

Pre-meeting Reports
7th September 2010

- 46. Climate Change Partnership.** Mr Dan Wheals from the Climate Change Partnership gave a presentation and a short talk on the campaign to make Suffolk the greenest County. He explained how his post was sponsored by a variety of agencies including the Environment Agency, SCDC and the Local Strategic Partnership. They had also put money in to the project for communities or community groups to apply for, up to £1,000, to assist, start or help run a project which could be deemed "environmental action". He gave some examples – big ideas like transition towns down to the small community ideas like herbal gardens etc. He saw his role as helping to facilitate projects as well as encouraging groups to grasp the (organic) nettle and turn an idea into action so to speak. He answered many questions from members and the public and left his details with the Clerk should any groups come forward seeking further information or who wished him to help with their project.
- 47. Police Report.** The Chairman gave apologies on behalf of PCSO Pither who was unable to attend. There was a full and detailed report however for everyone to see what had been going on during July and August (attached). Some questions were asked which the Chairman noted and undertook to follow up.
- 48. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Richard Smith who explained that August was a traditionally quiet month in Local Government although he did have some items to report. The most relevant was that the Traffic Order Review for Leiston, which had been stopped along with all the others across the County, had now been resurrected. Councillor Smith had worked with the Chief Executive to demonstrate that the Leiston review was so far advanced that it would be more beneficial to complete it than not. He did however have to commit a large portion of his Quality of Life budget to the project for this to be approved. Members were pleased to hear that this was back on track and thanked Cllr Smith for his intervention. From his other Locality budget he reported that he had allocated £1,400 to help the Long Shop get their drains sorted out. He then reported the County Council position on the new waste incinerator proposal at Gt Blakenham and answered questions on that and various other items raised from the floor.
- 49. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins explained that Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council were progressing their joint working by sharing Chief Officers now as well as a Chief Executive and a Head of Planning. This was to reduce costs. In response to questioning he explained that the Councils could not fully merge unless Primary legislation was changed. Cllr Nunn was pleased to report that the recycling rate over the previous quarter was 61.2%. This was above target and was particularly pleasing as the twin bin scheme had now been fully rolled out and was achieving the aims. Mr Taylor asked a question on the current situation with regard to the Shoreline Management Plan and what stage it was at which Cllr Nunn undertook to find out.
- 50. Town Council.** There was some concern that, with the ongoing nuisance that a few youths in the town are causing, the vast majority of our young people were not having their achievements and hard work recognised. Members and residents wanted everyone to give praise and encouragement to our youngsters who are a credit to their families. There is a far far greater number of children in Leiston who engage in normal, healthy and worthwhile pursuits than there ever will be who let their parents down by engaging in anti social behaviour. Another problem highlighted by the public was the increasing number of HGV's who follow their SATNAV through the clearly signposted weight limit signs around the town. It was hoped that maybe this could be taken up with SALC?

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,
7th SEPTEMBER 2010, at 8.15 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

- 51. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6th July 2010 be signed as a true record.
- 52. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllrs Mrs Nunn, Cllr Barnes, Cllr Parker and Cllr Mrs Geater
- 53. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman gave members the details of his activities over the summer. In July he had attended the Leiston Middle School awards evening where Mr Carson had said his goodbyes. He had been most impressed by the school band and had enjoyed watching the pupils get their awards. There had then been two public meetings with the Police as there were many unhappy residents wishing to express their concern about the crime situation in the town – the second meeting was attended by over 300 residents in the High School hall. Continuing the police contact, he described an event he had attended at Martlesham Police HQ where many different agencies had discussed ways of building confidence, during the event he was able to approach the Chief Constable to discuss the ongoing issues in Leiston mentioned above. Other civic events he had attended included the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of St Edmundsbury being conferred on 3 Regiment Army Air Corps (including an Apache helicopter landing in the town square there), opening the Primary School Fete, Waveney District Councils Annual Civic Service and a quick visit to a Suffolk Coastal District Council Reception at Orwell Park School.
- 54. Town Appraisal.** Members looked at a report from the Clerk which gave a more detailed summary of what the LDCP had done during their review of the Town Action Plan and noted the recommendations of the Appraisal Committee who had scrutinised it. It was noted that the action called for at the public meeting earlier in the year was now complete and that very few of the projects left to be completed could be tackled without major infrastructure investment (which was extremely unlikely at this current time). Members therefore agreed with the assertion that, as the social and economic landscape had shifted quite perceptibly over the last 9 years (since the last appraisal was done), the last appraisal was really now just a historical document but one that would form a tremendous baseline for a future questionnaire. It was also discussed and agreed that any future appraisal should involve the community and not be Council led – although the administration would probably rest with them. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the Council initiates another Town Appraisal and that a committee be set up to plan and oversee the project. It was agreed that the committee consist of Cllr Howard, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Nunn and Cllr Boast.

- 55. Highbury Cottages footpath.** The Clerk had nothing to add to the report provided which detailed a meeting with Mr Readhead's land agent who had been very positive and was reasonably sure an agreement could be reached to put a path in to the cottages along the edge of the field. Hopefully this could be progressed at the next meeting.
- 56. Christmas Lights.** Members noted that the current Christmas Lights were in a poor condition and heard that the newly formed Business Association (who own the lights), realising that many of the installations may not be suitable for erection this year, had decided to take the opportunity to explore a change in direction. The Clerk believed that they intended to encourage individual shopowners in the centre to install light displays in their windows and to put up small trees above their windows with white LEDs on. The Clerk explained that the Council had put reserves aside to cover the erection of the lights this year in case the association were not ready to take on the responsibility again, but, without the help of Mr Murdoch (who has extensively maintained the lights over the last decade), the lights were not in a state to go straight up. This would in turn cost more money to rectify and, with the Business Association unable to find or provide a volunteer, they had decided to make a break from the past and begin to build up a new look which was more sustainable. The cost of replacing the current outfit of lights would be out of reach without grant aid (unlikely) so this was considered the best option. Members were not so sure and felt that the lights had served the town very well in the past and felt that many residents would be sad if they did not make their usual appearance. The Chairman undertook to talk to the Business Association to see what could be done. In the meantime Cllr Huxley expressed everyone's wish that Mr Roy Murdoch be thanked for all the hours and days he has spent each year in the past ensuring Leiston looks bright, cheerful and seasonal over the Christmas period.
- 57. Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group (SPLG).** Members looked critically at the draft proposal submitted by the SPLG which outlined their intentions to enter into negotiations with the energy industries in the area to set up a Community Fund as amelioration for much of the disruption. Members pointed out that it would be Leiston who took virtually all the disruption of construction and hoped that it be made very clear that achieving any 106 agreements for amelioration in Leiston would be members first priority and would be separate from this venture. Being a member of the SPLG however they agreed they would support the pursuit of a Community Fund and, despite some qualms over the detail of the proposal, wished it success. Cllr Hodgson was unable to attend the next SPLG so, with no volunteer to deputise, it was agreed that members concerns and comments be conveyed to Mr Tate by e-mail.
- 58. Visit to Great Blakenham Recycling centre.** Members noted that the date set for a visit to the Recycling Centre at Gt Blakenham was set for Wednesday 13th October. The Clerk would canvas members to see who wished to go before deciding on transport. From previous experience Cllr Huxley pointed out that it would be wise to check what footwear was recommended for the visit.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (9pm – 9.20pm) for refreshments

59. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £11,111.51p along with £38,431.68p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Review of allotment rents.** Members noted the report from the Clerk and the necessity to raise rents to cover the water bill. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that all allotments administered by the Town Council would, from the 1st October 2010, be set at the uniform rate of £1.40 per Rod. A 10 rod plot on the Valley Road site would therefore increase by £2.00 to £14.00 and a plot on Haylings Road by £1 also to £14.00. The land in Knodishall would rise £110 to £360.
- c) **Review of charges.** Members agreed to maintain the current rates for corporate hire of the Film Theatre and, after some consideration, it was also agreed to increase the rental of 72 High Street by 3% (last increase in 2007).

- d) **Community Centre.** Members all agreed that the competition for hall hire in the town really meant that it would not be beneficial to raise hire fees in the current climate and therefore agreed to stay at £10 an hour.

During the above item (c) Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room
During item (d) Cllrs Hodgson, Huxley, Howard and Hawkins declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.

60. Planning Matters.

- a. **C10/1587 – Erection of a one and a half storey detached dwelling and double garage (in addition to that approved under C10/0583 on Land rear of No.31 High Street, Leiston.** Members were happy that the site could cope with the extra dwelling being proposed although Cllr Geater was keen for the Highways consultant to assess the suitability of the entrance onto the High Street to take all the extra traffic.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b. **C10/1977 – Change of house types from those approved by C05/0317 at St Petroc, Goldings Lane, Leiston.** Members still did not condone the major departure from the Local Plan that allowed this development in the first place so declined to comment.

NO COMMENT

- c. **C10/1898 – Erection of rear conservatory at 100 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d. **C10/2061 – Conversion of existing workshop into self-contained annexe at 36 Buller Road, Leiston.** Members were extremely concerned about the increase in on street parking requirement that this conversion would necessitate and did not wish to see this small property separated from the curtilage of No 36 (which could be the ultimate outcome). The parking issue was very serious however and the main objection to the proposal.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- e. **C10/2147 – Erection of single-storey extension and conservatory (existing conservatory to be demolished) at 37 Crown Street, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

61. County Matters.

- a. **Zebra Crossing – Haylings Road.** No action yet to get this repainted – Clerk to chase.
b. **Waterloo Avenue.** There was even more frustration that the incorrectly placed safety barrier by Colonial Park had still not been moved.
c. **Traffic Order Review.** The Clerk explained that, now this was being fast tracked, the proposals had been sent out to the Fire and Police services and all that remained to be done at our level was to organise and man a public exhibition in October. The Clerk was asked to organise the dates and let members know.

62. District Matters.

- a. **Green sward Quakers Way/Garrett Crescent.** Cllr Boast had been asked to try and stop the children from the High School leaving this area in such a state after using it at lunchtimes. The Clerk would investigate.
b. **SALC AGM.** The Clerk was asked to formulate some wording for two motions to be put to the SALC AGM. One for manufacturers of GPS systems to include 7.5T restricted areas in their products and one to ensure all open loads were netted (onions, beet, straw etc.)
c. **SALC Area meeting.** Cllr Hodgson reported back from the Area meeting held the evening previous. SALC were looking to appoint a representative to attend SSG meetings as John Hurn had stepped down. With no volunteers Cllr Hodgson was asked very kindly if he would take on the duty until someone came forward.

The time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to conclude.

63. Correspondence.

- a. **Council Offices, Old Post Office Square.** Members noted the letter from SCDC requesting a meeting to discuss potential asset transfers in the future from SCDC to Leiston Town Council. It was felt that a meeting could look at what might be coming up as SCDC reviews their asset portfolio.
- b. **Vitalise.** Members noted the request for grant aid from Vitalise and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Nunn, everyone agreed to release the £50 set aside in this years estimates for that purpose.

64. Questions to the chairman. There were no questions for the Chairman. Cllr Nunn asked leave to just update members on the Town's Fairtrade status however as Cllr Mrs Nunn was currently working on the application to retain and renew the award to ensure Leiston continued to be a Fair Trade Town.

65. Staff update. The clerk informed members that the Town Handyman had given notice and that a Personnel Committee meeting would be arranged for late September to look at this and other matters to enable a report to be given to the October meeting.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.08 pm.

----- Chair

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