

Pre-meeting Reports
7th June 2011

9. **Police Report.** The meeting noted the crime and police report for April and May and, with no Constabulary representative present, the Clerk was asked to seek clarification of a couple of points. With regards to the domestic violence incidents details were requested as to whether these were repeat visits. Cllr Last noted that the detection rates he had asked for in May seemed to be lower than the national average and wondered whether comment could be sought as to whether this was actually the case.
- 10 **County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who briefed members that there was now a new leader of the Council, Cllr Mark Bee. He explained that Cllr Bee, who had explained as much to the press, was re-assessing the New Strategic Direction. There would not be any detail until the new cabinet had met properly but the fact remained that there still had to be some radical thinking to cope with the large withdrawal of funding from central government. School Crossing Patrols were safe but, although libraries were being looked at again they could not be confident of rescue and it appeared that there would be no reprieve for Youth Clubs. The Rights of Way Committee would be looking at Leiston's Traffic Order Review on 16th June and Highways would very shortly be trialling a treatment to two verges in Sylvester Road and Seaward Avenue to see whether it would solve the unsightly mess in that area. Cllr Smith explained that this would be paid for from his Quality of Life budget and, if it worked, he would look at earmarking further funds to do more later in the year. He then explained that he was currently exploring trying to re-instate the initiative to take waiting cars off the road around the Household Waste Site. Funding was the main hurdle to overcome as it was before. Cllr Boast asked Cllr Smith to look at what level the County were working to in their fair access to care strategy – he undertook to discuss this further outside the meeting. Cllr Sparrow drew attention to the erratic surface dressing schedule whereby residents had moved their cars unnecessarily two times already in Seaward Avenue. She felt that the contractors could do much better with their information signs etc. to keep residents informed. Mr Briggs raised his concerns about the costs of the CSD contract again and Mrs Hawes asked Cllr Smith whether Cllr Bee would be reviewing the cuts being inflicted on the talking books service. This was thought to be unlikely.
11. **District Report.** Cllr Nunn reported that the new Council was getting bedded in now and, with a few changes to its committees and the way it did its business was up and running. The cabinet had been reduced to eight members and he, personally, had kept his old portfolio but had picked up car parks and other items too. Members urged Cllr Nunn and SCDC to do their best to try and protect our local forests in view of the governments continuing thrust to try and privatise them. He confirmed that, through the AONB partnership, they were doing their best and, indeed, he had walked round the forests with Dan Poulter MP very recently making the Councils point and explaining how important the forests were. Mr Taylor noted that SCDC were doing good work through their Port Health Team in monitoring radiation and radiated products and felt that they could promote this good practise by including more information on this on their website.
12. **Public Forum.** Mrs Patchett asked the Council to consider meeting with the Lay off Leiston group to hear their concerns regards the current application for Tesco to build a store in Abbey Road. Mr Briggs raised the issue regarding Haylings Pond where there had been some comment about the recent operation to pump water out to lower the level. He pointed out that the license agreement he had with SCDC obliged the fishing club to keep the banks safe. To do this and to maintain the pond surround it had been necessary to drop the level.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard, 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,
7th JUNE 2011, at 7.44 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)
Councillor D. E. Bailey
Councillor R. Bailey
Councillor D.R. Boast
Councillor R. J. Geater
Councillor Mrs S. M. Geater
Councillor C. S. Ginger
Councillor T.E. Hodgson
Councillor W.H. Howard
Councillor J. N. Last
Councillor N. Parker
Councillor A. J. Nunn
Councillor J. I. Sparrow

13. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr D Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 17th May 2011 be signed as a true record.
14. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Mrs Nunn.
15. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the Mayors Parade and Civic Service in Aldeburgh and the "Beat the Retreat" by the Band of the Royal Air force Regiment in Bury St Edmunds with the Mayor of St Edmundsbury at the Festival Finale. He had also attended and enjoyed the Family Fun Day organised by the Safer Neighbourhood team this last weekend.
16. **Local Elections.** Members wished the Clerk to pass on their concerns with regards to the recent local elections. The main count this year was held at Martlesham Police HQ which members felt was too far away for local elections. They were further appalled at the organisation of the count which left some large towns and parishes waiting up to four days to find out the results. No-one told any of the candidates who could not make the journey or who were unable to spend a frustrating day at the count whether they were elected or not. They had a struggle to find out the results. The system was not up to the task and it was wondered whether this was just a cost saving measure or a bad decision regards method and place of count. The system used was geared toward block votes perhaps but the voting pattern across the district did not seem to follow that expectation at all. There was a very heavy load placed on the election staff however and it could have just been sheer volume.
17. **Pro Corda.** Cllr Ginger presented his report on the recent meeting he had been invited to attend with Pro Corda music school based at Leiston Abbey. It was just a liaison meeting really to inform everyone of the progress at the school and to explore ways of promoting the school in the community and widening its appeal to local residents perhaps. There were bursaries available to local young musicians and Pro Corda were talking to Leiston Schools to try and spot any suitable talent that could take advantage of this. On the promotion front Pro Corda were concerned that their school seemed to be little known outside of their close associates. They did put on performances at the Abbey but members wondered whether they might use St Margaret's or even the Film Theatre for the odd performance just to diversify and get their name better known. Cllr Ginger had suggested they talk to the Clerk should they wish to take advantage of our newsletter later in the year.

18. **Library.** No real news was available apart from the fact that the Scrutiny Committee at Suffolk County Council had agreed to meet with the residents of Suffolk who were trying to save their libraries next week to talk to them with a view of formulating a new policy to go to cabinet in July.
19. **Youth Club.** Members noted the minutes of the last meeting between all the interested parties regarding the Youth Club and were told that everyone was still quite positive that some form of Open Access Youth provision could be achieved by September.
20. **Fairtrade.** Cllr Nunn informed members of the recent Easter Egg Hunt around the Town which was organised by the Fairtrade Steering Group to promote Fairtrade. 50 under 13 year olds took part and submitted entries and the winners were presented with their prizes by the Easter Bunny at the Film Theatre. Cllr Nunn thanked Hannah Barber who handled virtually all of the organisation and Cllr Howard thanked Ann Nunn who provided the prizes and eggs. It was also intended to have a small explanatory stand at the RBL Anniversary event on 9th July.
21. **Finance.**
- a) Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £13,975.88p along with £46,051.68p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment. Cllr R Geater declared an interest in Cheque No. 310781 and Cllr Cooper in No. 310784.
- b) Film Theatre Admission Charges.** Members noted the report from Mr Burns and, on a proposition from Cllr D Bailey, seconded by Cllr Boast it was agreed to raise the Adult ticket by 10p, the Children ticket by 10p and the Senior ticket by 30p.
During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest and left the room.
- c) Annual Accounts 2010/2011.** Members worked through the accounts as presented by the Clerk and answered positively all the questions posed in the Annual Governance Statement and on the Annual Statement. It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the accounts presented be accepted as a fair representation of the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2011. It was also agreed that the Chairman should sign the Annual Return to confirm that the Statement of Accounts was correct. It was further proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the Chairman sign the Annual Governance Statement on their behalf.

The meeting adjourned for 20 minutes (8.15pm – 8.35pm) for refreshments

22. **Planning Matters.**

a. C11/0363 – Construction of three dwellings on land adjacent to garages – existing garages to remain – further information, Garage Area, Garrett Crescent, Leiston. Members noted the further information provided by the developer which attempted to show that the sites designation as scheduled playspace was an anomaly. Members were adamant that small green areas in estates were valuable assets and should be protected at all costs. This remained one of those areas.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above item Cllr Ginger declared an interest and remained in the room.

b. C11/0829 – Erection of two-storey rear extension with dormer window 161 Carr Ave, Leiston. The Clerk briefed members that this application had been in for some time and that it had already been refused due to poor design. Members could clearly see the reasons for the decision.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

c. C11/0907 – Erection of two-storey rear extension (resubmission of C10/2992) 2 Wood Farm Cottages, Westward Ho, Leiston. Members were pleased that the zinc roof in the previous plans had been replaced in the latest plans by a more traditional style. They were still concerned however that the proximity of the new extension to the curtilage of a listed building was detrimental to that building and agreed to once more recommend refusal.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above application Cllr Howard declared a personal interest and remained in the room.

d. C11/0871 – Erection of single-storey rear extension and erection of double garage, 18 Waterloo Avenue, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

During the above application Cllr R Bailey declared a personal interest and remained in the room.

e. C11/1049 –Erection of two storey extension (existing single storey bathroom to be demolished) 20 Paradise Place, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

f. C11/0738 – Use of land for the erection of one detached dwelling, part side garden, 1 Quakers Way, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

g. C11/1121 – Erection of single-storey extensions (existing extension on north elevation to be demolished) 4 Upton Place, Leiston

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- 23. Tesco application – C11/0988 – Erection of a class A1 retail food store & 6 Class B1 Business Units, with associated access, landscaping and parking arrangements. Land South of the Old Pump House, Abbey Road, Leiston.** There was a long and involved discussion on the best way to handle this application so that everyone in the Town had an opportunity to give their views. Members eventually agreed that the only way to give everyone an opportunity to register their opinion or to be able to ask questions and find out what was involved was to have a public meeting, chaired by the Town Council, at which Tesco and the Lay Off Leiston group would both be asked to present their case for and against the development and then to allow residents to ask their questions. The Clerk was asked to arrange this with the Sports and Social Club for w/c 20th June or as soon after as possible. Alongside that, after an explanation of the Sustainable Communities Act (2007) and its Amendment (2010) Cllr R Bailey outlined how the Town might be able to use the rights and powers bestowed upon Town and Parish Councils in that Act to ask for an independent assessment to be carried out on how this proposal will affect the sustainability of the Town. The timescales could well be too tight but on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger it was agreed to write to the Minister at the Department of Communities and Local Government and to ask him to issue some planning guidance with regard to large planning applications such that any applicant whose application would have a significant effect on an area must, if requested by the Town Council, pay for the Council to get an independent assessment carried out as to how the proposed development will affect the sustainability of the local community. The next issue was a request from the Lay Off Leiston group to be able to address the Councillors. A date of 16th June was agreed.

During the above item Cllr Cooper and Cllr Ginger both declared a personal interest and remained in the room.

24. **County Matters.**

- a. **Traffic Order Review.** There had been three letters received in response to the final consultation on the proposed restrictions in the town. Two had been resolved with the complainants and the third was unrelated so a report going to Rights of Way should be fairly straightforward.
- b. **Station Road level crossing.** Members pointed out that this was anything but level and the Clerk was asked to write and request further remedial works be carried out to make this crossing safe to use and the Ramp signs able to be removed.

25. **District Matters.**

- a. **Leiston Leisure Centre – ongoing noise complaint.** Members were concerned that, even after all the efforts of Cllr Nunn and Mr Pink from the Environmental Health Department, there was still an unacceptable noise nuisance emanating from the Leisure Centre in warm weather. One particular activity instructor insists on using loud amplification for her lessons which, when the windows are open, causes this nuisance. Efforts to control this seem to have failed so a noise abatement order may have to be served.

26. **Correspondence**

- a. **Leiston Guide Hut.** Members noted the request for assistance to help raise money for a new fire exit in the Guide Hut from the Management Committee and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater it was agreed to grant £50 to the project.
- b. **Leiston Middle School.** Members noted the request for contribution toward the Middle School's upcoming Awards event and, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed to grant £50 towards booktokens for use at this event.
- c. **Film Theatre Support Club.** Members noted the request for a draw prize from the Film Theatre Support Club and, on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr R Bailey, it was agreed to donate £50.
- d. **Greenprint Forum.** The Forum events for this year were noted and Cllr Howard agreed to represent the Council at those he could with Cllr R Bailey also expressing an interest in those he would be available for.
- e. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group.** Cllr Howard gave members a brief account of the recent SSG meeting in advance of the minutes being published. He pointed out that there would be a public meeting in July to discuss the Japan Nuclear disaster although this would be in advance of Mr Mike Weightman's September report and would have no "experts" present.
- f. **Leiston Royal British Legion Band 125th Anniversary.** Members noted that the band intended to parade through the Town on the 9th July and then hold an afternoon open air concert on the Middle School playing field.
- g. **Litter nuisance.** Members noted the problem that residents in Red House lane faced with young people leaving lots of litter on the grass area near the Leisure Centre where they exit the premises through a hole in the fence to sit and socialise at lunchtimes. The Clerk was asked to write to the Headteacher.
- h. **Changes to Suffolk County Council street lights.** Members noted the County Council's intention to turn off street lights where appropriate between midnight and 5.30am. They hoped that they would be consulted before any in Leiston underwent a changeover so that they could ensure the schedule was well thought out.
- i. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** There was a lively discussion on whether the Town Council should continue membership of the Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group. The main concern was that Leiston might lose its own voice when negotiations start with EDF in the future. It was agreed however that this had already been made clear to the SPLG and that it would still be beneficial to have influence and presence on that group whilst retaining our own autonomy. It was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Hodgson and agreed that the Council continue membership of the SPLG and pay the £150 membership contribution.

- j. **Everlasting Light Performance – Sizewell.** Members noted the copy of the event application form submitted to SCDC which proposed a concert on the beach at Sizewell and use of the car park. Members wondered whether the residents had been consulted and also whether we should have been consulted. The Clerk was asked to find out more details.
- k. **Skatejam.** Members noted the request from Soundwaves to hold another Skatejam at the skatepark on 9th July. Members were pleased to approve this but pointed out that the date clashed with the Leiston Royal British Legion Band event being held on the Middle School Playing field adjacent to the skatepark! The Clerk was asked to move the Skatejam to another day.

During the above items, the time reaching 10pm, it was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow business to continue.

27. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. Cllr Howard asked that the Chairman’s Allowance be an agenda item at the next meeting of the personnel committee.
- b. Cllr D Bailey asked that members continue to be circumspect on the internet to avoid huge inboxes.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.30 pm.

----- Chair

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