

Pre-meeting Reports
6th April 2010

164. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed Police Community Support Officer Jeanette Pither, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during March (a detailed report is attached). Jeanette was asked to pursue the request from the last meeting to find out the cost of policing the recent demonstration at Sizewell and to try and find out why it had taken 10 hours between a window being broken in Solar and the manager being informed. Members asked that the Inspector attend the June meeting as there were some issues they would like to discuss with him.

165. County Report. The Chairman informed the meeting that, sadly, County Councillor Ron Ward had stepped down from his role due to failing health. An election for the new incumbent would be held on 6th May. Members asked the Clerk to write and thank Ron for all the hard work he had put in whilst representing his ward over the last three years and to wish him well in his retirement.

166. District Report. Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report. Mr Swift started a general discussion on the Precept based on the presentation in the booklet, issued by SCDC, that accompanies all Council Tax demands. In the booklet parishes over £100,000 have to do a breakdown of their cost heads to give residents a better idea of what the Precept covered. In particular Mr Swift objected very strongly to the Town Council continuing to fund the operation of Dinsdale Road public toilets and asked that they consider closing them to reduce the Precept. Members were sympathetic to Mr Swift's concerns and promised to take his views into account in December when the Precept for 2011/12 is shaped up.

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,
6th APRIL 2010, at 7.40 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 W. H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn
Councillor N Parker

167. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2nd March 2010 be signed as a true record.

168. Apologies. Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Nunn, Cllr Barnes and Cllr Morrissey.

169. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman reported that he had recently attended CYD's Open Day where he had been very pleased to see how things were progressing. He encouraged members to consider attending CYD's AGM scheduled for the 29th April as they would undoubtedly be very welcome. He expanded a little on the recent Public Meeting held by the Safer Neighbourhood Team at which the public were able to inform the Team of their current concerns and worries. Again, he encouraged members to consider attending the next meeting to be held on Thursday 13th May. It was a highlight for him to be invited to open the Long Shop Museum for the coming season on the 27th March. He and Pat had had a very enjoyable time and had particularly enjoyed the RBL Bands new piece, commissioned in memory of Daphne Oliver, called Sirapite. This was made even more poignant for him as they watched Sirapite herself in full steam for her first public appearance for 40 years. Finally he gave answers to some questions he had been asked by members at previous meetings.

170. Film Theatre Committee meeting of 23rd March. Members noted the report from the Clerk of the Film Theatre Committee meeting held on 23rd March at which Mr Burns and Miss Everett had given a very compelling and detailed presentation on how a 3D capability was now an essential upgrade for all cinemas. The phenomenon had now gained such momentum that cinema goers, especially the younger ones, would soon expect to see 3D as of right and would travel to do so. Mr Burns explained the research he had done into 3D and gave a very firm recommendation (with reasons) as to why he believed Dolby 3D was the system for Leiston. He also detailed how he had requested quotes for a complete installation from the 3 specialist firms who installed digital projection equipment and how 2 had responded (the third was not interested). Of the two firms responding the most favourable quote was from OMNEX who, pleasingly, are the company who, for many years, have serviced our current projector and who recently installed our new sound system. They also have the advantage of knowing the quirks and foibles that exist in a 96 year old theatre and we have the advantage of knowing, first hand, the company's professional pedigree. The cost of the installation would be £55,000 for the Digital Projector and £20,000 to add 3D capability to it (this would include the glasses and a new screen).

171. Decision on procurement and financing regarding possible purchase of 3D projection equipment. Members discussed all the issues raised at the Committee meeting (reported above) and decided to proceed methodically toward a decision. The initial resolution was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the Council commit to acquiring a 3D capability, timescale to be discussed. This was passed by 7 votes to 3 (against were Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Geater; who asked for a recorded vote). Members then heard from the Clerk who outlined the possible methods of financing the equipment which were presented at the Committee meeting. The two options were to save up and buy the equipment or to take out a loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and purchase immediately. Members noted that they had already committed to buying a digital projector and were including sums in the precept to save toward the £55,000 required. To this end the earmarked reserve was currently £25,000. The Film Theatre Support Club offered £11,000 that they had raised to go toward the project which would, to date, give a deposit of £36,000. Members took this into consideration and also heard that, should the Council decide to take out a loan from the PWLB then the Film Theatre Support Club had given an undertaking to service the repayments for this loan over a 5 year life. Should they honour this members noted, that to purchase and install a 3D capability as soon as possible, would therefore not cost the rate payers anything more on the Precept. Members noted too that the risk was self evident in that the Support Club might not be able to keep up their current prolific fundraising efforts over the full 5 years although, having donated £36,000 toward the purchase of new equipment in the last 36 months (not including the £11,000 held for this project) their commitment and performance in this respect was very sound and entrenched. The Clerk proposed to members, as a possibility, that the first annual payment was taken from contingencies and the general reserve and put in an earmarked reserve. If the Support Club raised enough for the first years repayments this reserve could be rolled over to each successive year to cover the possibility of the club forfeiting at some time in the future. Should the loan be paid off at anytime throughout this period then the reserve could be allocated elsewhere. A PWLB loan for £40,000 over a 5 year span would cost £42,108 at a fixed rate of 1.89% and attract annual repayments of £8,421.

172. Decision to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board. With all the options thoroughly debated, using the information above, it was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed (6 votes to 3 [Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Geater, Cllr Mrs Geater against]) that a 3D capability be installed as soon as possible. It was then proposed by Cllr Hodgson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn that this should be paid for by applying for a loan of £40,000 over 5 years on the current fixed rate from the PWLB. This was passed by 7 votes to 1.

173. Invitation to join The Digital Funding Partnership (UK) LLP. Members noted the invitation to join the Funding Partnership and were pleased to note that their efforts would be to try and secure funding for installing digital projection equipment from the big film companies. More importantly, bearing in mind the above decisions, the funding would also, as things stand, cover acquired screens – i.e. equipment already installed on finance. The subscription would be £30 a month for a minimum of 12 months. Members felt it was definitely worth a trial period to see if the organisation could deliver so, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Boast it was agreed to join the DFP (UK) LLP for an initial period of 12 months with a subscription fee of £30 per month.

During items 170,171,172 and 173 above Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room.

174. Anglia in Bloom The Clerk drew members' attention to the letter from SCDC explaining that they had decided not to offer a free watering service this year to entrants of Anglia In Bloom. This, coupled with Mrs Gregory's ill health, has meant that the Leiston in Bloom team has decided to have a break from entering the competition this year. In particular, the withdrawal of the watering service at such short notice (the hanging baskets had already been ordered) was a blow as funding now had to be found to cover the cost of the watering for this summer. The Clerk was asked to write and express members' disappointment at the short notice of this withdrawal of service.

175. Town Plan update. The Chairman gave members a new copy of the Town Plan that he had put together which included, after each project, the detailed recommendations that had come from the Leiston and District Community Partnership's review of the Plan last month. He asked the Clerk to write and thank the Partnership for their thorough review and asked members to take the documents away and study the recommendations ready for a discussion in June. Cllr Howard hoped that door would still be open during those discussions should members think that a new appraisal was needed to consult both on the recommendations made and any new issues that may have arisen in the last 8 years that are not covered in the current plan.

176. Finance.

a) Accounts for Payment. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £10,201.55p along with £9,370.13p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Howard declared an interest in Cheque 310224.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (8.40pm – 9.00pm) for refreshments

177. Planning Matters.

a. Construction and operation of a Dry Fuel Store as an extension to Sizewell B Nuclear Power Station (Application under Electricity Act 1989 section 36). Members were of the opinion that this application should be treated as a permanent storage building not a temporary storage and should therefore be subject to the different provisions that that entails. It was quite obvious that the high level radioactive waste designated to be stored in this building would, almost certainly, spend its entire life there and that this should be acknowledged, recognised and provided for to protect staff and residents. The District Council would be requested to pass on these concerns.

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

- b. **C10/0583– Erection of detached dwelling & garage together with construction of new vehicular access (renewal of planning permission C07/0641) at Land rear of No. 31 High Street, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c. **C10/0588– Erection of one two-storey dwelling (renewal of planning permission C04/2128) on part side garden, 53 King Georges Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C10/0698– Erection of three-storey dwelling apartment block (renewal of planning permission C07/0470) on land adjoining Crown Street Car Park, Sizewell Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C10/0568– Change of use from residential care home to a single dwelling at Daneway House, Haylings Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f. **C10/0864 – Erection of rear porch at 4 High Green, Leiston.** Although recommending approval the concern remained that the proposal might not be in keeping with the listed status of the property unless it was done sympathetically and with a fine eye for detail in its materials and colouring. Members would be pleased to accord with any advice the Conservation Officer might put forward in this regard.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

178.County Matters.

- a. **White Horse Corner.** The clerk was asked to draw Highway's attention to the poorly designed and faded road markings at the bottom of Station Road for vehicles trying to turn right into Waterloo Avenue. This continues to be a dangerous oversight.
- b. **Heath View.** The Chairman had received a petition from the residents in Heath View to try and get something done about the appalling road surface on the entrance road and to install speed humps to protect the children that play around the estate. The Clerk was asked to forward this to the County Council.

179.District Matters.

- a. **Sizewell.** Cllr Hawkins responded to a question that had been raised by the public at the March meeting. The Sizewell Task Group at SCDC will shortly be set up but at present the composition and membership has not yet been announced. He also confirmed that SCDC had not responded to the DECC consultation on the "Justification for new nuclear build" and the regulatory considerations regarding the Areva EPR. Finally, he reported, that as far as he was aware, there were no official SCDC minutes or notes made at the briefing given by EDF in February.
- b. **Disabled facilities at Leiston Leisure Centre.** Cllr Boast brought up the ongoing issue of trying to get mixed sex facilities for disabled patrons of the Sports Centre. Cllr Hawkins reported that SCDC were indeed aware of the problem and had instructed their contractor who ran the facility to make it so.

180.Correspondence.

- a. **Proposal for a public sculpture.** Members noted Mr Thomas Merrett's proposal for a sculpture representing the Garrett works (and the people who worked there) possibly being placed in a public space somewhere in the town. One suggestion was the green space on the corner of Station Road and Waterloo Avenue. Members were invited to attend the "Free Leiston Day" at the Long Shop Museum on 16th May where the maquettes for the proposed pieces would be on display and he would be very pleased to talk through his ideas. Members agreed to look at this again in June once they had had a chance to see the ideas.
- b. **Planning Forum.** Cllr Nunn, Cllr Howard and Cllr Boast expressed interest in attending the Planning Forum run by SCDC on 15th April.
- c. **Into the future with Parish Plans.** Suffolk ACRE were advertising a conference on 21st May to discuss Parish Plans. Members noted that this was quite convenient as it occurred

just before members had agreed to look at the Town Plan and its future in June. Cllr Howard, Cllr Boast and Cllr Mrs Nunn offered to accompany the Chairman to the conference.

- d. **Sea Eagles.** Members discussed the issues relating to Natural England's proposal to try and introduce a sea eagle into the area to boost tourism. There were mixed views on the various concerns and merits of such a scheme but not enough consensus to write as a Council to express them.

During the above item Councillor Huxley declared an interest as a member of the RSPB.

181. Questions to the chairman. There were no new questions for the Chairman although he did report that there were still some outstanding answers he, as yet, had not been able to get from the appropriate authorities.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.40 pm.

----- Chair

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