

Pre-meeting Reports
6th November 2007

88. Police Report. The Chairman explained that she had received apologies from PCSO Abbott although Jacqueline had submitted a report for October which the Clerk then read out. The main points were that, although crimes were down by 15 on last October (to 42), there was a worrying increase in Criminal Damage, much of it to cars. There was a progress report on efforts to educate and curb the rash of cycles cycling on pavements and the clamp down on illegal parking around the Town Centre. There was also another plea for members of the public to report every incident to the police so that they can keep abreast of what and where the problems are. **Phone 01986 835406.** Cllr Howard was keen for the police to put out extra patrols to clamp down on the criminal damage. It worked 4 years ago when there was a similar surge in the amount of damage being done around the Town and he was convinced that that was what was needed now. Cllr Ginger agreed and the public felt that patrols during the day should be swapped for more during early and late evening when these problems occurred. Cllr Bailey asked that there be some feedback on detection rates for the months previous to the one considered at each meeting and Mr Lovell asked why the Co-op were not using CCTV to deter the vandalism they suffered in their car park. Although each and every crime has a victim it was agreed that, all things considered, this was a very good place to live with a very low crime rate. Unfortunately, this was often the unacceptable reason (to Leiston residents) for the Police not increasing resources to sort out the irritating and sometimes very distressing crimes that still occur.

89. County Report. The Chairman passed on Cllr Ron Ward's apologies and hoped he was soon well again.

90. District Report. Cllr Hawkins explained that, once Highways had withdrawn their objections to the new proposal in Carr Avenue recently the District did not have any grounds for refusal. Cllr Huxley asked to be kept informed about the energy review the District Council were doing and Cllr Ginger asked whether what he read in the paper was correct – that SCDC had, in discussing their response to the Government's energy review, undertaken to have a 'referendum' in Leiston to seek residents' views. Cllr Hawkins said that this was not the correct interpretation but that they had certainly discussed their concern at any negative impact that any future build at Sizewell may have on Leiston. Cllr Howard expressed his concern at how SCDC were going to cope with the projected deficit in their finances over the next few years and how that would impact on residents. There followed a discussion on Government grants, Pathfinder and other organisational elements that could affect the way this is handled but the main strategy would be to increase charges, reduce services or put what services they were able out to 3rd parties, although there was concern at the possible loss of control this might bring.

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 session 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 NOVEMBER 2007, at 7.33 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor B. A. Barnes
Councillor D. R. Boast
Councillor C. D. C. Blowers
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 J. Morrissey

91. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 2nd October 2007 be signed as a true record.

92. **Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Nunn and Cllr Cooper.

93. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman proudly announced that she had just received the news that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council had achieved Quality Status and were now entitled to call themselves a Quality Town Council – one of the 457 who had achieved this status out of the 8,500 councils in existence. Cllr Mrs Nunn thanked all the Councillors past and present who had worked towards this and the Clerk and all his staff who had helped gain the award. There would be a more formal presentation at the December meeting. There had been three other occasions where there had been an opportunity to represent the Council, the first was at the Creating a Greener County conference which had been an exciting and stimulating event. The second had been the North Area Parishes meeting with SCDC and last week she had attended the Local Strategic Partnership event at Trinity Park.

94. **Haylings Pond.** Unfortunately no reports had been received from the various interested bodies the Clerk had contacted to seek a view on the situation at the pond. The status quo remained although the excessive feeding of the ducks was still a worry.

95. **Parking on verges.** Members looked at the responses from the Police and the County Council on how to possibly control the unsightly parking on the verges around the town and were disappointed that enforcement was not really an option unless a byelaw was put in place. Members discussed the possibility of trying to do this but eventually settled on just trying to encourage self policing in residents own streets and trying to encourage self pride in their surroundings. Another result of the discussion was a resolution to hold a full council brainstorming session to look at the whole problem of on and off street around the town which was getting more and more of a problem.

96. **Poop Scoop Bag provision – Sizewell.** Members noted the costs of providing a poop scoop bag dispenser at Sizewell and the annual revenue cost (predicted) for its upkeep. The Clerk was asked to place this in the estimates for discussion.

97. **Finance.**

a. **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £40,777.15p with £8,519.00p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

Cllr Blowers declared an interest in Cheque no 308823. Cllrs Howard and Huxley in Cheque No 308825.

b. **Budget items.** Members were asked to inform the Clerk of any projects or items of expenditure that they would like to be considered in next year's estimates. Members would start considering these at the December meeting. Two items raised were monies for oak posts that could be used to protect some vulnerable verges and a provision for some new windows in the Community Centre.

98. **Planning.**

a. **C07/1700/FUL** – To relocate an existing 6 metre tall galvanised steel wind pump tower, with a 3.6m diameter head, from its current position on the Minsmere Levels, just inland of the coastal dunes, to a new position some 575m to the southwest, Minsmere Nature Reserve. Cllr Ginger informed the meeting that the existing pump had already been dismantled but, as it was no longer in use, members were quite content and recommended approval.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

b. **C07/1818/FUL** – Change of use from warehouse to MOT preparation & testing site & alterations to front elevation of unit at Units 7A & 7D, Eastlands Industrial Estate, Leiston IP16 4LL. There was concern that there should be sufficient parking space allocated to the new business other than that members were most content.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

c. **C07/1721/FUL** – Erection of garden shed at 2 The Gables , Leiston IP16 4UZ.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C07/1870/FUL** – Erection of internally illuminated fascia sign & projecting sign, 62 High Street Leiston IP16 4BZ.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C07/1918/FUL** – Use of part of retail premises (A1) for tattoo use, 11A High Street Leiston IP16 4EL.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

- f. **C07/1953** – Replacement ATM to meet new DDA requirements at Barclays Bank, Main Street, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- g. **C07/1954** – Installation of new illuminated signage for replacement ATM at Barclays Bank, Main Street, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- h. **C07/1962/FUL** – Erection of rear conservatory on 77 St Margaret's Crescent, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

The meeting was suspended for 15 minutes for a natural break from 8.20pm to 8.35 pm

99. County Matters.

- a. **Roadworks.** Members wished Cllr Ward to be aware of residents' disappointment and frustration at not being told about major roadworks that affect them in their day to day lives. The closing of the B1069 for resurfacing was a particular case in point where no signage told of the closure until you were in Knodishall. Similarly, the recent works on the A12.
- b. **Buses.** Some new stops had now got relevant timetables attached but not all. Members were keen to point out that buses leaving stops early was much worse than being late – with no excuse for this happening either.
- c. **Policing in Leiston.** Members, like many members of the public at this and the previous meeting, were at the end of their tether with regard to the woeful police presence in the Town and really felt quite unsafe knowing that a policeman often had to come from Lowestoft should you require one – a lot can happen in 45 minutes. It was obvious to everyone (even the police themselves one must assume) that the establishment at the Leiston Sector Station is just plain wrong and can never produce the numbers required for an effective and correct manning level. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable and request extra patrols and a thorough discussion and examination of the establishment at our station.
- d. **Speeding to Sizewell.** Cllr Blowers raised residents concerns over the race track mentality of many young boy racers each evening who regularly exceed the speed limit to and from Sizewell. The Clerk was asked to take this to the Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting on 15th November.

100. District Matters.

- a. **Victory Park.** Members were very disappointed that the container used during construction of the play equipment was still there and was still a hazard and an eyesore. The clerk was asked to get SCDC to take firm action to get the contractor to remove it.
- b. **SALC Area Meeting.** Members noted the forthcoming meeting on 19th November.

101. Correspondence.

Members noted;

- a. The forthcoming showing of The Inconvenient Truth at the Film Theatre to Councillors invited by SALC.
- b. The details of the Saxmundham Feeder and Coastlink which would appear in the January newsletter.
- c. The consultation on the new Integrated Risk Management Plan for the Suffolk Fire Authority.
- d. The installation, at the police's request, of concrete bollards by 18-26 St Margaret's Crescent.
- e. The minutes of the Anglia In Bloom meeting of 22nd October.
- f. The minutes of the last SNT Partnership meeting of 30th August.
- g. The forthcoming information event updating members and the public on the Greater Gabbard project.
- h. The minutes of the Leiston and District Nursing Association Trust meeting of 25th October. Cllr Huxley explained that Mrs Ogilvie would be standing down from the Chair at the next AGM so the Trust was looking for a new Chairman. Space was also required to store the Trust's equipment. The meeting was urged to spread the words to see if help could be found to find either.

102. Questions to the chairman. The Chairman asked if everyone was preparing for the next newsletter going out at the end of January. Cllr Ginger got members support for the Clerk to write and add support to the case for keeping Knodishall Post Office on the grounds that a few of our residents use it, the queues will be longer at Leiston and more CO2 would be used with people travelling to Leiston to go to the Post office.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.20pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated