

Pre-meeting Reports 5th March

- 222. Police Report.** The Chairman welcomed PCSO Fiona Sharpe, Suffolk Constabulary, who gave members an overview of the crime statistics for the town for February (attached). Members and residents asked various questions mostly regarding speeding and traffic.
- 223. Leiston Long Shop.** Anna Mercer introduced herself as the Visitor Services Officer and gave members an update on the new staffing structure at the Museum and an insight into how the venue is trying to develop over the coming years. Firstly she explained about the disappointing outcome of the Heritage Lottery Fund application. Everyone was optimistic after winning the stage 1 funding but the HLF declined to offer them the £1.8 million needed for the full restoration project at this time. One of the reasons offered was that they did not think the organisation currently in place at the Long Shop could manage such a large and ambitious project. The work now is to show that they can and to reapply at a later date. To that end many things are being done as part of the plan to bring that day closer. The Audience Development Plan has already been done as part of Stage 1 and, along with other Business Plans etc. Anna explained how more now needed to be done now to get local people and families interested in the museum and to try and use the museum and the project to help re-invigorate the town. There was a need to attract a broader and younger audience with use of the displays and media that children were being brought up with. There is a declining revenue grant so more diversity and flexibility is needed to get more people into the museum and for them all to be entertained. The Trustees decided to change the staffing arrangements to try and achieve this and created two new posts to replace the old manager's post. Anna is the part time visitor services officer and will work alongside the learning and outreach officer who will work with schools and other community groups to create that interest and encourage people to volunteer. There have been 30 new volunteers since the restoration project began and they are the lifeblood of the museum. The Museum opens on 23rd March and the sculpture, recently created by CYDS working with a blacksmith, will be unveiled. There will be family events put on each week of all the school holidays thereafter which is being funded by a grant from SCDC. Cllr Ginger and Cllr Howard were more concerned with the staffing changes however and asked Anna to inform the Trustees that there was anger and disquiet in the town on that issue. They realised she wasn't the right person to be able to address their concerns however so concentrated on the proposed changes to displays etc. where they felt that it would be wrong to do all the modernisation being proposed as the whole ethos was about the workers and the conditions as well as the incredible innovation that the Works brought to Leiston. Anna understood their point of view and tried to assure them that depicting and illustrating just those points was a key part of the plans.
- 224. County Report.** The Chairman welcomed Cllr Richard Smith who briefly updated the meeting on County Council issues. He pointed out that he was the County Council representative on the Long Shop Management Committee and added his support to the work that Anna and the volunteers were doing. He hoped that Leiston Town Council would support them too. He then did a short washup of the Police and Crime Commissioners visit in February before expanding a little on the 5 County priorities. He only really had time to focus briefly on education however and explained what was being done to redress the current poor performance across the county at Key Stage 2 (11 yr olds). He did point out that, despite this, the number of "A" levels achieved were above the national average.
- 225. District report.** Cllr Cooper reported that SCDC had now set their budget and that he had been to further briefings on the Districts proposal to reduce the number of elected representatives on the Council. Cllr Ron Bailey reported that he had been disappointed at a recent SALC meeting which had been addressed by the District's Planning Officer. The Officer had been very unenthusiastic and demeaning about the Neighbourhood Planning process and Cllr Bailey asked District Councillors to ensure that the support was still there at their level to help this process work. There was a lot of general discussion about the new "bedroom tax" and other housing issues in the area.

- 226. Public.** Mr Brian Ginger had been asked by the Royal British Legion Band Committee to come and make a representation to the Council about the poor state and lack of facilities of the dressing rooms back stage at the Film Theatre. They wished to fully support any plans the Council might have to address this.

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 be completed.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on TUESDAY,
5th MARCH 2013, at 8.23 p.m.**

PRESENT

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

- 227. Minutes.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Howard and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 5th February 2013 be signed as a true record.
- 228. Apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Nunn and Cllr Last.
- 229. Declaration of interests.** Cllr Howard declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda items 12 and 17a. Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Parker declared a pecuniary interest in item 17a, Cllr Geater a non pecuniary interest in 17a and Cllr Ginger anon pecuniary interest in 16b.
- 230. Chairman's Communications.** The Chairman had nothing to report.
- 231. Sizewell Emergency Arrangements.** Members noted the proposed submission in response to the current consultation on the Sizewell Emergency Arrangements which captured all the points members raised at the February meeting. On a proposal from Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr D Bailey it was agreed to submit the letter to the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit.
- 232. Fairtrade.** Cllr Mrs Nunn informed members that everything was in place for a super concert, given by the Leiston Royal British Legion Band, on Thursday 7th March at the WI Hall. She thanked Cllr Howard for all his work and help in organising the event.
- 233. Youth Club.** Members were briefed on the recent meeting with CYP personnel (from the County Council) where a possible solution to the future location of the Youth Club was outlined and costed. The report from the Clerk put together the building options, hire fees and expected staff and running costs should members consider continued sponsorship of the club. For the club to have their own exclusive space it would require a 5 year rolling lease for £2,500 per year with the shared space costing an additional £810 per annum for

club nights. With this and other costs the Council, who had already budgeted £14,000 for next year, would be able to cover this with their current business plan. Cllr Howard proposed that the Council continues to support the youth club at the level set out in the paper provided by the clerk in which the meeting between the Children and Young People officers, this council and the youth club was reported. Further, that we agree to our chairman signing a lease with the CYP project which shall be of no more than a rolling 5 year lease and that a contract be sought which sets out the agreed limits of use by the youth club of buildings and grounds. Members were happy that this covered the current position and, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed.

- 234. Highbury Footway.** Members noted the communication from Mrs Redhead Higgins which was quite positive and invited the Council to contact her solicitor to progress a possible agreement. The Clerk informed members of the likely costs for the work package and, on a proposal from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Cooper it was agreed that up to £700 be set aside to cover solicitor fees.
- 235. Town Appraisal.** Cllr Cooper reported that all the issues raised relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan had been passed to the appropriate groups.
- 236. Neighbourhood Plan.** The Clerk reported that all the groups had met, some where meeting on a more regular basis than others but this was generally dictated by the work streams of each heading. It was hoped to hold a large meeting again just after Easter to take stock of progress and to get Mr Bowden more involved as we go to the next stage.
- 237. Upper Abbey Farm.** More news next month (see below).
- 238. EDF.** Cllr Cooper felt that the Council should not lose contact with EDF now that the first stage consultation was over and that there should be a continual dialogue with them to ensure they were aware of Leiston's requirements. Members agreed and it was decided to invite Mr McGarry, from the local EDF New Build office, to attend the April meeting. This would also be a good opportunity to get an update on Upper Abbey Farm.
- 239. Sizewell Road Car Park.** Members noted the options put forward by SCDC for possible solutions to the anti social behaviour that occurs in the Sizewell Road car park and heard from Cllr Ginger what the opinions were from the recent Police meeting where priorities and issues were reviewed. It was very clear from that meeting that the barrier option was extremely unwelcome and a non starter. There was unanimous support for a good CCTV solution though and, to be effective, this should include VNPR. Members agreed that this was also their preferred option and, on a proposition from Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Sparrow the Clerk was asked to convey this to SCDC. (Cllr Howard, R Bailey and Hawkins voted against.)
- 240. Film Theatre.** The Clerk updated members on the progress with the planning application for the Film Theatre. Due to some procedural constraints the revised application, adjusted to allow more light into Drovers Yard, would now have to go back to the North Area Development Control Committee for further consideration. Once the new determination was known there would be a meeting of the Theatre Committee to explore the way ahead. Members noted that alcohol was now being served at the interval during live shows and asked the Clerk why they had not been consulted on this. The Clerk apologised as he had just introduced this new business as a natural progression to the live shows as another revenue stream. Members were annoyed however that they had not been made aware of this and asked the Clerk to stop selling alcohol until a fuller debate could take place in the future as some residents did not like the idea.

Cllr Cooper declared an interest and did not take part in the above discussion.

241. Meeting with SCS Ltd. Cllr Ginger asked for an item to be on the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting with SCS Ltd. It was a real nuisance that the litter bin operatives did not lock the litter bins back onto their base once they had been emptied. He wanted this practise to cease.

242. Finance.

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Mrs Nunn and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £26,648.37p along with £12,057.08p paid since the last meeting be approved for payment.
- b) **Cinema Admission Price Review.** Members noted the report from Mr Burns which outlined his recommendations for ticket prices for 2013/14. Cllr Hawkins echoed the report and pointed out the increasing costs of the venue, especially the film rental terms and utilities. Members however felt that this was a community held asset and that the business case for an increase had to be balanced against their own judgement on what residents would wish to see. They therefore agreed, on a proposition by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr D Bailey, that the prices remain frozen for at least six months.

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

243. Planning.

- a) **C12/0073 – Use of certificated caravan and camping site for general caravan and camping use; installation of two “hook-up” points; widening of driveway and access splays and conversion of building to accommodate toilets and showers at The Orchard, Abbey Road, Leiston.** Cllr Howard put forward his view that, in light of the new emergency arrangements, this site could see as many as 200 extra people in the DEPZ. With caravans and tents not seen as shelters this would mean they would have to be evacuated. He was very concerned about the increase in traffic the site would generate and the lighting that would be needed too. Other disadvantages of having a site with a single entrance were the Waste Disposal issues and the effect on the houses who, for many years, had enjoyed an isolated and rural position. He went on to recommend, should the application be approved, that there should be a limit of 28 consecutive days for any one touring caravan, that the site only be used for 11 months of the year and that dogs be kept on leads. He also thought a Visitors Car Park needed to be included in the plan. Members agreed with this, especially the traffic impact, and asked that the widened driveway be made a condition for operation as well. Cllr Boast felt that it was an overdevelopment. Cllr Ginger abstained.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

During the above item Cllr Mrs Geater and Cllr Parker left the room. Cllr Geater, Hawkins and Cooper declared an interest and remained in the room but took no part in the discussion.

- b) **C12/0223, Erection of dormer window at 1, The Common, Leiston**

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

- c) **16 Andrew Close – revised details.** Members noted the pictures of the heightened fence and the answer to the query of how many panels were included in the application (four). Members wished to retain their objection to the height of the fence as it would set a precedent.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

244. County Matters

- a) Nothing raised.

245. District Matters.

- a) **Divestment.** Members noted that the proposal for divestment of the Allotments, King George Avenue Recreation Ground and Haylings Pond Meadow was being put before cabinet that evening. Cllr Cooper reported that he had raised some queries regards

rights of access etc. and other members pointed out that negotiations still had to take place with regard to what remuneration would accompany the land handover to allow for the essential repairs at Haylings Pond to be done.

246. Correspondence.

- a) **Long Shop Museum.** Members noted the letter from the Long Shop Museum requesting grant aid for this current year and explaining what was happening at the museum regards staffing and the proposals for the coming season. Cllr Ginger felt that, after the presentation given by Mrs Mercer before the meeting, he needed further time to digest the letter. He also wanted to meet the trustees to try and get a clearer picture of what had happened and what why things were having to change. Cllr Howard felt that this was necessary too to clear the air and, on a proposition by Cllr Ginger, seconded by Cllr Howard it was agreed that the Clerk should request a meeting with the trustees and that the letter requesting grant aid be held over until this had happened.

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

- b) **Sizewell C Nuclear New Build Constabulary representative.** Sergeant Tompsett, in an e-mail, introduced himself as the principle operational representative for the Suffolk Constabulary with regard to the Nuclear New Build proposed for Sizewell. He outlined his role and offered to attend a meeting at members pleasure should they wish to discuss anything with him. The Clerk was asked to invite him to the June meeting and to enquire whether his position was being funded by the Constabulary or EDF.

247. Questions to the Chairman.

- a) Nothing raised.

There being no more business the meeting finished at 10.00pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----