

Pre-meeting Reports

3rd April 2012

- 176. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Philip Marshall, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for March (attached). He was asked to monitor the vehicle that consistently parked on double yellow lines at school closing time opposite 25 Waterloo Avenue (and which caused all sorts of problems by doing so). Cllr Ginger asked PCSO Marshall to e-mail him details of criminal damage incidents and Cllr Last again reminded him that Cl Sharp, at the December meeting, had promised to give detection rates at our meetings – could Philip take this back for action please.
- 177. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Councillor Smith who had little to report but who was able to confirm, after a question at the March meeting, that the Suffolk Police Authority had absolutely no plans to involve private companies in any police work further than was already the case (forensic science for instance). Cllr Ginger asked Cllr Smith to try and do something about the street lights that burned 24 hours a day in Main Street, above Belle Coaches and on the Black Horse. It was particularly relevant as many residents were coming to terms with having their lights turned off and were obviously irritated by this anomaly. Cllr Ginger then thanked Cllr Smith for taking an interest in the flood he had reported in Heath View and for taking it forward in his organisation. Cllr Howard asked Cllr Smith about the money given to County by the government for the purposes of giving social loans – he was still seeking confirmation that the money was ringfenced for that purpose.
- 178. District Report.** Cllr Hawkins reported that 56 High Street (the small office on the corner of Cross Street and High Street) had been refused permission to become a fast food outlet. He also reported that Tesco, for the moment, were not progressing their application for a store in Leiston. Cllr Cooper informed the meeting that the new National Planning Policy Framework was now in force and would be used for determination of applications from now on. Mr Taylor asked the District Councillors further questions regarding the planning process that surrounded the application and approval of the Dry Fuel Store at Sizewell. These were detailed and he was requested to e-mail them to the Councillors concerned to enable a full reply. He enquired about the extraordinary meeting held by the Council on 13th March and whether this was a public meeting. The Chairman explained that there was not enough time to give the public notice due to the timing of the meeting but that full minutes were available to the public and would be on the website when ratified later in the meeting. Mr Taylor then requested that SCDC try and get the minutes of any meeting that they have which mentions Sizewell onto their website as quickly as possible with good links and transparency to help the public find them.

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,
3rd APRIL 2012, at 7.41 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

179. **Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 6th March 2012 be signed as a true record.
180. **Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nunn, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Mrs Nunn and Cllr Parker.
181. **Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, he had attended meetings to discuss centenary preparations at the Film Theatre and another to learn about housing issues. He had attended evensong for Her Majesty's Courts of Justice at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, the Golden Age Fair and the official opening for this season of the Long Shop. He hoped everyone enjoyed the Reception in March and reported that the Chairman's Cup had now been formally presented to Philip Glennon (as reported in the EADT). He reminded members to respond to the invitation to the Community Engagement Event on 28th May should they wish to go.
182. **Minutes of meeting held 13th March.** The Chairman called a meeting on 13th March to discuss an urgent issue whereby the Council were being asked to give an indication of what community benefits they would be seeking in future section 106 agreements agreed for large infrastructure projects. It was proposed by Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that the minutes for that meeting, held on 13th March 2012, be signed as a true record and be used as a basis for all future negotiations. It was also agreed that results from the Town Appraisal be added to the list as appropriate once they are published.
183. **Diamond Jubilee.** Cllr Cooper updated members on how the plans for the Picnic in the Park were coming together and how the Business Association and other organisations were still working on the detail. There was still much to do but the event was on track to take place between 12 noon and 4 pm on Monday 4th June on Victory Road Recreation Ground. Members were asked to confirm the order for mugs which included 645 photoceramic mugs and 55 bone china mugs for a total £1,800. This was confirmed on a proposal from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Sparrow and agreed.
184. **Highbury Cottage Footpath.** The Clerk reported that there was nothing further to report at present but that Mrs Readhead-Higgins was consulting a solicitor.

185. **Library – update on IPS.** Members noted the minutes from the latest meeting of the Save Leiston Library Steering Group. The IPS (Independent Provident Society) were in the process of taking over the County's Libraries and all the staff were due to be TUPE'd across by June. There are currently several different pilots running in the County to see how communities can best get involved with their local library and the Leiston Group will be looking at the results and reports of these pilots to choose the model that best suits their own situation and ambitions. The Clerk informed members that, whatever model was adopted, it would be very useful if the Steering Group was invited to be an advisory Committee to the Town Council. This would allow them to continue with their fundraising and voluntary work whilst being able to use the Town Council to hold their funds. More importantly, it would give a formal structure to the group and allow the Council to be a stakeholder in any decisions that might be required in the future. Members asked the Clerk to look at drafting some Terms of Reference for such a committee for discussion in June.
186. **Sizewell Parishes Liaison Group.** Members noted the report on the table from the SPLG about their visit to SCDC and their meeting with the Leader of the Council there. There was a lot to absorb and it was felt best to agenda an item in June to discuss any points that might emerge.
187. **World Housing Meeting.** Councillor Ginger talked to a report he had produced which was on the table. The Chairman had also attended the meeting and concurred the worrying situation the report outlined. The social housing sector was being asked to take on some changes which could drastically and detrimentally alter the way it operates. 5 year tenancies were being considered and the rents were being raised to 80% of the private market. The smaller housing associations did not have the funds to increase their stock and one local housing provider had 120 vacant properties with over 1,000 families on the waiting list. Defaults on mortgages and the current austerity measures would only force more families down this route which was not able to cope with current demand. Cllr Howard was promised statistics and more information at the meeting which he was currently pursuing.
188. **Suffolk Link.** The Chairman informed the meeting of a new organisation he had been impressed by at the recent Golden Age Fair. Suffolk Link was a network set up to bring together local people, organisations and groups who want to improve health and adult social care services. It also works with the Suffolk Careline which provides 24 hour monitoring and emergency visiting response to help people maintain independence in their own homes. There is a sliding scale of fees for the service, depending on levels required, but it is a not for profit organisation set up to fill the gaps current reductions in provision are leaving.
189. **Finance.**
- a) **Accounts for Payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £10,322.19p along with £15,872.39p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.

The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes from 8.20pm until 8.35pm

190. Planning Matters.

- a. **C12/- Proposed erection of three kiosks at Leiston Sewage Works, Carr Avenue Leiston.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- b. **C12/0537 – Proposed alterations and extension at 55 Crown Street.**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c. **Neighbourhood Plans.** Members discussed the merits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Town, as allowed by the Localism Act, and all agreed that this would be very beneficial for the Town in the coming years. The District Council were currently progressing the Core Strategy of their LDF and it would be some time before they engaged on the Site Specific elements of the LDF. The intention there would be for a joint area action plan to be produced for Leiston and Saxmundham but this was a couple of years away. Even then this might not cover the areas that members and residents earmark as important so a Neighbourhood Plan would effectively take ownership of our own future and, working with SCDC, would produce a legal document that would be used for planning in the town for many years to come. Members agreed that this was the way ahead and discussed, in principle, the forming of a committee to take it forward which would consist of 4 Councillors and 4 members of the community. These should possibly include a representative of the business community, a representative of our young people (hopefully elected by their peers), an environmentalist and a trade union representative. It was also agreed that funds be made available from the general reserve to progress the plan subject to the usual Council consents.

191. **County Matters.**

- a. **Grass verges.** Frustrated by the anti social behaviour of some residents who park on grass verges the Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of the County Council and try and seek clarification of the legality of such an action.
- b. **Highways.** It was agreed that the speed humps and road surface at the town centre traffic lights needed to be worked upon to reduce the uneven surface and loose cobbles – it was becoming very unfriendly for bicycles and pedestrians.

192. **District Matters.**

- a. **SALC.** Cllr R Bailey informed members that the Community Right to Appeal against planning applications was soon to be discussed in the House of Commons.
- b. **Karate Club.** Cllr Last explained that he had been asked by the Karate Club to support them in their current dispute with the District Council/Leisure Centre about a long standing time slot that had been withdrawn. The Chairman asked for details and undertook to follow it up at District to see what could be done.

193. **Correspondence**

- a. **Haylings Grove.** Anti social parking on the pavement was occurring and the Clerk was asked to get the PCSO to have a look.
- b. **Litter.** A litter complaint was given sympathy and the Clerk asked to try and get some of the areas mentioned de-littered.
- c. **Allotment problem.** Members noted the letter from an allotment holder who was having real problems with tree roots from the trees on the neighbouring caravan site. The District Council had agreed to fell every other one (and poison the stumps) but members felt that there would still be areas of his plot that were unusable due to the root problem. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the rent for the affected plot be reduced by 25%.
- d. **Pisces Swimming Club.** The Clerk explained to members that this was an urgent request for funding from the Pisces Swimming Club as the letter had been delayed in being sent in the previous financial year in which members had had £100 set aside to support the club. Although not on the Agenda it was proposed by Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Geater and agreed that £100 be granted to Pisces and that the expenditure be noted as coming from the 2011/12 grants allocation.

194. Questions to the Chairman.

- a. Councillor Hawkins wondered if the Chairman had seen the new Leiston Guide produced by the Business Association. He wondered if the Clerk could provide a more comprehensive map than the one they used for inclusion in their next edition. The Library times needed amendment too.
- b. Cllr R Bailey asked the Chairman whether Upper Abbey Farm could be put on the next agenda and that Haylings House also be discussed with a view to seeking listed status. Could the Clerk also find out what progress had been made with the restoration of Upper Abbey Farm.
- c. Cllr Howard informed the Chairman that there wasn't going to be a Fairtrade Easter Egg Hunt this year but that a Fairtrade event would be organised later in the year.
- d. Cllr Ginger asked the Chairman if he could take forward a residents request to investigate putting a Fido Bin on Red House Lane by the first entrance to Garret Crescent.

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

Chair

Dated
