

Pre-meeting Reports
6th March 2007

174. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed Inspector Chris Lucas, Suffolk Constabulary who gave a brief overview of crime statistics in Leiston for February. He assured the meeting that his team were concentrating on the boy racers and that confiscating vehicles which were consistently being used in an anti-social manner was still an option available to his officers. He then gave a report on how the Safer Neighbourhood Teams would work when they came on line on 19th March. In response to questions he explained how he did not expect the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) to be used as Traffic Wardens and suggested that the way ahead with that problem might be for a Council to provide one as, in the immediate future, there would be no Traffic Warden from Police sources. Members asked Inspector Lucas to note the new hazard that has appeared in Waterloo Avenue whereby buses now parked outside the school all day.

175. County Report. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward who gave a brief report on various County business with which he had been involved. He also reported that agreement had been obtained to nominate a bus stop outside the Ogilvie Homes and that there was hope again for a new bus shelter in Old Post Office Square. Cllr Howard asked that Cllr Ward do his best to ensure that no cuts were made to the Social Care budget despite all the financial pressures on the County Council as this would effect our most vulnerable residents. He also asked that Cllr Ward make himself familiar with the problem of getting double yellows painted in Waterloo Avenue.

176. District Report. Cllr Hawkins reported that the Council Tax had now been finalised and that the Chief Executives of the District Councils with Nuclear Power Stations in their patch overseen by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority had got together to share experience and best practise in engaging the NDA in Community Funding issues around their sites.

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,
6th MARCH 2007, at 7.51p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)

Councillor D. Bailey

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

177. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2007 be signed as a true record.

178. Apologies. Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Barnes, Cllr Girling, Cllr Mrs May, Cllr Mr Nunn, and Cllr Blowers.

179. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman informed the meeting that February, like January had been very quiet. Around town however she had received positive comments on the town's appearance, especially the impact that Mrs Neale's crocii had had on Park Hill.

180. Digital Sound – Leiston Cinema. The meeting was closed to allow Mr Burns to address the meeting and to explain the nuances between the two estimates he had obtained to install Dolby Digital Sound in the Film Theatre. There were only two quotes due to the specialised nature of the work but both were from leaders in the field with sound

reputations. After hearing the details and studying the proposed equipment in each bid members were keen to establish what guarantee there was that either or any system would be compatible with future projection equipment upgrades that might be imminent. Members agreed that the current sound system was no longer fit for purpose however and understood that Dolby Digital was the new standard that current and future films would use for their sound. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the Council appoint OMNEX to install a new sound system on the strict condition that a written guarantee of future compatibility be obtained before the order is placed. Should the guarantee satisfy the Chairman then the order may then be placed. The cost of the quote, including the use of sub contactors for the wiring would be £20,500.

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

181. Report from meeting with Mr Postma of SCS Ltd. Members noted that, yet again, they had had cause to discuss the patchy adherence to schedule for the emptying of the town's litter and dog bins. It was agreed that members would all look out for a waste bin convenient to their locality and monitor it closely to ensure compliance with the schedule. If there was clear evidence of failure in this respect then, in a months time, a letter could be sent to the Chief Executive requesting comment.

182. Highbury Cottage Footway. Members heard that, after meeting Mr Goodyear on site, it was extremely unlikely that a proper footway alongside the B1119 to Highbury would ever be considered for construction by the County Council under current criteria. The only feasible option therefore would be to request that the landowner of the field adjacent to that road dedicate a 2 metre strip of that field for highway use which would enable a much lower cost option to be put forward that could then become a more serious contender for inclusion in a future work package. The Clerk was authorised to approach the landowner and explain the proposition to him with a view to gauging whether there was the possibility of any future support for this idea.

183. St Margaret's Crescent – parking. Members heard about progress in trying to improve the parking situation around St Margaret's Crescent. A study had been done by Flagship Housing to identify possible sites for improvements that included both lowering kerbs to allow access to some more gardens and installing lay bys. Both options obviously required funding so it was agreed to take the study forward to the next Highways Working Party for discussion with the County Council.

184. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** On a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley, it was agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £7,841.96p along with £9,188.55p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

185. Planning Matters

- a) **C07/0281/FUL – Demolition of existing workshop and erection of replacement two storey modular office building with training rooms at Sizewell A Power Station, Sizewell, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above item Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Bailey declared an interest, remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or vote.

186. County Matters.

- a) **Nothing raised.**

187. District Matters.

- a) **Nothing raised.**

188. Correspondence.

- a) **Home Start Suffolk Coastal.** Members noted the request for grant aid from Home Start and the report of their activities in the town. On a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins, it was agreed to donate £50 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- b) **NII – HSE Developments in Leiston.** Members noted the letter from the Mr Baker, SCDC, reporting the latest position with regard to how much more development, if any, HSE would support in Leiston after last years discussion with Mr Robbins and Mr Topliss. It appeared that the HSE had moved away from a complete moratorium on new build to their previous position of allowing most infill requests. They clarified this by saying that they were not now going to review the remote site criteria until next year. This didn't actually clarify much at all though as members felt that the explanation for allowing continued development seemed to discount completely the criteria that already exists. The Clerk was asked to write and ask Mr Topliss if he were

comfortable with an increase in population for evacuation purposes and to HSE to ask exactly why Mr Robbins interpretation of the remote site criteria was now discounted.

- c) **Dogs on allotments.** Members noted the letter from the Allotment Association advising that, in their opinion, it would be beneficial for Leiston Town Council to adopt a strict dogs on a lead policy across all allotment sites. Members agreed that this was a reasonable and necessary request and asked the Clerk to make it so.
- d) **Dogs on Victory Road Recreation Ground.** Members noted a letter from a resident suggesting a complete ban on dogs being exercised on Victory Road Recreation Ground as there were still some anti social, irresponsible and blatant residents who allowed their dogs to foul an area where children played. It was agreed that, to discuss this fully, it would be placed on the agenda at the next meeting.
- e) **Royal British Legion Band.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the British Legion Band and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey, it was agreed to donate £250 to the organisation as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137 to help them purchase new instruments.

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

189. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Cllr Huxley informed members that the Leiston and District Nursing Association was looking for a new Chairman and new premises to store the loan equipment in. He asked the Chair if he could appeal to the meeting and ask anyone who had any ideas or who could help to bear this in mind.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated