

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**7<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

- 106. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Inspector Chris Gilmour, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave a detailed résumé of crime in the Town during November (attached). There were only 26 crimes this month against 48 recorded last November. Members asked questions on various issues before wishing Inspector Gilmour a Merry Christmas.
- 107. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Richard Smith who reported on some of the breaking stories regarding the County Councils ongoing implementation of its New Strategic Direction. The hot topics discussed included the closure or divestment of Youth Clubs, the withdrawal of funding for School Crossing Patrols, the future of care homes and other issues where the more vulnerable members of our society were facing an uncertain future in how care would be provided. There was news on the future of the 999 call centre for the Fire Service moving from Ipswich to Cambridgeshire and Cllr Smith explained that the Traffic Order Revision would now be going to the March Rights of Way Committee meeting rather than January.
- 108. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins had nothing to report.

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,**  
**7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010, at 7.54 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. E. Bailey**  
**Councillor D. Boast**  
**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**  
**Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn**  
**Councillor N Parker**

- 109. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 be signed as a true record.
- 110. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Mr Nunn and Cllr Barnes.
- 111. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had represented the Town and Council on 10 official occasions since the last meeting. Starting with the Festival of Remembrance and the Remembrance Day parade he had attended several

community events around the area including, just the evening before, the Civic Carol Service in Bury St Edmunds.

112. **Town Appraisal.** The public meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November did not attract many interested residents although this was probably due to poor advertising. It was hoped that the article in the newsletter advertising the 19<sup>th</sup> January would have more success.
113. **Traffic Order Review.** Members noted the revised diagrams which had been adjusted to take into account, as far as possible, all the comments submitted during the recent public exhibition and consultation. The main issues had come to light around Central Road, Buller Road, Kitchener Road and Carr Avenue. As many of the proposed restrictions as possible had been removed from those roads without compromising those proposed for important safety reasons. There were some relaxations in Waterloo Avenue and an alteration in the entrance road of Heath View to try to address the speeding concerns raised by residents there. Members agreed to support the final draft and the Clerk informed members that the orders would now be raised ready for submission to the SCC Rights of Way Committee. Cllr Ginger asked that the residents in Heath View be consulted again once the detailed plan for the proposals in their road was available and Cllr Huxley asked that proposals for the lay-by outside the Middle School be clarified.
114. **Meeting with Allotment Association.** Members noted the report from the meeting with the Allotment Association and agreed that the Clerk should continue to action all the points raised as appropriate and as time allows.
115. **Report from the SPLG meeting.** Members appreciated Cllr Hodgson's written report from the recent meeting of the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group that he had attended on their behalf.
116. **New Strategic Direction.** Members briefly discussed the pace of change happening at the current time and how difficult it was to react in a considered manner to the myriad consultations being conducted at the moment. The Clerk also pointed out the imminent announcement in Parliament of the "Localism Bill" which promised to further upset the equilibrium by introducing sweeping changes to planning, conduct and many of the other ways local authorities do business.
117. **Finance.**
  - a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £10,406.66p along with £18,387.53p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
  - b) **Dinsdale Road Toilets.** Members decided to discuss the future provision of these facilities as part of the estimates in January.
  - c) **Part funded PCSO.** Members had a wide ranging discussion on whether to renew the contract for the Town's part funded PCSO again which falls due in June 2011. It was noted that the town would still retain one PCSO should the agreement be terminated so the argument was generally based around what the benefit was of retaining a second PCSO. Some members maintained their stance that policing should be funded by the police and that it was up to them to provide adequate policing in the town. It was noted that the provision of a second PCSO was therefore a luxury but one that enabled so much more to be achieved than just reactive response policing. The proactive community engagement that our PCSO's have carried out has won support from many residents in the Town and it is always a boon to have an officer around town who knows the layout, problems and personalities that live there. Our current PCSO has a very good knowledge of Leiston now and this would be carried forward for a further two years. A continuity that has, in modern times, been sorely lacking. The part funded PCSO is also, through their contract, directed by us, the Council, as one of the key stakeholders in the Safer Neighbourhood Team. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that money be put in the Precept for 2011-2013 to allow the contract to continue for a further two years from June 2011. The Clerk was also asked to see if he could put

together some statistics and reports to show how effective our investment had been to date.

- d) **Youth Club.** Members heard earlier from Cllr Smith how the Youth Club was marked for closure and the Clerk, who had noted members concerns about this, explained that he had done a little research into the options. It looked as though there would be quite a high cost to take over the running of the Youth Club building – about £ 14,000 per annum – and this did not include staff costs. There was considerable scope to reduce the running costs if the building was run locally but admin and staffing might well remain quite high. All this needed much more detailed analysis which, unfortunately, due to the speed of policy statements etc., would have to happen quite quickly albeit not until late January. It was felt that there may be funding available to help take over the club in the first few years but this would probably be tailored and finite. It was hoped to get more information in time for January.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (8.50pm – 9.10pm) for refreshments

## 118. Planning Matters.

- a. **C10/2992 – Erection of two storey extension at 2 Wood Farm Cottages, Leiston.** Members felt that, in their current form, the plans did not adequately show how the proposed extension affected the immediately adjacent Grade II listed building. A Design and Access statement would have been helpful. As it was members felt that the zinc roof was not in keeping with the properties heritage and surroundings and, although fully supporting an increase in living space in the cottage, noted that this proposal increased the building footprint very substantially indeed. The neighbours to the east might wish to comment on the slab side of the proposal which would affect them (possible loss of evening sunshine) and overall, the design was not supported. Cllr Hawkins abstained.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

- b. **Greater Galloper.** Members discussed the recent public exhibition staged by SSE which showed the proposed sites they were considering for a second substation to support the massive expansion of the Greater Gabbard wind farm, officially, in its own right, called Greater Galloper. They were upset and surprised to see that, once again, they were considering a site on the southern side of the Sizewell Road close to the Halfway Cottages. They were also very disappointed in the way the consultation was undertaken. The presentation boards were inaccurate and only contained indicative lines for power lines which they could not even confirm would be buried or overhead. The photo montages were inadequate and, when told to look on the website for further information requested, it was not there. The Clerk was asked to convey members strong support for option 1, next to the existing substation, and to unequivocally reject option 2 on the south side of the road. Number 5 was far too close to the town too. The main thrust however would be to point out the inadequacy of the preparation and to strongly urge that the Sizewell A site and the brownfield sites close by be investigated further as part of any submission to the IPC. The Clerk was asked to pass these comments onto SCDC to ensure they were fully aware of the dissatisfaction with, and inadequacy of, the whole consultation.

## 119. County Matters.

- a. Nothing raised.

## 120. District Matters.

- a. Nothing raised

## 121. Correspondence.

- a. **Bible Society Action Group.** Members noted the request from the Bible Society Action Group (Leiston and District branch), who had recently staged a variety show in the Film Theatre, to waive the hire fee of £300. Members asked the Clerk to respond and explain that it was not policy to waive hire fees at the theatre but that their request would, like

other organisations in a similar position who used the Theatre, be treated as a request for a donation or grant. Unfortunately, in this instance, there were no funds available.

- b. **1<sup>st</sup> Leiston Scouts** Members noted the letter from Hannah-Mae Taylor, a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Leiston Scout Group, in which she informed members that she had been selected to represent our area at the World Scout Jamboree in July. Her request for a donation toward enabling her to be able to go was received very sympathetically and, using the Power of Well Being, it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that £100 be granted to 1<sup>st</sup> Leiston Scouts to help Hannah go. It was hoped Hannah would be able to report back to members on how it went later in the year.
- c. **Victim Support.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Suffolk Victim Support group and on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Nunn it was agreed to donate £50 in recognition of the excellent work they do in our area.
- d. **Suffolk Accident rescue Service.** Members noted the request for grant aid from the Suffolk Accident Rescue service and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Hawkins it was agreed to donate £75 in recognition of the excellent work they do in our area.

**122. Questions to the chairman.** Cllr Huxley asked why the Town Council had met with representatives from Tesco supermarket in a closed meeting i.e. why had it not been advertised and been open to the public? Cllr Cooper explained that, when he had been informed that Tesco's were aiming to build a store in Leiston, and were having a public exhibition in two weeks time, he invited Tesco to come and present their proposals to the Town Council as a matter of courtesy so members would be aware of what was going to be consulted on at the public exhibition. It was decided to do this in a closed meeting where Councillors could ask questions and listen to what was being proposed so that they would be in a position to listen and respond to residents queries once the plans were put on show. No opinions were offered and the notes from that meeting, compiled by Tesco, are available should anyone wish to consult them.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.48 pm.

----- Chair

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