



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council  
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**Chairman:** Cllr Bernard Arscott | **Vice Chairman:** Cllr Sandra McCurdy

**Town Clerk:** Helen Symmons *PSLCC*



**Minutes of the Meeting of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council  
Held Tuesday, 16 January 2024 at 7.30pm  
At Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-On-Sea SS9 1SP**

**Present:**

Cllr B Arscott - presiding

Cllr J Lloyd	Cllr P Gilson	Cllr M Flewitt	Cllr Lambert
Cllr C Watt	Cllr J Suttling	Cllr D Bowry	Cllr A Hart
Cllr J Garston	Cllr M Agdeve	Cllr C Mulroney	Cllr Dr A Robinson

**In Attendance -**

G Lopes (Locum Clerk & Minute taker)  
Approx 45 x public

**132) Chairman's Welcome & Housekeeping**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**133) Apologies For Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from the following members –  
Cllr O Cartey Cllr S McCurdy Cllr R Arscott

**133) Declarations Of Interest**

Declarations of Interest were received as below –  
Cllr Mulroney – Southend City Councillor  
Cllr Garston – Relative of Southend City Councillor  
Cllr Flewitt – Spouse is Southend City Councillor

**134) Agenda Change**

On the motion of Cllr Mulroney, seconded by Cllrs Hart and Bowry, it was **RESOLVED** to change the order of Agenda items to move item 13 forward on the Agenda to follow item 7.

*There was a short break of 5 minutes whilst a Councillor temporarily left the meeting*

**135) Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023**

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr Garston, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Minutes of the meeting held 29 November 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the following minor amendment –  
**Min 112 – add** - Cllr Cartey, Southend City Councillor

**136) Public Participation**

The Chairman invited residents that had submitted questions to speak and points raised included the following –

- In response to public apology, request for Cllr Agdeve to resign – the Chairman advised no Councillors would be resigning. Cllr Agdeve advised he had made a public statement and stands by this
- Request for costs relating to a staff matter – the Chairman advised all payments are available on the Council website
- Reference to objection made to licensing application and queried why the Planning Committee Chairman did not attend – Advised no requirement to attend and decision to hold a committee meeting was for Southend City Council
- Reference to comments made by Cllr Arscott regarding Audit Report and request for apology – Cllr Arscott confirmed the report highlighted items for improvement
- Query regarding difference in budget papers presented in December and currently – the Chairman advised new information had come forward
- Reference to residents' petition – The Chairman confirmed Councillors were aware of the petition and had noted

### **137) Questions from Councillors**

Cllr Mulronev raised concerns about the proposed budget, querying if it would provide sufficient funds. Concerned reserves would have to be used to cover any shortfall.

Concerns regarding the cost of Locum cover, hourly rates etc, provided her own calculations on costs involved and what she estimated current staffing matters were costing.

### **138) Southend City Councillors' Reports**

Brief verbal reports were received and included the following points –

City Cllr Aleyn –

- Six trees were broken and new fencing had now been installed
- Still waiting for Leigh TC to provide a netball net
- CCTV was not working but has now been informed today it is working
- Accident area by London Road, lights to be masked
- Scaffolding which should have been removed but has now been given an extension
- Park path had solar lights fitted but was a wildlife park and question as to whether lights should have been installed at all
- Belfairs Drive is now closed and tree works are being done this week
- Belfairs Close have been waste collections problems and receiving attention
- The Fairway raised concerns housing will be built here and partly within Leigh so needs to be watched
- Environment Agency want to install dams and concerns about flooding
- Leigh Fund has been further considered, believes there is possibly £25k of funding missing; records have now been found and Southend Officers are investigating.
- Disputed the statements made at last meeting by Cllr Mulronev and believed to be incorrect. Raised strong concern regarding Cllr Mulronev's possession of a confidential email sent to himself. Questioned motives and misleading of Leigh residents.

City Cllr Mulronev –

- Advised information provided at the last meeting on Leigh Fund was received by her and passed on
- Expressed thanks to the staff for the Christmas Events – all Councillors reiterated thanks to the staff
- The 20mph speed limit in Hadleigh Road was now in place and motorists are now slowing down in Glendale Gardens
- Residents need to ensure their Builders do not sweep detritus into the drains to avoid problems
- Anglian Water made a useful presentation
- The road camber near Tesco is an issue when there is heavy rain and has been raised with the Highways department

**139) Motions from non-party Councillors**

**a) Hire charges**

On the motion of Cllr Mulroney, seconded by Cllrs Hart and Bowry, it was

*Amended Minute as agreed by Council on 9 April 2024*

**RESOLVED** that hire rates be considered by the Community & Culture Committee as part of their consideration of matters relating to the Community Centre and shall include consideration of the motion contained in item 13a)

**ACTION: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMUNITY**

**b) Future of the Community Centre**

*Amended Minute as agreed by Council on 9 April 2024*

**MOTION:**

1. That this Council recognises that no authority had been given by the Council for any discussions to take place with Southend City Council regarding the future of the Community Centre, or any other of the Town Council's assets or activities, to any member of this Council
2. That the Chairman apologises for the breach of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and undertakes that in future no such discussions will be held, with any outside party, unless the need for, content and remit have been discussed in Council and authorised by full Council.
3. That this Council resolves that in future any decisions affecting the future of the Community Centre or other council assets, or any activities of a significant nature which affect Leigh generally across the parish, shall be the subject of a public consultation with residents before any irrevocable actions, negotiations or decisions are made

*Upon the vote being taken, the Motion was lost.*

**c) Standards of behaviour**

The Chairman confirmed all members were committed to the Nolan principles.

*Amended Minute as agreed by Council on 9 April 2024*

**MOTION:**

1. That this Council and all councillors individually wholeheartedly reaffirm a commitment to the Nolan Principles of Public Life and to that end resolves that this Council adopt the best practice for Governance, Training and the Public Face of the Council as outlined in the report provided to Members prior to the meeting.

*Upon the vote being taken, the Motion was lost.*

There was public unrest throughout the discussion of items a-c above. A resident interrupted and the Chairman advised the public participation had ended and asked for silence. There was much disruption and the Chairman called for Order and advised a short break to restore Order.

Following a short interval the public unrest had increased and there was a state of disorder. The Chairman advised the Council would now exclude the press and public as they must be allowed to transact necessary business. The Police were called to assist and the Councillors moved to another meeting room.

**RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public to enable the remaining business to be transacted (The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

Meeting resumed

**140) Financial Matters**

**a) Payments list (25/11/23 2023- 19/12/2023) –**

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr Watt, it was

**RESOLVED** to accept and approve the payments list to 19 December 2023.

**b) Bank Balances at 19 December 2023 – Noted for information**

**c) Report of Audit of Accounts dated 2 November 2023 –**

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr Watt, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Audit report dated 2 November 2023.

**d) Public statement from Cllr Arscott & Cllr Agdeve re Report of Audit of Accounts dated 2 November 2023** – Noted for information only

**e) Renewal of Cloud Voice contract** -

On the motion of Cllr Agdeve, seconded by Cllr Flewitt, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the renewal of contract with Cloud Voice dated 29 November 2023.

**ACTION: CLERK/ ASST RFO**

#### **141) Budget & Precept 2024/25**

**a) Budget for financial year 2024/25** –

Last year's budget figures had been received from the ARFO and these were considered and noted. It was confirmed there was an increase of 5% on staffing costs (excluding Café staff). An Income and Expenditure Report to-date was also considered.

The expected expenditure less projected income gave a budget total of £466,143.17 which was

**RESOLVED** by majority.

A recorded vote was requested and noted as follows

For: Cllr Gilson; Cllr Robinson; Cllr Watt; Cllr B Arscott; Cllr Garston; Cllr Lloyd; Cllr Agdeve; Cllr Flewitt

Against: Cllr Mulroney; Cllr Hart; Cllr Bowry

Abstained: Cllr Suttling

**b) Precept request for financial year 2024/25** –

The Finance Officer at Southend City Council had advised the precept request must be divisible by nine.

The precept request for financial year 2024/25 of £466,655.63 which equates to a 2.31% increase on last year and £51.75 per annum for a Band D property was **RESOLVED** by majority.

A recorded vote was requested and noted as follows

For: Cllr Gilson; Cllr Robinson; Cllr Watt; Cllr B Arscott; Cllr Garston; Cllr Lloyd; Cllr Agdeve; Cllr Flewitt Cllr Suttling

Against: Cllr Mulroney; Cllr Hart; Cllr Bowry

**ACTION: CLERK/ ASST RFO**

#### **142) Bus Route**

Cllr Hart advised there had been a motion several months ago to send a letter to the bus company. Cllr Hart had issued a draft but it seems the letter was not sent. Cllr Flewitt confirmed he had spoken to First Bus and requested a meeting with them but they had not responded. Agreed Cllr Hart will reissue the draft letter for action.

**ACTION: CLLR HART/CLERK**

#### **143) Disposable Vapes Ban**

On the motion of Cllr Hart, seconded by Cllr Watt, it was **RESOLVED** Cllr Hart will send a draft letter for the MP on this matter.

**ACTION: CLLR HART/CLERK**

#### **144) Extension of meeting time**

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr Watt, it was **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting for a further half an hour.

#### **145) Correspondence**

**a) Consultation on admission arrangements for Academic Year 2025/26 from Chase High School** –

On the motion of Cllr Agdeve, seconded by Cllr Flewitt, it was

**RESOLVED** Cllr Agdeve would respond to the Consultation on behalf of LOSTC.

**ACTION: CLLR AGDEVE**

**b) Any other urgent correspondence** – None received

**146) Date of next Scheduled Meeting**

26 March 2024

**147) Exclusion of the press & public**

On the motion of Cllr Arscott seconded by Cllr Flewitt, it was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

**148) Confidential items**

There was some discussion on the confidential items.

On the motion of Cllr Agdeve, seconded by Cllr Watt, it was

**RESOLVED** to accept and approve the retained HR Service Proposal with Worknest at £110 per hour.

**ACTION: CLERK**

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr Watt, it was

**RESOLVED** to seek quotes to appoint independent consultants to handle a staff matter.

**ACTION: CLERK**

On the motion of Cllr Watt, seconded by Cllr Gilson, it was

**RESOLVED** to appoint two panels to deal with a staffing matter; panel members are Cllr Robinson, Cllr Lambert, Cllr Agdeve, Cllr Cartey, Cllr Suttlng and other non-staff committee members as required.

**ACTION: CLLR ROBINSON, CLLR LAMBERT, CLLR AGDEVE,  
CLLR CARTEY, CLLR SUTTLING**

Meeting closed at 11.05pm