



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Caroline Parker
Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Lawrence
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 15th JANUARY 2014 AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Caroline Parker (Chairman), Mark Bromfield (until Min 94), Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, Patsy Ryan, David Stanley and John Wren

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk)

Prayers were read by Rev Julia Monaghan (Wesley Methodists) prior to the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

86. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. She has had to decline attending some events as the cost was prohibitive without the availability of a Chairman's allowance. The Chairman had assisted David Amess in judging the 'Best Dressed Shop Window' competition; Chloe Elizabeth had won with Natural Edge and The Cedar Tree as runners up.

The Carols on Strand Wharf was well attended despite the strong winds. It was disappointing that more Councillors had not been present. She urged members to set aside a certain amount of time to assist with events as their continuance depended upon it.

87. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Alex Coulson, Syrie Cox, Cliff Passmore

89. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

90. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

91. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

92. EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AND PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman announced that she had called an Extraordinary Council meeting for Tuesday next week.

Members debated the pros and cons of having two meetings two nights running to discuss the same subject with the same report. There was also some debate regarding the legality of Council cancelling a meeting called by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

A proposal was put:

That Personnel Sub-Committee meet as planned on Monday night and put recommendations for consideration direct to the Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday for action.

Proposed Cllr Carole Mulroney; Seconded Cllr Geoff Crawford.

A recorded vote was requested.

For the proposal: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker, Patsy Ryan, David Stanley and John Wren.

The motion was **RESOLVED**.

93. COMMITTEES

- a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th December 2013 were **noted**.
- b) Transport & Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2013 were **noted**.
- c) Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th December 2013 were **noted** with the addition of Cllr David Stanley who assisted at the Carols on Strand Wharf in minute 59(c).
- d) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2014 were **noted** except for the recommendations in Minute 125 which was a separate item on the agenda.
- e) Leigh Community Centre Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January 2014 were presented by the Chairman of Council as neither the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee felt able to do so. The minutes were **noted**.

94. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2014/15

Cllr Donald Fraser proposed that the Budget and Precept be deferred to the Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday. The proposal was not seconded.

The budget recommendation from F&GPC had been amended as a consequence of the omission of the Skate Park Budget from the summary adding £5,351 to the total. In order to keep the overall budget within the same region of the recommendation the proposed reserve was reduced from £70,000 to £65,000.

The amended budget was put to the vote, a recorded vote was requested.

For the amended budget: Cllrs Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Pat Holden, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker, Patsy Ryan and David Stanley.

Against the amended budget: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Jerry Holden, Paul Lawrence and John Wren.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended budget.

A proposal was put by Cllr Richard Herbert; seconded by Cllr Jerry Holden.

If additional staff costs were required as a result of the Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday that they be taken from reserves.

A recorded vote was requested.

For the motion: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker, Patsy Ryan, David Stanley and John Wren.

Abstention: Cllr Paul Lawrence

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the motion.

The budget motion was then taken.

That a Budget of £329,581 be set for 2014/15, with a Local Council Tax Support Grant of £27,000 and a Council Tax figure of £302,581 resulting in a Band D Council Tax of £36.34 a decrease of £2.63 (6.75%) on last year.

A recorded vote was requested.

For the motion: Cllrs Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker and Patsy Ryan. (7)

Against the motion: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, David Stanley and John Wren. (6)

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the motion.

Cllr Mark Bromfield left the meeting

95. FINANCIAL REPORT

Income & Expenditure Report 2306/I&E

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm