

Pre-meeting Reports
9th January 2007

- 141. Police Report.** Unfortunately a representative from Suffolk Constabulary was unable to attend although a report of crime statistics for December was provided.
- 142. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ron Ward who informed the meeting that he had managed to arrange for work to be done to the speed bump in Park Road that should now allow the new CATS bus to visit the hospital. He then apprised members of the forthcoming budget process and mentioned two quite interesting levies that would be considered. One was a levy SCC paid to the Environment Agency for flood protection and the other was to the Eastern Sea Fisheries for fishery protection. Cllr Howard implored Cllr Ward to do his best and fight hard to ensure that social care provision was not depleted in the budget – it affected so many of our more vulnerable residents. He also asked Cllr Ward to look at the atrocious decision to close Church Bridge in Saxmundham for repairs rather than leave one lane open. Other items covered were chewing gum on pavements and the dilapidated surface outside the Post Office.
- 143. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Geater had little to report but were asked to note the continuing patchy performance of SCS Ltd in emptying litter bins and the under provisioned street sweeping effort in the town. Mr Briggs considered it a disgrace and asked that members note this when considering their forthcoming budget.

At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
9th JANUARY 2007, at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A. V. Nunn (in the chair)
Councillor D. Bailey
Councillor B. A. Barnes
Councillor C D C Blowers
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

- 144. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2006 be signed as a true record.
- 145. Apologies.** Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Cooper, Cllr Mr Nunn, Cllr Mrs May and Cllr Girling.
- 146. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman informed the meeting of three engagements she had attended before Christmas. The Civic Carol Service in Bury St Edmunds and the carol service on Christmas Eve in Old Post Office Square – a well attended and thoroughly charming event. The other event was the presentation of certificates and prizes to High School pupils at their Achievements for All Presentation Evening. The Chairman explained how impressed she had been by the standard the pupils had achieved and how active they all were.
- 147. Household Waste Site** – Members heard that Mr Mark Deer would be attending the Household Waste site at 2.00pm on 23rd January 2007 to meet Councillors and to hear their views on the dangers existing around the site entrance. Cllr Blowers informed members that a car had been written off on 28th December as it avoided queuing traffic outside the site.
- 148. Meeting with Allotment Association 14th December.** Cllr Ginger thanked Cllr Bailey for attending the meeting and gave an overview of the outcomes as noted in the minutes. Members agreed that the report be accepted in principle and that work on the many positive initiatives it contained should continue throughout the year. Cllr Bailey thanked the Association and felt that they were a credit to the town for they way in which they had looked after the area around their Headquarters. Cllr Geater asked the Clerk to investigate stipulating a fine on the proposed No Fly

Tipping notices and it was passed on that Mr Button would be submitting a relevant article for inclusion in the next newsletter.

149. Clerks Report. The Clerk updated members on progress around Colonial House and asked that all articles for the February newsletter were submitted before the February meeting.

150. Finance

- a) **Accounts for Payment.** On a proposition from Cllr Hawkins, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, it was agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £16,542.80p along with £17,195.76p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr Howard declared an interest in Cheque 308294 – Cllr Huxley in 308294 and 208292.
- b) **Budget presentation.** The Clerk gave an overview of the budget papers members had in front of them and outlined the suggested procedure for the Precept discussion.

151. Precept.

- a) **Core costs** – Members agreed to the figures presented by the Clerk to cover the core costs anticipated to run the Community Centre, the Cinema and the general expenditure incurred by the Clerks office. This came to £110,400. Cllr Geater wished his vote against accepting this to be recorded. A further £20,000 was considered necessary to cover the Dinsdale Road WCs, the Projector Replacement Fund, Grant Aid money and Contingencies. Total £130,400. Members then discussed the possible capital projects they wished to contribute to in the coming year item by item, voting on each at the time as to whether they were added or deleted from the final estimates. Proposals and voting are not detailed for each, just the decision and, where requested, a recorded vote.
- b) **Historic Map (Council Chamber)** – Members agreed to put a nominal £500 into the estimates to get a professional opinion on what is required to adequately restore and protect the map hanging in the Council Chambers.
- c) **Sizewell Shelter** – No provision was made to reverse the roof this financial year.
- d) **Cinema** – A searching discussion was held into the need to upgrade the sound system in the Theatre to Dolby Digital. Some members had noted what many customers had commented upon in the past – that the analogue sound track now attached to movies was of inferior quality to the digital standard and that some dialogue was now a little indistinct. Bearing in mind the advice contained in the recent consultants report and the fact that the current sound processor actually went out of production 16 years ago members felt it was necessary to protect the business and to plan an upgrade. £20,000 was included in the estimates to be allocated to the project subject to and dependent on a detailed appraisal of the proposed future system and its sustainability.
- e) **Allotments.** Members agreed to include £2,000 in the estimates to carry on tidying up both allotment sites and to be used as partnership funding for any new projects.
- f) **Christmas Lights.** This subject will come to the fore in the summer and members felt it would be wise to put £1,000 into reserves to help any new community group get next years lights off the ground if required.
- g) **Play Equipment.** Members noted that the current Victory Park project would empty the Play Equipment Reserve and felt it prudent to allocate £3,500 to the reserve next year for maintenance and repairs as well as starting to save for future enhancements.

Cllr Geater declared a personal interest in the above item.
- h) **Victory Park – Trees.** Members agreed to continue to try and plant for the future and allocated £2,000 toward replacing the vandalised trees on the Recreation Ground.
- i) **Victory Park Landscaping.** Members agreed to continue the landscape and fencing improvements around the park for future generations and put £3,000 into the reserve to do this.
- j) **General Reserves.** The Clerk informed members that he was comfortable in taking £10,000 from the anticipated reserves at year end to offset the precept. This would leave approximately £60,000 in the General Reserve all being well which would just about cover the advised figure of half the Council's annual expenditure.
- k) **Precept.** The Clerk informed members that the Precept needed to carry out ongoing business, provide the agreed level of service and carry out the above capital projects for 2007/2008 would be £153,400. This figure took into account the agreed contribution from reserves and, on a proposition from Cllr Huxley, seconded by Cllr Howard, it was agreed to precept the District Council for £153,400 for 2007/2008. Cllr Geater wished to have his vote against the proposition recorded.

During the above discussions Cllr Ginger declared a personal interest in all matters affecting the Cinema, remained in the room and partook in all other items other than those.

152. Planning Matters

- a) **C06/2055/FUL – Erection of sectional building for use as store associated with Leiston Cinema on land adjoining 9 Central Road, Leiston.**

NO COMMENT

- b) **C06/2237/FUL – Retention of fencing at 2, Garrett Crescent, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **C06/2149/FUL – Change of use of first floor from residential to shop (A1) at 71 High Street, Leiston.** Members noted that the upper floors would not be disabled friendly and hoped that this would be taken into account in display of goods etc.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- d) **C06/2252/RES – Erection of one detached house with off street parking (submission of details under outline planning C05/0462) on garage site between 14 and 26 prospect Place, Leiston.** Cllr Howard wished it minuted that he had objected because the Emergency Planning Officer was not able to meet the requirement to evacuate the town – Cllr Ginger also objected on these grounds

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- e) **C06/2254/FUL – Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to form 5 dwellings at Crown Farm, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston.** Members agreed that the retention of the barn could be justified in accordance with AP75 although they were not sure whether the application was for residential or holiday accommodation. They were keen however that affordable homes should be included in the project. The egress on to the main road was considered a potential danger and it was hoped that this would be commented upon by highways and any recommendations included in permissions. Despite some rather interesting comments in the associated paperwork there was no doubt that this application **had to be referred to the NII for comment and their advice heeded.** It is in the restricted zone and would be at the back of the queue during any evacuation. Subject to NII backing and a clear commitment to providing affordable homes (using outside village criteria) members agreed to support the application. Cllr Howard wished it minuted that he had objected because the Emergency Planning Officer was not able to meet the requirement to evacuate the town – Cllr Ginger also objected on these grounds

RECOMMEND CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

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

- f) **C06/2218/FUL – Erection of temporary building (engine shelter) to provide weather protection and security during restoration of steam locomotive at The Long Shop Museum, Main Street, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

- g) **C06/2282/FUL – Erection of two storey extension (re-submission of C06/0607) at 18 Central Road, Leiston.** Members felt that this new proposal was now acceptable, subject to the planning authority being 100% assured that the length, height, scale and close proximity to the neighbouring property did not have an unacceptable adverse effect upon that property's residential amenity. Particular thought had to be given to the loss of sunlight and outlook.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- h) **C06/2317/FUL – Erection of front porch on 95 Heath View, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- i) **C06/2340/FUL – Erection of extension to existing gatehouse to provide improved facilities at Sizewell A Power Station, Sizewell, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

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

- j) **C07/0021/CRG3 – Extension to form community room and access toilet at Leiston County Primary School, King George Avenue, Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above item, 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 be completed.

153. County Matters.

- a) **Highbury Cottages.** Members asked that Highbury Cottage Footpath be put on the February Agenda.

154. District Matters.

- a) **CDRP (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership).** Cllr Ginger informed members that he was attending a CDRP meeting the next day and that he would be raising residents concerns about the illegal parking in the High Street. He would be asking Inspector Underwood what the current policy was now there was no dedicated Traffic Warden.

155. Correspondence.

- a) **OPTUA.** Members noted the request for grant aid from OPTUA but regrettably decided they weren't in a position to offer support on this occasion.
- b) Other papers included for information were noted.

There being no more business the Meeting closed at 10.25 pm.

----- Chair

----- Dated