

Pre-meeting Reports
7th April 2009

215. Police Report. The Chairman welcomed Police Constable Lee Simons, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during March (a comprehensive report is attached). Cllr Howard asked about the domestic incidents and Lee explained how seriously the police took each domestic call out and the efforts they put into detecting domestic violence, encouraging possible victims to seek help and in gathering intelligence to try and reduce the problem as best they can. Mrs Reade thanked Lee for all the work he had done to try and stop the constant speeding on the B1119 by Highbury. She did wonder however what long term solutions could be put in place to slow traffic down. Lee reported that he had suggested a flashing sign and rumble strips to Highways but it would be up to them to decide on the priorities and affordability of any such scheme. Mr Rozmus brought attention to the bogus leaflet drops (for charity collections) that were regularly distributed around the town by non charitable and generally illegal traders. He felt that the police and trading standards did not take this seriously enough as they were illegally collecting peoples belongings without a licence (which was theft). He distributed some examples and asked the District, Police and County Council to take positive action. Cllr Ron Ward agreed to take them to trading standards and to get back to Mr Rozmus with the results. Mr Briggs informed the meeting that he had again written to County Hall with his disappointment and frustration that a lot of money seemed to be being spent on upgrading very little used footways (beside the A12) when it could be used to provide a path to Highbury Cottages.

216. County Report. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward who briefed the meeting on several items of interest. He explained that a decision on the new incinerator that the County were contemplating building would be made at the end of the year. Cllr Howard was concerned about dioxins. Cllr Ward then gave some statistics about the amount of salt used on the roads over the winter and some details of the dredging operations off the east coast. There was some discussion on the proposals to limit the mile of ocean nearest the coast for the sole use of hobby fishermen – a difficult scheme to administer. There was some discussion about the Governments inclination to set up local, non-elected, Community Boards and a report that the County Council was hoping to improve adult care in the County by increasing that budget by £3.8million. As chair of the Suffolk Coastal Locality Committee Ron explained how each member of the committee had been awarded £12,000 of monies gained from the on street parking fund to make improvements in their ward. Cllr Ward proposed that Footpath 16B (Leisure Centre to High School behind Quakers Way) be metalled and that the whole issue of weight limitations around the town be looked at and re-signed. Finally, during questions, Cllr Boast asked Cllr Ward to find out why A12 industries, which was closed last year, had not yet started their promised drop in in Leiston yet as he consistently keeps getting told it is up and running. Cllr Ginger brought to his attention the footway up by Old Abbey Retirement Home.

217. District Report. Cllr Hawkins was asked why SCDC had not taken up the option of providing free swimming to the under 16's as well as the over 60's as part of the governments latest initiative. He explained that DC Leisure had agreed to make up any shortfall with regard to the over 60's but could not make any guarantee for the under 16's and, as SCDC were not inclined to fund the initiative themselves, they had declined the government's offer.

218. Public Forum. Mr Last wished to register his disappointment at the increase in the local element of the Council Tax, especially that element that was being used to part fund a second PCSO for the town. Members understood his concerns and pointed out that they set the Precept to allow them to spend money on the town to, hopefully, make it a better place to live as well as addressing residents concerns across a broad spectrum of issues. The bottom line being of course that if residents were unhappy with the decisions members made on their behalf residents could show their disapproval at the ballot box.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, 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,
7th APRIL 2009, at 8.07 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor B. A. Barnes
Councillor D. R. Boast
Councillor A. M. Cooper
Councillor J. L. Geater (until 9.20pm)
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor T. J. Hawkins
Councillor T. E. Hodgson
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey

219. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 3rd February 2009, with a small deletion in minute 201, be signed as a true record.

220. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman reported "I was invited to the Leiston Army Cadets detachment inspection night on 10th March where I received a very warm welcome and joined the other guests, mainly parents who had come along to give their support. The younger members were demonstrating their Heartstart skills on one of the official dummies better known as Annie, why did, I always ask myself, they have to choose the name Annie - too close to home for my liking! The Cadets were put through their paces and gave a good display. Awards were presented at the end of the evening. I, together with a very large number of Leiston residents, attended the funeral of Paul Snowden, it was a lovely service and needless to say the Church was full, standing room only. Paul will be sadly missed both here at our meetings and of course in and around the town. We all received an invitation to the speaker training session run by the Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN) at SCDC. on 21st March. I was pleased to attend this one day course and the objective was to train people without a scientific background to speak effectively on climate change. I really enjoyed the day and will be working on this speech and I hope to present it during May to Speak Easy @ Martlesham. Since the last Council Meeting we have held two Fairtrade Working Party Meetings, on 6 March and 1 April. We have now invited members of the public to join us to form a committee and to date we have four volunteers which will make us a committee of eight. (4 Cllrs and 4 members of the public). Our first community meeting will be held in the Council Chamber on Friday 15th May. We are now in the process of putting a directory together of all Fairtrade suppliers and users in Leiston and Sizewell"

221. Freedom of Information. Members noted the latest requirements of the Freedom of Information Act for all organisations to advertise a "publication scheme" of information that each organisation held which the public might wish to see. The Clerk had provided a draft for members to look at and, with some small additions, this proved to be satisfactory and complete. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council adopt the Model Publication Scheme produced in accordance with section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and to publish information in accordance with that scheme.

222. Safer Neighbourhood Team. Cllr Ginger explained to members what had been discussed at the recent Safer Neighbourhood meetings including a "street meet" in Central Road and one in St Margaret's Crescent. In Central Road they had discussed issues of speeding and parking and had suggested that a one way traffic pattern could be introduced perhaps. In St Margaret's Crescent there appeared to be little that could be done to alleviate the parking problem there but the County Council, Police and Housing Association were still looking at possible solutions. On a broader aspect the safety of young people using the zebra crossing on Haylings Road was raised as they sometimes appeared very quickly out of Victory Road and gave unsuspected motorists little chance to stop. It was suggested that the Highways working party, at their next meeting, look at the possible erection of a suitable barrier just to stop children being able to run, unimpeded, from Victory Road straight onto the zebra crossing.

223. Fairtrade. Cllr Mrs Nunn updated members on progress toward Leiston being able to achieve Fairtrade status. The committee was enlarging and drawing in interested members of the community to help but, now the project was well under way, it had become clear that the original resolution of support from the Council for the project just fell a little

short and did not cover all the elements that were required. It was quickly proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that;

“Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council aims to be recognised as a Council that actively supports and promotes the concept of Fairtrade. The Council therefore resolves to promote awareness of Fairtrade issues, use Fairtrade products where it is practicable in its offices, at its meetings and at the Leiston Film Theatre and support initiatives to make Leiston-cum-Sizewell a Fairtrade Town and maintain its Fairtrade status.”

Cllr Geater wished his vote against to be recorded as he had issue with the level of enforcement of the Fairtrade Trademark that he felt could be achieved.

224.Meeting of Local Parishes at Middleton. Cllr Hodgson reported back on the minutes of the latest meeting of the Parishes which he had attended on members behalf. He summed up by passing on the groups thoughts that, if a new build were to go ahead, they would wish to work together to alleviate as much as possible the disruption and stress that would fall on all the parishes around the area. They all seemed to be fairly well in tune with what the main issues would be and had discussed a name for the group which, although it did not roll smoothly off the tongue, was the best that could be thought of at the time – East Suffolk Parishes Liaison Group (ESPLG).

225.EDF’s brief to SCDC. Cllr Howard and Cllr Ginger had attended the EDF presentation to SCDC and had asked questions on members’ behalf. Cllr Ginger had prepared a brief which covered all the salient points of the meeting which was held to give an idea of what a new build would entail. He re-iterated that Mr Andy Smith (Deputy Leader of SCDC) had publicly stated that the District Council would be looking EDF hard in the eye over issues in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which members hoped meant, that the stated intention of EDF to use the area north of Kenton Hills would be thoroughly scrutinised and alternatives looked at.

226.Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting 5th March. Cllr Howard gave a thorough report to members in advance of the minutes being sent out. The main point was the NDA’s announcement that the de-commissioning of Sizewell A was delayed indefinitely and certainly would not be completed in 25 years – although this made a mockery of their consultation it was because of lack of funds and the problems elsewhere in the national nuclear legacy. There was also discussion about a new category of radioactive waste with a very low rating which was going to be deemed safe to dump in nominated landfill sites.

227.Sizewell B –future radioactive waste consultation. Members noted that Sizewell B were briefing organisations and mounting a public exhibition to explain their forthcoming planning application to build a suitable receptacle for radioactive waste which would accrue on site after 2015 when the current facility would reach capacity. Members had been invited to attend a brief at Sizewell on 21st April.

228.Foyer Project – update. The Clerk informed members that Mr Burns had almost completed the new foyer and that it may well be open and in use before the official opening on 19th April when it would be named the Peter Free Foyer.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room.

A break was taken from 9.05pm to 9.20pm

229.Local Government Review. Members discussed the ongoing saga of the proposed Local Government review and, after looking at the options on the table, including the possibility of supporting a three way split as championed by the District Council, the majority stated a preference for the single Suffolk unitary. Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Morrissey abstained from the vote.

230.Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £6,180.67p along with £30,427.21p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

231.Planning Matters.

- a. **C09/0338 – Change of use of shop to residential use, to form three two-bedroom maisonettes with 3 no. on site parking spaces. Alterations and extension (existing lean to, to be demolished) (Re-submission) at 31 Haylings Road, Leiston.** The conversions were not an issue but, despite comments from the County Highways consultee, members felt that County could not have visited the site to see how dangerous the entrance was with 3 cars having to regularly reverse out onto the B1069. Members also felt very strongly that this area of town could not absorb any more on street parking and would therefore firmly recommend that 1.5 car parking spaces be the minimum to apply to each new residence at this location

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- b. **C09/0364 – Change of use of existing first floor flat to form part of new dental surgery at ground floor in vacant unit (with D1 use class) including new shop front and installation of wall mounted condenser units and construction of compressor housing to rear at 98 High Street, Leiston.** Members stipulated that the compressor should be turned off when not in use and, it and the condenser, should be acoustically contained as much as possible to avoid any nuisance to the sheltered housing complexes either side of the premises. This is a much welcome and hugely popular initiative however and fully supported

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c. **C09/310 – Erection of cart lodge and workshop. Conversion of existing garage and car port to additional ancillary domestic accommodation at The Wilderness, The Common, Leiston.** Members felt that a restriction should be placed on the workshop to ensure it was not used for commercial activities.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C09/0344 – Retention of replacement shop front at 67 Kings Road, Leiston.** Members are not keen on retrospective applications but felt that this should be approved. It was noted however that the adhesive advertising decal in the centre of the new west facing window was just slightly on the “huh”. The new fascia was considered to be a lot tidier than the one it replaced and was probably more suitable for the venue as well.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e. **C09/0476 – Sizewell B Power Station, Leiston, IP16 4EU. Excavation of peat and clay on land north of Sizewell B Power Station for the purpose of undertaking heathland creation trials on farmland 1.5km to the southwest.** Members thought it would be very important to minimise the impact of the trucking operation and for frequent use of a sweeper. They should avoid the rush hours and be courteous to cyclists and pedestrians (it still being the summer holidays.) Members hope that the lessons learnt from the failures in the previous trials would be fully taken into consideration.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

232. County Matters.

- a. **Waterloo Avenue.** Cllr Huxley reported that, contrary to what was previously considered acceptable practice, some buses were now picking up in the south side layby facing west with children being escorted into the road to board them. This did ease the traffic problem there in the afternoons but he was surprised this was acceptable after what the Council had been told in the past.

233. District Matters.

- a. **Pension Fund.** Cllr Cooper expressed concern that there was, he had been told, a £30million hole in the District Council’s pension fund. He wondered whether this was going to cause problems in the future with a large hike in Council Tax. Cllr Hawkins undertook to investigate.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to continue for 15 minutes.

234. Correspondence.

- a. **Buckingham Palace Garden Party.** Members were pleased to note that the Chairman had been selected by SALC to attend a garden party, hosted by Her Majesty, in July.
- b. **Shoreline Management Plan Review.** Members noted the response from the Minsmere Levels Stakeholder Group to the recent workshops held with regard to the Shoreline Management Plan and were pleased the issues with the sluice had been highlighted. Cllr Boast had also attended and asked that members put an item on the next agenda to discuss whether it was possible to offer some extra financial support to the Stakeholder Group to help them with their administration costs.

- 235. Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Howard asked whether other Councillors were as pleased as he was to see the new pavements in the High Street. He also felt that the town looked neat and tidy at the moment too. It was agreed that the new paving had made a nice positive improvement to the look of the town centre.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.12 pm.

----- Chair

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