

At the ANNUAL MEETING of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
Held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
15th MAY, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D E Bailey
Councillor B.A. Barnes
Councillor D.R. Boast
Councillor A.M. Cooper
Councillor J. L. Geater
Councillor Mrs S.M. Geater
Councillor C.S. Ginger
Councillor Mr. T.J. Hawkins
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor F.R. Huxley
Councillor J Morrisey
Councillor Mrs A.V. Nunn

1. **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Cllr Hawkins and seconded by Cllr Howard that Cllr Mrs Nunn serve a second term as Chairman. With no other nominations Cllr Mrs Nunn thanked members for their confidence and support. She promised to do her best to reflect member's views during her term of Office.

2. **Chairman's Report for 2006/2007 (Councillor Mrs Ann Nunn).**

Cllr Mrs Nunn addressed the meeting as follows:

"I would like to welcome you all to tonight's annual meeting of Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council. The Council encourages public participation and this is usually at the beginning of our meetings, but this being the annual meeting this will not happen tonight, the public will have the opportunity to speak at the Town meeting. I encourage you to raise any concerns that you may have or even take the opportunity to compliment the Council on its performance!

I feel very honoured and privileged to have been your Chairman for the last year.

During this time I have received support and friendship at every meeting and event that I have been invited to.

I have been to Bury St Edmunds on a number of occasions. Just this month I had the honour to represent Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council at the America 400 celebrations.

Nearer to home, I have been surprised and delighted to have been invited to so many celebrations and special events of our local organisations.

These include the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at Leiston Airfield, the presentation ceremony at the Air Cadets when Cadet Warrant Officer Erik Clarke from Leiston was presented with the Dacre sword, Leiston in Bloom, the launch party for the new CATS bus, the shut-down of Sizewell A, the 120th anniversary of the Royal British Legion Band and the opening of the Long Shop Museum for the 2007 season.

I will give the Clerk a list of all the places that I have visited on your behalf.

I would now like to take you through just some of the achievements and issues that we, as a Council have been involved in over the past year.

Following the decision of Suffolk Coastal District Council to close the Dinsdale Road toilets, we signed a three-year lease to take over the operation of these toilets to enable them to remain open for the benefit of our residents and the many visitors to that part of the town.

A footpath to Highbury Cottages is on our wish list and despite the project being a very low priority for Suffolk County Council, we intend to keep it on our agenda.

In May 2006, the Council engaged Anthony Williams, a cinema consultant, to look at various aspects of the Film Theatre. He reported that the cinema was well run, but did make a few recommendations for

improvements, the main one being that we should consider the replacement of the analogue sound system. This has been causing concern for some time as it is no longer fit for purpose. This is an expensive item and members thought long and hard before deciding to make the commitment to replace this with a Dolby Digital sound system. Councillors realised that if we did not invest in new technology we would be left behind. The film theatre will be closed between 21st and 23rd May for the installation of the new system and will reopen on 24th May for a special advance preview of Pirates of the Caribbean at Worlds End.

During last summer, Council became aware that Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) considered that the number of residents in some sectors around the Sizewell power stations were well over the recommended numbers. As a result Council requested and received presentations from Mr Mike Robbins of the NII and Mr Mike Topliss, Emergency Planning Officer, Suffolk Coastal District Council. Following the discussion of the content of these presentations, Council agreed that, when making its recommendations on relevant planning applications, a requirement should be added for SCDC to consult with the NII. The NII have, however, recently drawn back from their previous position but members are still extremely concerned that any increase in population should not jeopardise the evacuation plans. The Town Council will be watching this very closely in the future.

The Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Lovers Lane continues to be a concern from the road safety point of view. A site meeting was held with Suffolk County Council Waste Management and it was decided that a further meeting to include the Highways Department was required. This Council fully supports the enlargement of the site and will continue to lobby for a speed limit and/or a speed camera.

We were pleased with the outcome of the discussions concerning the position of the sub-station for the Greater Gabbard Offshore Wind-farm. We now need to work towards a satisfactory outcome of the discussions concerning the proposed route of the underground cables between the sub-station and the Sizewell A site.

Sizewell A nuclear power station ceased the generation of electricity on 31 December 2006 after 40 years of operation. The Council are keen to see the decommissioning completed as soon as possible and, in line with the outcome of the Sizewell A and B Site Stakeholder Group public consultation, the site returned to nature. We will be watching very carefully that no radioactive waste is brought in from other sites for storage.

At the April Council meeting it was agreed that adapted toilet facilities to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act should be provided at both the Community Centre and the Film Theatre.

New play equipment is to be provided at the Victory Road Recreation Ground and has now been ordered. This is being provided in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council, The project is unfortunately taking longer than we anticipated.

The provision of a new healthy living centre on the High Street car park is being progressed by the Leiston and District Community Partnership. The PCT have been in turmoil recently but it is now hoped that with the help of SCDC things may begin to happen.

I would like to congratulate John Rayner, our Town Clerk, on obtaining his Certificate in Local Council Administration. This is an essential step towards Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council becoming a quality council and I am hopeful that this can be achieved by October of this year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Town Clerk and all my fellow Councillors for their work during the year and also for their help and support to me during my term of office.”

Cllr Huxley stood and thanked Cllr Mrs Nunn very much on behalf of all the members for her report and for the excellent way she had represented them over the past year.

3. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Geater that Cllr David Bailey be appointed Vice Chairman for 2007/2008. With no other nominations Cllr Bailey accepted the office and thanked members very much for their support.

4. **Composition of Working Parties and Representation on Other Bodies.**

Members gave their preferences as to which Committees, Working Parties or Organisations requiring a representative from the Council they wished to be involved with for the coming year. There were only a few changes to the list used for 2006/2007. Cllr Boast and Cllr Cooper joined the Cinema Committee, Cllr Cooper joined the Allotment Committee and Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Barnes joined the Highways Working Party. Cllr

Morrissey joined the In Bloom team and Cllr Boast volunteered to help with the newsletter production. With those amendments it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Hawkins and agreed that the composition attached to these minutes be endorsed for 2007/2008.

5. **Signatories for Cheques.** It was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, and agreed that, in addition to the Town Clerk, signatories for Town Council cheques should include any two of the following Councillors: - Cllr C.S. Ginger, Cllr F.R. Huxley, Cllr A.M. Cooper, Cllr W. H. Howard.
6. **Loan of Artefacts.** The Clerk reported that various artefacts, including a working model steam tractor in a glass case, a wooden model steam lorry, a Garrett bust on a plinth, a collection of Garrett hats and a trunk, were on loan at the Long Shop Steam Museum. He further reported that the School Bell from the former Church of England Elementary School in Waterloo Avenue was similarly on loan at the Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Huxley and agreed that these loans should continue.

There being no more questions the meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.

----- Chair

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