

Pre-meeting Reports
7th November 2006

101. Police Report. In the absence of a representative of the Suffolk Constabulary (but see later) the Chairman invited County Councillor Ron Ward to address the meeting.

102. County Council Report. Cllr Ward gave an insight into the difficulties facing the County Council as they wrestled with next years budget. He also outlined some initiatives being considered to tackle the diminishing land fill space for waste disposal and informed the meeting that the Eider Ducks in the Wash are not now going to be culled. Cllr Girling asked him to get back to her with more details on the Government settlements to the County for 05/06 and 06/07 and how they correlated with inflation. Cllr Cooper asked for an opinion on how Ipswich Boroughs attempt to go unitary might affect the County and Mr Taylor asked for an opinion on the recent talk on coastal erosion Cllr Ward had attended with the Sizewell Stakeholders Group.

The chairman raised the problem of the Town's chemist being closed just recently, without warning. Although it was deemed not to be a County a matter it was discussed anyway as matter that affected Cllr Ward's ward. Lloyds chemists, if it cannot get a pharmacist to attend the premises is not allowed (lawfully) to open. Being in the sticks, relief pharmacists are very hard to get at short notice so, a bit too frequently, residents turn up to find the chemists closed without any notice whatsoever and are then stuck as to how to fulfil their prescription. The Clerk was requested to find out who had responsibility for this situation and to request much more information is posted in the window of the chemist (when this does happen) detailing other chemists and their phone numbers. There was also a general comment that the stocks at the Leiston Pharmacy were not as good as they should be on occasions and perhaps this could also be mentioned in any correspondence.

103. District Council Report. Cllr Geater gave an overview of the Local Strategic Partnership and the areas in which it was intending to work. Cllr Girling asked where the funding came from for the partnership and Cllr Geater undertook to find out. Mr Taylor asked about the graffiti in Harlings Way and who was going to clear it off and Mr Button was assured that the discussions on the new Local Development Framework, although they had looked at the allotments - as they had at every site in Leiston – had not included them in any plan for housing in the (long) foreseeable future.

During the above reports, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Ginger 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 NOVEMBER 2006, at 7:47p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor B. A. Barnes
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor A M Cooper
Councillor J. L. Geater
Councillor Mrs S M Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor Mrs J. I. Girling
Councillor T E Hodgson (until 9:10pm)
Councillor F. R. Huxley

104. Minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2006 be signed as a true record with the following amendments; paragraph numbering be corrected and Cllr Ginger's declared interest be inserted in the correct place (after minute 99.).

105. Apologies. Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Nunn, Cllr Mrs May, Cllr Hawkins, Cllr Howard and Cllr Blowers.

106. Chairman's Communications. The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, she had attended the presentation of the Dacre Sword to Cadet Warrant Officer Erik Clark at the 1379 Leiston Squadron. Erik, a Leiston lad, was the UK's Air Cadet of the year. The Chairman had also been to the Suffolk County Harvest festival in St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

107. Report from Council's meeting with the Theatre Manager. Members received the minutes from the meeting held with Mr Burns on 23rd October. Cllr Huxley wished to apologise for not apologising and there was little comment apart from Cllr Geater pointing out the (topical) juxtaposition of the current emphasis on obesity and the provision of popcorn and sugary refreshments in the Cinema. It was suggested that fruit might be put on the menu....

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest, remained in the room
but took no part in the discussion or vote.

The time being 7:58pm it was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Community Support Officer Mary Thompson to address the meeting.

108. Police Report. CSO Thompson apologised for being held up (emergency gas main repairs closed road between Leiston and Saxmundham) and gave members a breakdown of crime figures for Leiston for October. She added to these that there had also been some various occasions of Domestic Incidents which, although non crime, took up considerable police time. In response to a query Mary outlined the comprehensive training the police received to deal with these sort of incidents and left the meeting assured that all that could be done was done to ensure the safety (and ongoing observation) of residents who could be in abuse situations in domestic settings in the Town. Cllr Ginger sought reassurance that all CSO's and Police Officers would take action on cars flagrantly flaunting the parking regulations in the High Street (in particular) and elsewhere as they went about their duties. Finally, Mary outlined the rough timetable whereby Leiston would be getting three Community Support Officers (to share with Aldeburgh) and the setting up of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team initiative around February time.

The meeting resumed at 8:12pm

109. Theatre Admission Prices Review. As part of the annual review of charges members noted the letter from the Theatre manager recommending a modest increase in admission prices for the Cinema. It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the price for an adult and an OAP ticket would both go up by 50p to £5.50 and £4.50 respectively. The childrens price would remain £3.50 and the family ticket increase by £1. Members noted the other initiatives being introduced and also took a letter from the table from the Film Theatre Support Club which gave details of their fund raising efforts over recent months for the set the stage project. Work had begun on installing the metal framework around the stage and members asked the Clerk to write and thank the Club very much for the energy and drive they have put into enhancing that area of the Theatre and their impressive efforts at raising funds.

110. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Newsletter. Members noted the report from the recent meeting and the detail of what CSO Thompson mentioned earlier in the meeting vis-à-vis Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Cllr Ginger updated members on the CCTV Partnership meeting that had taken place since where Aldeburgh, Framlingham and Saxmundham, with Leiston were getting close to forming a more formal Partnership to pursue the installation of CCTV cameras in the towns if funds were forthcoming. One item that needed clarification was who would hold the funds once received. Leiston seemed to be the most suitable partner so it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that Leiston Town Council would hold any funds forthcoming on behalf of the CCTV Partnership should that be their wish. (Cllr Girling abstained).

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

111. Complaints Procedure. With two minor amendments (grammar) it was proposed by Cllr Geater, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that the Complaints Procedure submitted for approval be adopted forthwith.

112. Light Pollution. In the absence of Cllr May it was agreed to postpone this item until December.

113. Newsletter. Members discussed how they might be able to get enough material together by 14th November and gave Cllr Girling delegated powers to chase people up!

114. Finance

a) **Accounts for Payment.** On a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Geater, it was agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £12,129.61p along with £15,253.38p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

b) **Allotments.** Members noted the donation from the Allotment Holders which covered the full costs of the works carried out around their Associations hut and the Clerk was asked to write and thank them.

c) **Requests for inclusion in 2007/2008 estimates.** Members were requested to give details of any items they, personally, may wish to be considered in the estimates for next year.

115. Planning Matters

a) **C06/1705/FUL – Creation of vehicular access alterations to the existing access and erection of brick wall with piers and railings at 50 Haylings Road, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

b) **C06/1917/FUL – Siting of one prefabricated medical decontamination unit and covered walkway and cabin at Sizewell A Power Station.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

c) **C06/1847/FUL – Erection of dropped kerb for vehicular access at 81 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C06/1898/FUL – Extension of existing dwelling and erection of detached double garage at 81 Abbey Road, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **C06/1942/FUL – Erection of three storey four dwelling apartment block on land adjoining Crown Street Car Park, Leiston.** Members hoped that a careful assessment could be made of the interference this project might have on the amenity enjoyed by 26 Urban Road vis-à-vis light and outlook (the proposed dwelling is tall, south and quite close). It was felt that the height was difficult to visualise but members did not want to see the building detract from the cottages opposite either with its size, form or materials. The roofing materials being especially important. Otherwise this was probably the best use that could be envisaged for a difficult site which is currently an eyesore.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- f) **C06/1660/FUL – Erection of one pair of semi-detached houses in part side garden of 7 and 15 Kitchener Road, Leiston.** Members first reaction was that both the Town and County Councils have been trying to find ways of making Kitchener Road accessible to emergency vehicles and to alleviate the degraded quality of life residents in that area suffer through lack of parking. This development would exacerbate that situation and for that reason alone should be refused. Each of the two proposed dwellings would bring in two cars each so, to be acceptable, provision would have to be made for them as well as compensating 7 and 15 for the complete withdrawal of their facilities (including a garage). The style of semi detached housing along that side of Kitchener is distinctive and uniform. This proposal looked to be a complete anathema just crammed in without even a nod to style. Members felt that one dwelling may have been just acceptable but two was most certainly not. Too cramped and an overdevelopment in a sensitive area.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

- g) **C06/1953/FUL – Change of use of part of hall to allow use for weddings at Gusten Hall, Leiston Abbey, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

Cllr Hodgson leaves meeting.

116. County Matters.

- a) **Westward Ho.** Members were informed of the work being carried out to erect substantial fencing either side of the railway line in that vicinity to improve its security.

117. District Matters.

- a) **Lorry parking at Sizewell.** Members noted the photograph of the three lorries parked up on the Sizewell Beach car park over the last week end and agreed it was time to try and highlight this problem to all the agencies involved. It was more involved than just banning them (which they are anyway!) as there really has to be recognition of whether there is a bigger problem or not. Members felt that a lorry park or “park up” area should be designated somewhere close to Sizewell as the current level of traffic alone might possibly support one let alone anticipated future requirements (de-commissioning). The clerk was asked to write to all the agencies possibly involved and seek a way ahead.
- b) **Refuse lorries.** Cllr Cooper reported two very clear instances where refuse collection lorries had driven out of Leiston toward the land fill site without their rear curtain down and consequently litter was blowing out of the vehicle all the way there. The Clerk was asked to pass this on to Ufford.
- c) **SALC AGM.** Cllr Huxley gave a brief report of events at the recent SALC AGM. Members were keen to get more information on the recent White Paper on Local Government and asked the Clerk to prompt SALC for a lead although it was expected that they would publish summaries as soon as possible.
- d) **Healthy Living Centre.** Members noted the report on the recent meeting the Clerk had had with SCDC and NPS Ltd. to discuss the High Street car park. They were extremely disappointed that, after all the talking, meetings and discussions over the last four years the District Council had now basically taken the project back to square one while they decided what they wanted to do with the High Street Car Park site. It was noted that SCDC had undertaken to have a policy meeting on 11th December

amongst senior officers and it was hoped that something positive might come from that meeting to allow the process to be kick started. Members wanted the District Councillors to know that the Town Council felt very strongly indeed that the site was the most sustainable and central site for the Healthy Living Centre and that they (like SCDC used too!) felt it would add vitality and vigour to the town centre as well. After all the good work emanating from the SRB and the work that had been put in to take this forward (including the Town Centre Action Plan) members voted for the Clerk to write and express their disappointment and their sincere hope that something positive can be achieved soon. (Cllr Geater abstained). Members expressed a hope that the Leiston and District Community partnership would echo their sentiments and keep the Town Council informed of their efforts.

118. Correspondence.

- a) Members noted the consultation on the scoping report for the East Suffolk Catchment Area Management Plan.
- b) Members noted the consultation on the NDA Socio-Economic Policy Draft.

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 continue until complete.

- c) Members were pleased to note the efforts of Mrs Ling (Leiston in Bloom) to rejuvenate the concrete plinth area on the NW corner of the Victory Road/Haylings Road junction.
- d) Members noted the letter from the NII declining to initiate a Judicial Review on the decision for Colonial House.
- e) Members agreed that the Allotment Committee would meet with the Allotment Association at 7.30pm on 14th December.

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

- f) Christmas Lights. Members asked the Clerk to find out what the situation was regarding erection of the Towns Christmas Lights this year. There was some concern that the normal activity associated with preparing the lights for erection this time of year did not seem to be happening. If this was the case the Clerk was asked to call an emergency meeting.
- g) CATS. Members noted the invite to attend the official launch of their new bus on 4th December.
- h) Members requested and agreed for Cllr Ginger to be the official Town Council representative at the Festival of Remembrance.

119. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Cllr Girling asked whether anyone knew if Leiston was in or out of the Haven Gateway. The Clerk was asked to find out.
- b) Members asked whether the Clerk would like to invite Mr Rob Maklin (RSPB) to come and address them on the subject of Kittiwakes at a meeting sometime in the spring.

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.

120. Personnell. Members discussed a short item of staff business.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 10.32 pm.

----- Chair

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