

Pre-meeting Reports
5th July 2011

- 28. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Mark Beresford, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave the meeting a brief overview of the crime report for June. There were 42 crimes in June this year compared to 55 last year. The most worrying were the incidents of burglary, theft and criminal damage on the allotments however and Mrs Lovell urged the Council to expedite the improvements to one of the footpaths across the site in the hope that this might help. Sgt Beresford was asked if his team might consider liaising with the surrounding contract farmers to try and limit the number of large agricultural vehicles that transverse Haylings Road at school opening and closing times. They were intimidating and their speed was a concern for the weight and size of the loads they carried. Cllr Ginger informed Sgt Beresford that there had been some vandalism along the footpath from Sylvester Road to the Primary School.
- 29. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who briefed members on the departure of Ms Andrea Hill. The Traffic Order Review for Leiston had successfully passed through Rights of Way and the Yellow Lines needed to enforce it were imminent. The trial hardening of the verges in Sylvester Road were also due to be installed in the next few weeks. Cllr Smith informed members he was now on the Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee at County Hall and looked forward to keeping members up to date with the various functions they performed. The scrutiny committee had recently looked very closely at the controversial library consultation and had made some recommendations to the cabinet for when they discussed it later in July.
- 30. District Report.** Cllr Nunn reported on the latest compost and recycling figures which were up again to 61.4%. He also reported that the collection rounds were now being studied to ensure they were still efficient and that this might bring about a possible change of collection day for some residents. The two weekly cycle would not be affected.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, 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,
5th JULY 2011, at 7.42 p.m.

PRESENT

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

- 31. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 7th June 2011 be signed as a true record.

32. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Boast.
33. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that he had attended the Leiston Middle School Fete and had chaired the Tesco/Lay off Leiston public meeting in June which, otherwise, had been a quiet month.
34. **Consideration of Tesco's planning 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.** Members had a long discussion on this with only two Councillors in any way supportive of the application citing the many residents who shop at Tesco already and have to travel to do so. In the main though the overwhelming opinion was that this was against the government's Policy Statements and the guidance on how existing town centres should be invested in and how their vitality and viability should not be undermined. It was unfortunate Tesco had dismissed the option to invest in the town centre site most appropriate for another retail outlet perhaps as they felt 10,000 sq ft was an insufficient size of store to bring extra footfall into Leiston. Their surmise was that a 20,000 sq ft store outside the physical limits of the town would get them extra customers from outside Leiston (over and above just saving their existing customers the need to travel to Martlesham). Members felt that what they failed to do was to show any realistic evidence whatsoever that this would bring extra "linked" visits to the Town Centre. Not only that but the existence of this store would undoubtedly draw some of the regular customers away from the Town Centre which, in many members opinion, would just reduce the "critical mass" that was needed to keep the Independent retailers (and to a certain extent the Co-op itself) in meagre profit, thereby taking them past the tipping point and into closure. No-one honestly believed anyone would walk to the store (and certainly not from the store into town) as the size of shop that is needed at this store requires transport and, as there is no public transport to this site, this means private cars. Traffic was a huge concern of many residents living on the arteries of Abbey and Haylings Road and Highways will be asked to assess the impact of this. Light pollution on this elevated site was a concern and, with the probable construction of a new nuclear power station not far away, the loss of a valuable employment site was not endorsed. Overall members felt that, contrary to the supporting statements, this development would not bring investment or growth to Leiston, would not increase the number of jobs available to Leiston residents sustainably (due to other stores closing and no commitment to build the industrial units shown on plan) and would tear the heart out of the historic and vital centre of town. It was hoped that this application would be robustly refused. On a vote of 9 to 2 it was agreed to RECOMMEND REFUSAL. Cllr Hawkins, Cllr R Geater and Cllr Cooper abstained.
Cllr R Bailey updated members on the progress of the Council's request to Greg Clark MP for planning guidance to be issued under the Sustainable Communities Act. He had been invited to a formal meeting with the minister the next week and would report back to members on completion.

Councillors Ginger, R Geater, Hawkins and Cooper all declared a personal interest and remained in the room. Cllr Geater, Hawkins and Cooper took no part in the discussion.

35. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group.** Members noted the minutes from the most recent meeting of the SSG and also noted the date and time of the extraordinary public meeting that had been organised to discuss the Japanese nuclear disaster and the lessons learned from it so far (before the publication of the official inquiry report).
36. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** Cllr Hodgson answered questions on the minutes from the groups AGM.

37. Finance.

a) Accounts for Payment. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £15,622.44p along with £8,828.89p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

b) Christmas Lights. Members noted the letter from the Leiston Business Association requesting a donation toward a completely new outfit of Christmas Lights for the Town. The request for £3,000 was based on the figure that members had informed the Association existed in the earmarked reserve for Christmas Lighting (This was money not used this year to erect the old lights). The proposal was for an outfit of lights which would be erected on all the properties along the High Street and Sizewell Road with each premises plugging them in and absorbing the electric costs (currently paid for by the Town Council). Cllr Howard was pleased that the intention was to retain the necklace and traditional lighting around the Council Offices and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Sparrow, it was agreed to donate £3,000 from the earmarked reserve toward the purchase cost of £5,295 for a new outfit of Christmas Lights with the Leiston Business Association who would then take on responsibility for putting them up each year.

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

38. Planning Matters.

a. C11/1427 – Erection of new 2m fence along boundary and decorative metal arch at front of the property, 9 Abbey Road, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

b. C11/1273 – Erection of sign at entrance to power stations, Sizewell B Power Station, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

c. C11/1296 – Retention of temporary haul road for a maximum period of 3 years, Land on the North Side of Sizewell B Power Station, Sizewell Gap Road, Leiston. After some discussion as to whether this application was inappropriate in that it pre-empted a new build on the site it was agreed that to remove and then re-instate the road would be more damaging should new build be approved. Cllr Howard and Cllr R Bailey both abstained from voting however.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

d. C11/1136 – Erection of a pair of semi-detached dwellings & construction of vehicular access Part Side Garden 2, Abbey Road, Leiston. Despite this being a resubmission due to its permission having lapsed members still felt that the proposed entrance was a cause for concern.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

e. C11/1343 – Extensions and alterations to Leiston Court comprising conversion of ground floor east to dwelling, insulating and cladding exterior of the building, erection of third floor to create two new flats Leiston Court, High Street, Leiston. Members felt that the proposed rear third floor flat overlooked 114 and most of Central Road in a manner that was not considered acceptable. The extension out from the front (with balconies) was probably acceptable but the third floor extension was too high and intrusive and the design incongruous with the adjacent hipped and tiled buildings. Overall this is a prominent building when viewed from Kings Road and the rear of the Central Road properties and an additional storey (fourth floor??) would just be too intrusive. Members were also concerned at the complete lack of parking provision for the new flats.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

f. C11/1252 – Erection of dwelling and revision of turning head from position previously approved. St Petroc, Goldings Lane, Leiston. Members were still very unhappy that the major departure from the Local Plan was allowed on this site in the first place but had had to settle for a compromise where the nature of Goldings Lane was protected by making the area this application seeks to exploit a greenbelt, still protected by AP28. Members were unanimous in rejecting this application and hoped that the District Council would honour the conditions they placed on this site.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

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

g. Greater Gabbard. Members confirmed that they had responded individually to the current consultation but asked the Clerk to send an official response reiterating members desire to see the substation placed entirely on the Sizewell A site.

39. **County Matters.** Nothing raised.

40. **District Matters.**

a. **SALC Area Meeting.** Cllr R Bailey gave members a brief report of matters discussed at the recent SALC Area meeting. The minutes would show the detail in due course.

41. **Correspondence**

a. **Local Elections.** Members noted the reply from the Chief Executive, Suffolk Coastal District Council, with regard to the concerns they had raised to him vis-à-vis the counting of the votes after the polls had closed on 5th May this year. It was agreed that the best course of action would be to raise the issue again 6 months before the next local elections to input into the organisational policy evolving at that time.

42. **Questions to the Chairman.**

a. Cllr Howard asked for numbers of those members who were attending the RBL and Leiston RBL Band anniversary celebrations on 9th July. Everyone was welcome however and it promised to be a brilliant day out.

b. Members were slightly concerned at the lack of recent minutes on the Town Appraisal website as they were keen to keep abreast of progress with the project. The Clerk undertook to investigate.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

----- Chair

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