asked to look into was how diversions are set up when major roadworks close throughroutes etc. Mr Last was concerned that illegal parking on the diversion routes can be a real problem especially as the diversion route is often unsuitable for the increased traffic flow in the first place. Members agreed that there might be real benefit in instituting a standard operating procedure for setting up diversions which included local police advice at the planning stage and increased patrols along the diversion once in operation (currently not the case).

68 County Report. The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Richard Smith who talked through the County Council's new strategic plans and tried to explain how Parishes etc. would now be consulted on the detail. Mr Briggs expressed concern about the state of some of the local roads in and around Leiston and hoped that any reduced investment in the County's infrastructure did not leave us the poor relation again.

69 District Report. Cllr Hawkins explained the current process Suffolk Coastal District Council was going through in scrutinizing the Councils planning services. After two long and detailed public meetings to hear evidence etc. the Scrutiny Committee was now correlating the information and data gained to enable them to present a final report to cabinet. He would keep members informed.

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,
5th OCTOBER 2010, at 8.27 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 T. E. Hodgson
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey
Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn
Councillor N Parker

- 70 Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7th September 2010 be signed as a true record.
- 71 Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Mr Nunn, Cllr Barnes and Cllr Howard.
- 72 Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman explained that he had had a quiet September and had nothing to report.
- 73 Town Appraisal.** The Committee met and discussed ways of taking the appraisal forward. The first step would be to enthuse and attract members of the public to come forward and join a steering group. This would ensure that the project was community wide and not Council led. Members agreed to try a publicity campaign and get press releases into the various free papers as well as the East Anglian with a target date for a public meeting of Tuesday 16th November.
- 74 Sizewell Management meeting.** The Clerk reminded members that there would be a management meeting at Sizewell village the next evening 6th October.
- 75 Meeting with Mr Tim Collard (SCS Ltd).** The Clerk reminded members that there was a meeting arranged with Mr Collard for 2.15pm on 13th October. He pointed out that one of the main items on the agenda would be a discussion on how the town centre street cleansing might be done in the future as the current operative had recently left.
- 76 Highbury Cottage Footpath.** The Clerk updated members on the proposal to install a footpath inside the hedgeline alongside the field between Waterloo Avenue and Highbury Cottages. There had been positive discussions with the landowner who was now consulting with his land agent to consider an agreement.
- 77 Christmas Lights.** Members accepted that the lights as we have known them for many years would not be put up in that form this year. It remained to be seen whether some of the lights were recoverable but the dilemma came in possibly deciding to use what money that has been set aside for erection of the lights this year as a deposit on a new and modern set for the future. This was certainly an attractive idea and was further enhanced by Cllr Boast

who had contacted many of the former members of the Leiston Gala committee to seek their views on how to use that Committees residual funds for the benefit of the community. They felt that this would be a suitable project to fulfil those aims. It was agreed to let a small sub committee look at the lights and get some idea of the cost of purchasing a new outfit for the town and report back with recommendations.

78 Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG). Members looked at the new draft proposal submitted by the SPLG which outlined their intentions to enter into negotiations with the energy industries in the area to set up a Community Fund. Members again pointed out that it would be Leiston who took virtually all the disruption of construction and hoped that it be made very clear that achieving any 106 agreements for amelioration in Leiston would be members first priority and would be separate from this venture. There was therefore some discussion on whether there might be a conflict should it look as though the SPLG were being taken as a voice for Leiston but members agreed, for the time being, to remain a member unless that situation occurred.

79 Fairtrade. Cllr Mrs Nunn reported that she had applied to retain the Town's Fairtrade Status for next year and, having met all the criteria in the application, was confident that this would be achieved. Last year, during Fairtrade Fortnight, the Council had contributed by allowing the Community Centre to be used for a "Fairtrade Day" where companies and Sole Traders in Leiston who supported the Fairtrade standard displayed their wares and allowed residents to sample the products available. Cllr Mrs Nunn felt that the Cinema Foyer would be a more central venue to hold this year's event in however to which members agreed.

80 Visit to Great Blakenham Recycling centre. Members noted the final arrangements for the visit to the Recycling Centre at Gt Blakenham on Wednesday 13th October.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (9pm – 9.20pm) for refreshments

81 Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £94,371.89p along with £11,054.43p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Review of Pay and Allowances.** Members accepted the recommendation of the Personnel Committee who, after taking into account the increase in National Minimum Wage, had recommended to members that an average across the board increase of 2% be approved for all staff. This would not be backdated however and would come into force from 1st October. On a proposition from Cllr Mrs Nunn, seconded by Cllr Hodgson it was agreed to accept the recommendation and award a 2% increase.
- c) **Review of options for Town Husbandry.** Members noted the report from the Town Clerk which detailed the budgetary implications after the departure of the Town Handyman. The report detailed some projects which required capital funding to achieve and the services that could be bought on an annual contract with SCS Ltd. The overall saving if both recommendations were approved would be £2,000 in year and £3,000 next year. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Nunn, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the projects and maintenance items presented in the report be approved.

82 Planning Matters.

- a. **C10/1989 – Erection of single storey extension at the rear of 25 Long Row to replace the existing conservatory, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- b. **C10//2382 – Erection of two storey side extension single storey garage extension at 4 Kitchener Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL
- c. **C10/2523 – Erection of one two-storey detached cottage (renewal of planning permission C07/1306) Part Garden 40 Carr Ave, Leiston.** Having opposed the original application members were not inclined to pass comment again on the inadequate arrangements for parking.

NO COMMENT

d. **C10/2543 – Erection of first floor extension, 28 Southfield Drive, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

83 County Matters.

- a. **Waterloo Avenue.** The barrier had finally been moved.
- b. **Traffic Order Review.** The Clerk explained how the exhibition would be worked and assured members that all the arrangements were in place to advertise the event and thanked those members who had volunteered to man it.
- c. **White Horse Corner.** Members drew attention to the piece of ironwork that unfortunately had not been raised during the recent, rather good, resurfacing of that junction.

84 District Matters.

- a. **Nothing raised.**

85 Correspondence.

- a. **Festival of Remembrance.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the use of the Film Theatre for the Festival of Remembrance be donated to the Poppy Appeal.
- b. **Leiston, Saxmundham and District Citizens Advice Bureau.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the CAB and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins it was agreed to release £1,600 set aside for this purpose.

During the above item (b) Cllr Huxley declared an interest
and left the room

- c. **Town and Parish Planning Forum.** Members noted the forthcoming Planning Forums being held by SCDC later in the month. Cllr Boast and Cllr Mrs Nunn both wished to go to the event at the Riverside on 27th October.
- d. **SALC AGM.** Cllr Huxley agreed to represent the Council at the SALC AGM on 8th November.
- e. **Local Strategic Partnership.** This year's LSP Forum has been advertised for 12th November at Trinity Park. The Chairman and Clerk undertook to attend.

- 86 Questions to the chairman.** Members asked the Chairman to take issue with the number of HGVs that still go through the Town Centre. It was felt that this was due to lorries blindly following SATNAV and, perhaps not so foolishly, Eastlands direction signs might be reviewed to ensure they were best placed and that, possibly, they be in several languages...

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.53 pm.

----- Chair

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