

Pre-meeting Reports
6th February 2007

156. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Chris Lucas, Suffolk Constabulary – the new Sector Commander for Leiston. Chris introduced himself and gave a brief overview of crime statistics in Leiston for January. Taking questions he noted Cllr Howard's concerns about the Civil Nuclear Police and how they appeared to be carrying out routine police work in the Town. He undertook to get back to Council once he had had time to get more familiar with operations in the sector and would certainly look at the points raised. Cllr Hawkins asked that Inspector Lucas' team look into a recent spate of damage to vehicles in Prospect Place and Cllr Ginger hoped that they would also enforce the parking restrictions in town more visibly. With no more questions Cllr Nunn thanked Inspector Lucas for taking the time to come and meet the Council and hoped that his tour was a successful one.

157. County Report. The Chairman announced that Cllr Ron Ward had sent his apologies.

158. District Report. Cllr Hawkins announced that, unfortunately, the Northern Coastal CCTV Partnership had been unsuccessful with their bid for funding from the Home Office for a CCTV system. The reason given was that the funding would be going to other bids in areas with higher crime rates. Cllr Hawkins assured members that alternative funding was being sought so this was not the end of the project just yet. In answer to a question Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the Greater Gabbard sub station had been approved (without any alterations) for the site by Broom Covert. He also read out a progress report of negotiations between the planning authority and the Health and Safety Executive which was trying to clarify the situation with regard to any further population increase that any new developments in Leiston might bring. This would be discussed further under District Matters. Mr Nichols read out a statement which described his concern and annoyance at recent events on and around the Haylings Road Allotments with regard to dogs. Members heard that the clerk would be writing to the Allotment Association to try and negotiate a clearer stance on what level of enforcement they would wish to see at that site. Mr Briggs brought members attention to the fact that Lloyds Pharmacy had once again failed to open due to the lack of a pharmacist and Mr Taylor asked Cllr Hawkins what powers and duties SCDC had with regard to clearing graffiti as there were still some ugly examples in the town that had been there for over two months. This and other issues raised of overflowing litter bins etc. would be raised with Mr Collard (SCS Ltd) on 21st February.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper 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,
6th FEBRUARY 2007, at 7.35p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor B. A. Barnes
Councillor A. M. Cooper
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor J. I. Girling
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor W. H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor Mrs D.Y. May

159. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2007 be signed as a true record with the addition that Cllr Ginger's interest be noted as declared in minute 151.

160. Apologies. Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Geater, Cllr Mr Nunn, and Cllr Blowers.

161. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman informed the meeting that January had been very quiet and that the only function at which she had been invited to represent the town was at the "End of Sizewell A Generation" official function held for all current and ex-employees.

162. Household Waste Site – Councillors had met with Mr Mark Deer and Mr Adam Smith of Suffolk County Council at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Lovers Lane on 23rd January to discuss ways of alleviating the dangerous traffic situation there. After discussion on the report from that meeting it was agreed that the Councils position remained that of fully supporting an enlargement of the site and to continue lobbying for a speed limit and/or a speed camera to enforce it. This was considered the minimum and members noted the County's intention to write to British Energy to investigate increasing the area under lease. Members discussed seeking the support of surrounding towns and villages but felt this was not needed just yet as there were still negotiations to be had that could take this forward.

163. Meeting of Crime and Disorder Partnership (and CCTV). Cllr Ginger pointed out that he had raised the issue of no waiting enforcement at the meeting and noted Inspector Lucas' comments earlier in the evening. It was hoped that the Community Support Officers coming on line soon would have a positive impact on the situation. Cllr Hodgson reported that he had been elected Chairman of the Northern Coastal CCTV Partnership and re-iterated that they were still fighting for funding.

164. Highbury Cottage Footway. Members reviewed the correspondence recently received which included the assessment criteria and scoring used to establish the viability of requested rural footways. Members agreed that they would like to meet Mr Goodyear (Rural Footways Project Engineer) on site on 13th February to walk the route and to point out that it was not technically a rural footway. They also hoped to demonstrate why they are so concerned about the stretch of road the path is proposed for. The Clerk was also asked to write to BE and the NDA (+ SCC) to try and make a case for increased traffic (de-commissioning) and to investigate the viability of partnership funding.

165. Footpath 16B – Quakers Cottages. Members heard that the stretch of this footpath from Quakers Cottages to the High School entrance was becoming increasingly impassable in wet weather due to the accumulation of water at the bend. It was felt that this path needed urgent work to alleviate the problem and would benefit from being metalled or having some sort of hogging laid as this was a very well used path by schoolchildren. The Clerk was asked to seek assistance in getting this done from the High School and the County Council.

166. Seaward Avenue and Sylvester Road grass verges. Members heard how the verges in these two roads were being devastated by cars parking on them in this wet weather. Unfortunately members could not really see any solution to the problem and asked for the issue to be looked at with County Officers at the forthcoming Highways Working Party meeting.

167. Newsletter. The Clerk updated members on progress and members discussed the draft making suggestions and highlighting areas that needed alterations.

168. Finance

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** On a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £13,062.17p along with £13,019.37p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Auditors Report for 2005/2006.** The Clerk informed members that the Council had finally received the Auditors Statement for the year ending 31 March 2006. There were no matters that had attracted their attention or had given them concern that the relevant legislation etc. had not been met. There were also no matters that the auditors felt needed drawing to members attention.

169. Planning Matters

- a) **C07/0045/FUL – Erection of two storey side extension, one and a half storey rear extension and a detached garage/store at Mill Cottage, 87 Valley Road, Leiston.** Members were slightly concerned about the scale of the proposed development and wanted careful attention paid to finishes. They also hoped a clause could be added to preclude any future attempt to divide the property in two

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b) **C07/0142/FUL – Erection of two storey rear extension on 39 St Margaret Crescent, Leiston.** Members considered the footprint to be too big and the size and scale too overbearing on the neighbours. It would also be very visible from the rear of all the other properties around the back garden enclosure and would look out of keeping.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- c) **C07/0043/FUL – Erection of single storey rear extension and new pitched roof to replace existing flat roof at 95 Abbey Road, Leiston.** Members felt that precedents had already been set along the Abbey Road ribbon development and, although the size and scale of the new roof of this application was quite substantial, the extension itself was modest and acceptable.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C07/0047/FUL – Erection of single storey extension, amended scheme to C06/1236 at Swiss Lodge, 46 Haylings Road, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

170. County Matters.

- a) **Schools Review.** Members asked that the review of our schools be placed on the March Agenda for comment and that the Clerk obtain a hard copy of the PDP report.
- b) **White Lines.** Cllr May highlighted the very poor condition of the white line markings turning right into Waterloo Avenue from Station Road. The Clerk was asked to bring this and the state of many of the other lines in Leiston to the attention of Mr Oldham.

171. District Matters.

- a) **HSE NII review of limitations.** Members were concerned that mention had been made of a letter between the Planning Authority and the HSE with regard to a relaxation in the amount of permitted development in the Town. It did not appear to mention the robustness of the current evacuation plan to cope with any increase and members therefore asked the Clerk to request a sighting of the full text of this letter and for the Town Council to be kept more transparently in the loop on this issue.

Cllr Hawkins left the meeting.

172. Correspondence.

- a) **Local Development Framework – Core Issues.** Members noted the Consultation Document and the request for comments. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Howard undertook to take away the two available hard copies to study and the clerk was asked to obtain another two copies and a CD.
- b) **Church Bridge, Saxmundham.** Members were still very upset at the attitude and arrogance of the County Council with regard to this issue and asked the Clerk to write and clarify exactly what the County Council considered to be the savings involved in closing this bridge completely for four months rather than leaving one lane open during construction. And what was it that took four months to do?
- c) **Family Carers.** Members noted the request for grant aid from Suffolk Family Carers and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Girling, it was agreed to donate £50 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- d) **East Suffolk Headway.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Ipswich and East Suffolk Headway charity and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Barnes, it was agreed to donate £50 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- e) **Disability Advice Service.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Disability Advice Service and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to donate £50 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- f) **Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.** Members discussed the request for grant aid from SARS and, although they have regularly supported the excellent work this Charity does, they felt that the local based Responders were now more likely to be called upon in Leiston and were also in need of new equipment.
- g) **Footway Standard Lighting (SCDC).** Members noted the District Councils proposal to alter all their footway standard lighting to go off at midnight rather than shine all night. It was made clear that the lights in question were not those along the highways but those off the adopted roads etc. like Smyth Court and Huntingfield Road (for instance). Members felt that this was a retrograde step as most requests were for more lighting. This was definitely something that SCDC should consult their residents on individually as most lights were there for safety, security and peace of mind. Members noted the environmental case for supporting a policy like this but felt that turning these lights off at midnight would make many residents feel more vulnerable and would go against the ethos of the Crime and Disorder Partnerships aims and objectives. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the Council lobbies for this proposal to be dropped in Leiston completely.
- h) **Safer Neighbourhoods.** The clerk agreed to attend the Safer Neighbourhoods launch on 27th March.

- i) **Friends of Leiston Airfield.** Members were sad to hear that this years memorial service was not happening due to various works around the memorial site. They wished Mr Saunders well with his organisation for 2008.
- j) **Long Shop Museum.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Long Shop museum and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey, it was agreed to donate £1000 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

During the above item Cllr Huxley and Cllr May declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote.

- k) **CYDS.** Members noted the request for grant aid from CYDS and, on a proposition from Cllr Girling, seconded by Cllr May, it was agreed to donate £750 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- l) **Community Responders.** Members noted the request for grant aid for new equipment from the Community Responders and, on a proposition from Cllr Girling, seconded by Cllr May, it was agreed to donate £300 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137. The Clerk was also asked to express members and residents thanks too for all the excellent work they do.

During the above **two items** Cllr Cooper declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote.

- m) Other papers included for information were noted.

During the above items, the time reaching 10.00pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr May and agreed, that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to be completed.

- 173. **Questions to the Chairman.** The Clerk was asked to write to the PCT to complain about the continuing pharmacy closures at Lloyds.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated