

Pre-meeting Reports
7th October 2008

- 84. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Jackie Abbot and Sergeant Richard Gubbins, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members a thorough report on criminal activity in the town during September (report attached). Cllr Ginger reported that he had recently had cause to report various criminal damage incidents to the desk clerk at the Police Station and felt that he had not been given a good service there. He asked what the policy was on Criminal Damage. Sgt Gubbins explained that residents should not be afraid of dialling 999 for criminal damage incidents. Where property is in danger of getting damaged or indeed if people could get hurt, either through the actions of others or through their own activities (children climbing on roofs) then dial 999. The police call centre will filter out the calls and attach priority i.e. if nothing else is happening of a more serious nature they will allocate police to attend the incident. It may be that they get there after the youngsters have run away but the incident would be properly investigated and a presence will have been shown (which may deter future exploits in that vicinity). Cllr Howard asked about the drunks in the town centre as did the residents who live opposite the High Street Car Park Bus Shelter. This is a favourite spot for the drunks to sit and it really frightens and intimidates residents into not using the shelter – even in the rain. This has been raised at previous meetings and Sgt Gubbins briefed the meeting on the various strategies the police had at their disposal (with the other social services etc.) to tackle this problem.
- 85. District Report.** Cllr Nunn briefed the meeting on the strong possibility that the District Council could soon draw down some funding from the County Council to allow them to accelerate the twin bin recycling scheme completing the whole district (and Leiston) six months ahead of schedule.
- 86. County Report.** The Chairman passed on apologies from Cllr Ron Ward who, unfortunately, could not attend this evening's meeting. Mr Briggs asked that his concerns about the repairs to the "redundant" footway at Marlesford be noted and passed on.
- 87. Public Forum.** Mrs Hill read a short statement out on behalf of the Film Theatre Support Club to inform members that the club fully supported the proposal to extend the foyer (item 4 on the agenda) and hoped that they would take the decision to increase the profile of the Theatre on the High Street. They also supported the increased space the project would bring, the disabled access and the improvements to the box office and refreshment kiosk the proposal would allow. Mr Alex Rozmus pointed out that extending the foyer into the 74 High St (currently Berties Barbers Shop) would lead to the staff there being made redundant and would deprive Mrs Pickett of her livelihood. Mrs Burrell –Saward felt that she could not support the scheme as she felt that the current barbers business brought trade to that end of town. She was also concerned about any new extended foyer possibly becoming a coffee shop. Mr Burns hoped that members would take into consideration all the improvements he had overseen and all the proposals he had made to members over the last sixteen years which had led to the venue getting to where it was today. He passionately believed that this step was now needed to keep the theatre going forward and to increase the possibility of gaining increased revenue. He pointed out that it was not the intention to open a "coffee shop". Alison Lamb was concerned that she thought that the public were entitled to see the business plans of the Council which supported the proposal and Mr Rozmus asked members whether they were aware that compensation would have to be paid if Mrs Pickett were asked to relocate. Rebecca Corbett felt that losing the barbers would affect her business and Simply Delicious was disappointed he had not been made aware of the proposals earlier. Lucy Curtis felt that the disabled access was adequate for many disabled and Mrs Pickett wished members to know that, if there had been a petition, it would have shown tenfold more support than present at the meeting. There were other, passionate statements, in support of retaining the barbers and some discussion on wondering whether there was any other scheme that could maybe meet some middle ground. The Chairman hoped that everyone had felt that they had been given the opportunity to voice an opinion and thanked everyone for their contributions which she was sure members would take into consideration when they debated the proposal later in the meeting.

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 OCTOBER 2008, at 8.15 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 Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor. J .L. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor F. R. Huxley
Councillor J. Morrissey
Councillor A. J Nunn
Councillor N. Parker

- 88. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of the 2nd September 2008 be signed as a true record.
- 89. Apologies.** Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Hodgson.
- 90. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman addressed the meeting "Congratulations to Nita Ling and her Leiston in Bloom Team for being awarded a Silver Gilt at the Anglia in Bloom awards ceremony held at Gorleston on 9th September. They were also delighted when they received a certificate for "Best Open Space" – a truly just reward for our Victory Road Park and the Haylings Pond area. I had the great honour of awarding over sixty young people with their medals and certificates. They had all taken part during their Summer holidays in Team Read, a project put on by the libraries that was in line with sport and the Olympics. One youngster proudly said that this was the very first thing he had won and that the certificate was going on his bedroom door. I think this could well be the first of many! A young girl proudly said that this was her second award, she had won one last year. The news broke that EDF have taken over British Energy and with TV interviews, apart from having a cold, the first one for over five years, they showed just a very small part of the recorded interview. Cllr. Howard and I attended a Fairtrade Meeting in Ipswich last Friday and we both came away feeling that we had got something from their meeting and that our small committee were working in the right direction. We would like to remind all Councillors that we are holding a drop in session here, in the Community Centre, on Wednesday 29th October between 2pm to 8pm. This is an invitation, letters are being sent out tomorrow, for all business and organisations in both Leiston and Sizewell to find out more about Fairtrade and where they can purchase their goods from. We do hope that all councillors all be able to come along and meet and talk to our local business people."
- 91. Film Theatre Foyer Project.** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Howard felt that the figures presented to them were unclear and, appreciating that there were several facets to the project, asked the Clerk to present a bare bones appraisal of those various elements to make it clear where the savings were coming from and what the initial capital outlay would be to regain possession of 74, High Street. Cllr Geater felt that whatever the benefits might or might not be he did not want to evict a loyal tenant and felt that a ramp could be installed on the pavement outside the Theatre. Cllr Nunn thought that this was a unique opportunity to gain a much improved refreshment kiosk and disabled access plus a much more useable and adaptable foyer area at little cost due to the amount of sponsorship promised. There were risks but apart from the very tangible improvements to the business and the staff's working conditions there was also the high possibility that the project could help reduce the deficit. Members felt that needed more information though so, on a proposal from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Geater it was agreed to postpone the debate until November when the figures requested could be studied. It was regretted that, with these figures being commercially sensitive, they could not be made available to the public as had been requested during the public debate.

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest, left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote. Cllr Nunn and Cllr Mrs Nunn declared a personal interest before taking part in the debate.

The meeting took a break for refreshments for 20 minutes from 8.50pm – 9.10pm.

- 92. Newsletter.** Members were asked to contribute their articles by 14th November
- 93. Fairtrade Town Initiative.** Cllr Mrs Nunn and Cllr Howard explained how the Fairtrade Working Party were getting ready for their drop in event on 29th October. Members were given a written report which explained the roles, goals and timetables the group were working to. The main item was that the campaign had been registered with the Fairtrade Foundation after last month's resolution to support it.
- 94. Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group meeting of 4th September.** Cllr Howard gave a brief report on the meeting and the main item which had been an extensive item on coastal erosion. Members would get the full minutes before the next meeting.
- 95. Sizewell Management meeting.** Members noted the report from the meeting with Mr John Davies, Countryside Manager for SCDC, on 25th September held on Sizewell Beach. The main items members noted was the overrun of construction work predicted for the bottom grass car park at Sizewell which would mean it being closed off until as late as June (09). This would mean that the top car park may have to be opened which was still recovering from erosion from when it was used 3 years ago. National Grid agreed to talk to SCDC about amelioration to ensure the top car park was protected as much as possible from recurrence. The other items included the request from SCDC for the Town Council to enter into a financial partnership on some of the more prominent projects as their budget was very limited and for the Clerk to write and try and change British Energy's mind on replacing the gate at the bottom of Goose Hill to a bicycle friendly one. Members noted the intention to remove the chestnut fencing in front of the dunes to the east of the village and asked the Clerk to investigate financial help with the projects from Greater Gabbard.
- 96. Minsmere Levels Stakeholder Group.** Cllr Boast gave an excellent report on the business discussed at the previous week's meeting of the Stakeholder Group and how the group was now gaining a presence on the many bodies responsible for the levels and their management. Members concluded that continued membership of the stakeholder group was important and very useful. The Chairman thanked Cllr Boast who reported that the minutes of the meeting would be made available to Councillors in due course.
- 97. Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £25,892.76p along with £6,944.91p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- 98. Planning Matters.**
- a. **Minutes of Planning Meeting held on 23rd September.** Members noted the business that had taken place on 23rd September.
 - b. **Notifications.** The Clerk informed members that, since the above meeting, the proposal for the east end of Heath View had been temporarily withdrawn to try and include more on street parking in the plan.
 - c. **Pedestrian crossing Waterloo Avenue – update.** Members noted the e-mail from the County Council which confidently announced the commencement of works on this project on 24th October. It was reluctantly agreed to hold off demanding a full on site meeting until midday on 24th October.
- 99. County Matters.**
- a. **SALC AGM.** Members noted the resolutions that were being put forward at this years SALC AGM on 21st October and gave Cllr Huxley guidance on how they would wish him to vote should nothing be put forward during debate on the floor at the AGM to change his mind.
 - b. **Footways.** Expanding on the item brought up during the public forum Cllr Howard asked the Clerk to get more information on the work being carried out to the Marlesford footway.
- 100. District Matters.**
- a. Nothing was raised.
- 101. Correspondence.**
- a. **Business Crime Forum.** The Chairman and the Clerk undertook to attend the forum at Martlesham on 14th October.
 - b. **Festival of Remembrance.** Members noted the invitation to this year's event and asked Cllr Huxley to officially represent them at the event as the Chairman was unfortunately unable to attend.

- c. **Daneway.** Members noted the reply from the Director of Adult and Community Services explaining why Daneway was being closed and handed back to the owners, the Mental Health Trust. The Clerk was asked to write and request that the Town Council be involved in any future plans the Trust may have for the premises.

During the above item, the time reaching 10.00pm it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to be completed.

- d. **Citizens Advice Bureau.** Members noted the request for a donation from Leiston's Citizens Advice Bureau and, on a proposition from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to donate £1600 to the CAB as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

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

- e. **Vitalise.** Members noted the request for a donation from Vitalise and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Morrissey, it was agreed to donate £50 to Vitalise as allowed under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.
- f. **Local Strategic Partnership Annual Forum.** The Chairman and Clerk undertook to attend this year's event on 14th November
- g. **Christmas Lights.** Members were very pleased that Energy Solutions had kindly offered to part sponsor this years Christmas Light display but were disappointed that British Energy had decided not to be involved this year. After last year's successful partnership it was hoped the Clerk could find another partner in time to help the Council and Sizewell A get the lights up for the beginning of December.
- h. **Leiston Old Folks Outing.** Members received a report of a very successful and enjoyable "Old Folks Outing" that took place on 4th October. The Clerk was asked to write to the organisers and to thank all those who had helped to make it such an entertaining day out.

102. Questions to the chairman. None

It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that under the Public Bodies Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

103. Personnel. Members quickly discussed two items of personnel business neither of which needed resolution.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.20 pm.

----- Chair

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