

**Pre-meeting Reports**  
**4<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

- 62. Police Federation.** The Chairman welcomed Matt Gould, Chairman of the Suffolk Branch of the Police Federation and Chief Inspector Paul Sharp, Suffolk Constabulary, whose responsibility includes Response Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers across Waveney and Suffolk Coastal. The Police Federation looks after the interests of all police officers of Chief Inspector rank and below although it is different from a union as it also tries to look after the interest of the force as a whole. Matt began by reiterating the message from the Chief Constable with regard to current cuts which was that there will be no difference noticed by the public in the level of service they receive from the Suffolk Constabulary. He then answered questions. These were many and varied and are summarised below. The cuts are to be 20% and members could see that this would obviously have an impact somewhere. Matt pointed out that this did not mean that 1 in 5 police officers would be removed from the streets but that the savings would be found from the backroom so to speak. Indeed, the public might not notice but the front line officers most certainly would as the cuts will have a big effect on their working conditions as they cope with the cuts behind the scenes. Yes, this was having an effect on morale. Other areas of saving were the tasks that the force currently does which are not statutory or that do not have a public facing product. CI Sharp confirmed that PCSO and Constable posts in Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Response Teams across the county would be maintained. There would be no worsening of response times but these would continue to be monitored. There was collaboration with neighbouring Police Forces in some areas which were making savings but not, to date, in the command and control area (unlike in the fire and ambulance service). Sizewell C was being addressed separately and there was a Chief Inspector already appointed who was leading on the planning requirements of new build. CI Sharp advised that there was no current plan to sell Leiston Police Station – it will remain the base for the SNT for the foreseeable future. There is a recruitment freeze at present so front line posts may be lost should large numbers of officers resign/leave as their pay and conditions possibly get eroded during the current negotiations but this is unlikely. The new Custody Suites are working really well and have everyone's support. The Federation were firmly opposed to the new Police Commissioner initiative and, like many, were not happy to see politics entering the police force at that level – officers joined to serve the crown. Traffic Officers, despite their specialised training, were being cut drastically still further although this had no support but money had to be saved somewhere. The new 101 (non emergency number) has not kicked in yet but, when it does, it will be answered by Suffolk operators who will take pressure off the 999 service (who currently also answer non emergency calls). Finally, members agreed with Matt that the whole budget cutting exercise had been lazy, unfair and ill thought out. Forces like Suffolk had trimmed their fat years ago and were a lean efficient force yet they were given a 20% cut across the board along with those forces who still had a capacity to lose a lot of excess that was not needed. Suffolk was being penalised for good practise and this was going to hurt. CI Sharp assured the meeting that the challenges were there but that his team were up to them and he would gladly come back at a future date to report on how the current changes were taking shape.
- 63. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave the meeting a very comprehensive report on the crimes committed in Leiston during the month of September (attached). He was asked to note that the Bar in the High Street was causing concern during the day due to the noise and foul language that was evident there and which frightened and intimidated shoppers and visitors to the town. Members were advised that they could phone in reports of reckless/careless driving (including the use of mobile phones while driving) to the non emergency number 01473 613500 – an incident would be logged. The meeting heard that Inspector Gilmore was retiring soon and the new Inspector for our SNT was Nick Aitken.

- 64. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who briefed members on the new consultation now taking place on the budget. Members were not happy with being asked to choose which services were the most important as, representing the town, they felt all services were important to someone. They discussed Governments requirement for savings and felt that County Councils should be lobbying the government to reduce the burden and front loading of these cuts. A specific request, from Cllr R Bailey, was for Cllr Smith to make representations to Eric Pickles that the £250m he had found for weekly bin collections could instead be used to reduce cuts elsewhere. Cllr Smith obviously declined but instead offered to raise this with his financial colleagues on the County Council, and agreed to report back on the results at the next meeting. Cllr Bailey accepted this. More positively members were pleased with the way the verges were looking in Seaward Avenue after the work the County Council had done there. Cllr Smith also pointed out that the decision on the Saxmundham Free School application was due very soon and that this could have a big impact on Leiston High School, soon to be called Alde Valley High (from next September), should it be approved.
- 65. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that the transformer storage building at Sizewell Halt had been approved at the last North Area Development Control meeting.

During the above discussions, the time reaching 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn, 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,  
4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011, at 8.22 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor A. M. Cooper (in the chair)**  
**Councillor D. E. Bailey**  
**Councillor R. Bailey**  
**Councillor D. Boast**  
**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 Mrs A. V. Nunn**  
**Councillor J. I. Sparrow**

Before the meeting started there was a minutes silence held in memory of Mr Les Lovell. Les had been a staunch supporter of the Council for many years and a regular attendee at Council meetings. Members extended their condolences to Jan his wife.

- 66. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be signed as a true record.
- 67. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Parker and Cllr Nunn.

68. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, he had attended the Waveney District Council Civic service, a meeting at the Primary School and a commemoration service and thanksgiving for the victory in the Battle of Britain at Bury St Edmunds. He had presented the awards to the young people who had taken part in the Library's summer reading game and had also been to the open day put on by Eastern Training Services at the Leiston Enterprise Centre.
69. **Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital.** Members noted the letter Mr Bone from the League of Friends of Aldeburgh and District Community Hospital had sent to The Minister of Health expressing very serious concerns about the decision to go to open tender for the services that the hospital currently provides. Members all know just how valuable and friendly the hospital is and were equally concerned about the possibility of a profit making firm running the hospital – not least of which is the very serious threat to the work of the Friends themselves. Cllr Howard encapsulated this by his proposal "It was with anger that I read of the proposal to put the running of Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital out to competitive tender. This hospital has touched the lives of nearly every resident in our town. It has been run without complaint and if ever service could be an example of Big Society this is it. Part of the community I understand since 1919. Over the years residents have been overwhelmingly generous in their support of The Friends of Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital raising what must be millions of pounds Only this year on one summer afternoon over 3 thousand pounds were raised. Additions and facilities at the hospital have been constantly upgraded all without extra cost to the NHS. The open tender process will probably allow a profiteering private company to steal this community resource. As the friends say this is without any of the local consultation that this government constantly says it is committed to. I think if this hospital does go out into the private sector we could all predict the future and it would not be good. Chairman can I propose that we ask our clerk to write to health secretary Andrew Lansley and give our support to the letter sent to the health secretary by The Friends of Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital, a copy of which was sent to all councillors. Seconded by Cllr R Bailey and agreed.
70. **Household Waste Recycling Centre.** Put on the agenda to discuss the possible options but still awaiting more information. Held over until November.
71. **St Margaret's Crescent – verge strengthening.** Members noted that the County Councillors budget for this had all been used on Seaward Avenue (to good effect) and there was now no possibility of funding from that source to undertake a similar scheme in St Margaret's Crescent. Cllr Ginger asked members to consider discussing a sum to be put in the estimates so that the Town Council could undertake the work. The Chairman wondered whether Flagship might be able to provide some or all funding for the work but it was pointed out that they had not done so for Seaward Avenue. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for the work required however and also to approach Flagship.
72. **Youth Club – plans for 2012/2013.** Members were pleased to hear that the Youth Club was now running again, and with increased numbers, and agreed to put a sum in the estimates for discussion to fund the Club for a further year.
73. **Diamond Jubilee – June 2012.** A small working group was formed to look at possible ways for the Council to get involved with or to encourage others to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next June. Cllr Last, Cllr Mrs Geater, Cllr Cooper and Cllr D Bailey volunteered to do the work.
74. **Sizewell Stakeholder Group.** The minutes from 1<sup>st</sup> September were noted.

75. **Suffolk Coastal Car Park Management Consultation.** Members had no comment on the proposed intention to charge disabled drivers for using SCDC car parks but did feel that any price rise was just discouraging motorists to use the car parks. Sizewell Road car park for instance had very little paid use and was therefore a wasted resource in the town. Cllr R Bailey asked whether the Leiston Business Association might like to get involved with and promote a loyalty scheme to encourage more use of the car parks. The Solar car park was obviously the most popular and best placed car park however and that was free. The Chairman undertook to discuss the idea of a loyalty scheme with the Business Association.
76. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** Members noted the aims and objectives of the SPLG issued last week but heard from Cllr Hodgson, who had attended their meeting, that they would be issuing new ones to include a lasting legacy for the area with opportunities for training and employment and would be asking for parish support. Cllr Mrs Nunn felt that Leiston should start forming (or refining) their views a bit more noisily now as there was a lot of voices doing so from further flung groups not so affected by the works and she felt our voice needed to be heard. Members agreed to start formulating, refining and discussing ideas as the consultation for new build was close and would probably start early in the new year.

The meeting adjourned for 7 minutes from 9.00pm until 9.07pm

**77. 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 £15,456.56p along with £17,787.44p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) Review of Pay and Allowances.** Members accepted the recommendation of the Personnel Committee who, after taking into account the increase in National Minimum Wage (2.59%), and the RPI (5.5%) had recommended to members that an average across the board increase of 3% be approved for all staff. This would not be backdated and would come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> October. On a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Bailey it was agreed to accept the recommendation and award a 3% increase.

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

**78. Planning Matters.**

- a. C11/2064 – Extension to existing shop, external alterations, 1.8m high wall and relocation of parking area, (Corner Shop) 67 Kings Road, Leiston.** Members agreed to offer no comment on this application but did agree to get the Clerk to write to the County Highways Officer (responsible for assessing plans like this) to strongly request he makes comment on the proposals for moving the car parking area.

**NO COMMENT**

- b. C11/2085 – Erection of dwelling and revision of turning head from position previously approved (revised scheme), 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 (again) and hoped that the District Council would honour the conditions they placed on this site.

**RECOMMEND REFUSAL**

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

**c. C11/2144 – Erection of single-storey extension to form enlarged café to existing co-operative supermarket, Sizewell Road, Leiston.**

**RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

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

**79. County Matters.**

- a. **Overgrown hedges.** Cllr Ginger highlighted the difficulty County were having getting two overgrown hedges cut at 23 Buller Road and on Lovers Lane from Crown Farm to Sandy Lane. The Clerk was asked to seek the County Councillors help in applying resources to this.
- b. **Yellow Lines.** The yellow lines to support the adopted traffic order are due to finally go down on 10<sup>th</sup> October.
- c. **Saxmundham to Leiston Railway.** Cllr Hodgson reported that he had been on a trip to witness a new vehicle being used at Stourbridge which makes use of the railway economically and efficiently to convey passengers to and fro along an old branch line. He would report more fully in due course.

**80. District Matters.**

- a. **Meeting with Mr Tynan (SCS Ltd.)** Members noted the report from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September with Mr Tynan.
- b. **Sizewell Management Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> October.** Members noted the agenda and last years minutes for a meeting to be held at Sizewell on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**81. Correspondence**

- a. **SALC AGM.** Cllr R Bailey and Cllr Howard offered to attend the SALC AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- b. **Leiston, Saxmundham and District Citizens Advice Bureau.** Members noted the request for funding and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Mrs Geater, it was agreed to release £1,600 set aside to support the CAB for a further year.

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

- c. **Festival of Remembrance.** Members were very pleased to allow the Royal British Legion Band to use the Film Theatre again this year for the Festival of Remembrance and, on a proposition from Cllr Hodgson, seconded by Cllr Last it was agreed to donate the hire fee for the evening to the poppy appeal.

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

- d. **Leiston Youth and Community Angling Society.** Members noted the letter from Mr Briggs explaining that, with the demise of the County Council run Youth Club and its angling section a new club had been formed to ensure that provision for anglers at Haylings Pond was retained. The new club has registered itself with the Angling trust and, now being separate from the Youth Club, had to raise its own funds. Members agreed to consider a request for a grant at their November meeting.

**82. Questions to the Chairman.**

- a. In response to a query about the rearrangement of a forthcoming blood donor session at the LTAA the Chairman confirmed that this was a one off and that all future sessions would be as usual.
- b. Cllr Howard asked the Chairman if he thought that everyone should be aware of the current Environment Agency consultation being carried out at Hinckley regarding Radioactive Waste. He felt that it would be beneficial to get involved as it could determine issues that could carry over to Sizewell.

- c. Cllr Ginger asked the Chairman whether he could use his influence to perhaps ask the football coach that parked opposite the Ex Service Club to find another place to lay up?
- d. Cllr Bailey gave the meeting a brief verbal report of another successful and enjoyable Old Folks Outing that had taken place the previous weekend. The tea and entertainment at Henley Community centre had been well received and the journey very enjoyable too.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 9.51pm.

Chair

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Dated

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