



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP - Tel: 01702 716288  
council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk



Chairman: Cllr Jane Ward  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Valerie Morgan  
Town Clerk: Helen Symmons

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017  
AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Valerie Morgan (Chairman), Karen Bowden, Anita Forde, Patrick Fox, Fr. Clive Hillman, Caroline Parker (until minute 11) and Vivien Rosier

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk), Mr. Whitbrook (Earth Angel Allotment School) and a member of MDAS committee.

***The meeting opened at 7.30 pm***

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed all and informed members of the Veolia community group meeting she had attended which was most useful. She will attend further meetings and will ensure members have the minutes when available.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Jill Adair and Jane Ward

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

***Cllr Fr. Hillman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7 being a member of Churches Together.***

4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were **AGREED** as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

The Committee heard about a new charity being formed – Earth Angel Allotment School. The idea will be to train teachers, community leaders and encourage children to enjoy the benefits of growing their own vegetables both through a secure network (video link) and occasional site visits. The Committee were very interested in the idea and requested an overview in writing as consultation would be required with other plot holders to gage their agreement to small groups of visitors on 2 allotment plots at Manchester Drive site (on the Leigh designated side). Mr Whitbrook was invited to write an article for the next LTC magazine.

***Mr. Whitbrook left the meeting***

The MDAS representative raised an issue with regard to the current allotment budgets and enquired as to why the MDAS request of an increased administrative commission had not been put on the Agenda. The Town Clerk replied that additional information was awaited from the Allotment society and research was ongoing. The matter would be placed on an Agenda when a full report could be presented to E&L Committee members.

***MDAS representative left the meeting***

Signed by:

Page 1 of 4  
Date:

The Town Clerk reported on the following correspondence that had been received:

'I should be grateful if Leigh on Sea Town Council's Environment and Leisure Committee could consider the following and make recommendations:

1. The failure to empty the litter bins along the Broadway. In particular the bin outside of Tesco is always overflowing. Whilst it is good that Tesco provide the bin, it is not helpful that it is not emptied regularly which results in mess on the pavement. I suggest that Southend Council and/or Tesco is asked to ensure the regular emptying of the bin.
2. A requirement on the pubs in the Old Town to clean up the mess left by their patrons. The Peter Boat should be congratulated for the steps that they put in place. Perhaps the Crooked Billet could be encouraged to do the same. I suggest that it would be helpful for a gentle word to be had with the Crooked Billet about this.
3. Southend Council and Veolia's failure to act on reports of broken glass. I have repeatedly informed them of broken glass by Leigh station and by the Ship pub but they fail to clean it up properly. I suggest that Southend Council is asked what action it is taking to ensure that all reports are acted upon. If Veolia are purporting to be cleaning the streets but aren't then this is a waste of taxpayers' monies.'

Considerable discussion took place as two other complaints had been received in relation to street scene matters under the control of Southend Borough Council. In relation to the complaint above addressed to the Committee:

1. The Chairman will contact SBC to advise
2. The Chairman will discuss the matter with the appropriate officers at SBC as it may also be a Licensing matter.
3. The office do provide residents with details of online reporting (also on the website) to SBC when issues arise. Any report is given a reference number by SBC and it is assumed SBC do have a system to ensure actions take place.

The Committee noted that the litter issue is particularly frustrating on many levels not just from the collection point.

The Town Clerk was asked to write to Borough Councillors, Officers at SBC and Veolia with a suggestion to raise awareness of how to report such matters. The reporting process will also form part of an article for the next LTC magazine.

There was an initial discussion on solutions but the Chairman drew members' attention to the proposed PDG for such discussions.

## 6. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

<b>EVENTS</b>
---------------

## 7. EVENT REPORT – Agenda item 7

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Easter Event be run as part of the Community Centre's holiday programme and that Churches Together be included even just for an Easter Egg hunt. The potential budget reduction was noted for 2018/19.

Signed by:

Page 2 of 4  
Date:

**ALLOTMENTS**

8. ALLOTMENT NEWS

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

9. OPERATIONAL RISK REGISTER – **Agenda item 9**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt the Register.

10. TREE INSPECTION

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

11. RENT AND WATER CHARGES REVIEW – **Agenda item 11**

***Cllr Parker left the meeting***

The Committee discussed the water charge review and **RESOLVED** that a further final rebate year would be added and that no increase will be made to tenants' water rate charge for 2017/18.

Regarding the rent review, there was a prolonged and full discussion. The Committee did not agree with the recommendation to not increase the rent charge for 2018/19 as the amount of deficit the Council was expected to fund year on year was not acceptable to them.

Following a proposal (Cllr Fox, seconded Cllr Bowden) the Committee **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that an annual percentage increase of 4% be applied year on year as standard until the allotment budget breaks even. If approved, this would commence from October 2018 and only the water charges would need to be reviewed on an annual basis.

**FARMERS' MARKET**

12. REPORT ON PDG – **Agenda item 12**

The Committee was saddened to learn of David Hammond's decision but wished enormous thanks to be passed to him for the many years of running the market.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the terms and conditions for stall holders be adopted

The Committee **RESOLVED** that craft stalls may attend the market

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the market time be changed from 9am until 2 pm

The Committee **RESOLVED** the discount arrangement for payment in advance

The Committee **RESOLVED** the purchase of more bags for the Christmas market the cost of which is to come from General Event earmarked reserves to a maximum of £300.

The Committee wished thanks to be recorded for staff for the promotion of the market and the fact that it was attracting new stall holders.

**OTHER E & L MATTERS**

13. LITTER & DOG BINS IN LEIGH TOWN COUNCIL AREA

Signed by:

Page 3 of 4  
Date:

It was noted that SBC have instructed that an additional dual bin be located at Leigh Beach and an additional dog bin and dual bin at Chalkwell Esplanade end of the cinder path. They are aware that the bin near the Essex Yacht club requires swapping and this will happen when this type of bin is delivered to Veolia by the manufacturer. With regard to the emptying of bins, park bins do not come under Veolia's contract – they are the responsibility of the Parks Department's own contractor. Veolia are responsible for the bins on the cinder path. Residents are urged to raise any concerns about cleaning with the Customer Service Centre at SBC and in this respect they have launched My Southend [www.southend.gov.uk/MySouthend](http://www.southend.gov.uk/MySouthend). The Town Clerk also advised the Committee that the LTC website has links to online reporting to SBC as well.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to hold a PDG meeting to discuss environmental issues and will report back at the August meeting. The date for the meeting is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm

#### 14. TREE CHARTER

The Town Clerk spoke about the Tree Charter. Members saw this as a great idea. Ways in which to promote the Charter will be discussed at the PDG. In the meantime, the Committee **RESOLVED** that the art project to allow under 18s to show support be part of the Community Centre holiday programme.

#### 15. ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE BUDGET 2017/18

The Committee **NOTED** the financial information.

***The meeting closed at 9.00 pm***