



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chair: Councillor Bernard Arscott | **Vice Chair:** Councillor Sandra McCurdy



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm
AT LEIGH-ON-SEA COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD SS9 1SP**

Present:

Chair: Councillor P Gilson

Councillor Dr D Bowry
Councillor C Mulroney

Councillor A Hart
Councillor Dr A Robinson

Councillor S McCurdy

Clerk of the meeting
Proper Officer
Public:

Mrs T Melhuish
Councillor B Arscott
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CC24-01 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lambert.

In line with Standing Order 4d.v. Councillor McCurdy was a nominated substitute for Councillor Lambert.

RESOLVED that the apology be accepted

CC24-02 Declarations of Members' Interest

Councillor Mulroney declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda item 8a. Strand Wharf in her capacity as a Southend City Councillor.

Councillor Hart declared a non-registerable interest in any discussions about the folk festival.

CC24-03 Public Participation

Members of the public addressed the Committee on the hanging baskets and events at the Community Centre.

CC24-04 Confirmation of Minutes

Following a amended to the word Members to read Minutes, **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2024 be approved.

CC24-05 Budget 2024-25

As the end of year audit has just been carried out, details of the current budget for 2024-25 will be circulated to Members under a separate cover.

CC24-06 Events

Members considered arrangements for the following:

- a. Merchant Navy Day
This is to be held on 1 September 2024. Further arrangements to be discussed.
- b. Summer Holiday events
These are being organised by the Office, details to be circulated to all Members.
- c. Seasonal Markets
Members discussed the possibility of holding seasonal markets and research to be carried out on other markets including the element of suitable products and ways of attracting a younger audience.

- There was a suggestion of a Young Entrepreneur Day.
- d. Over 60s club
The Chair reported that attendance numbers have dwindled since 2018 and how could an increase in numbers be achieved.
Members discussed the importance of keeping the event on the day/date (1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month), the quality of speakers and to be advertised more widely.
- e. Community Transport Programme
Members discussed the current arrangements for the Community Transport Programme. Currently 5 to 6 visits are held each year and the programme is run by volunteers.
It is important that a planned route for the collection of residents is made and confirmed in advance, along with any collection logistics – i.e. walkers/addresses.
It was suggested to recruit more drivers as currently there is only one volunteer driver and dates have to be arranged around their availability.

RESOLVED that an Events Working Party is established and membership drawn from all Members of the Council, to ensure a continued high level of events are arranged.

CC24-07 Leigh Community Centre

Members considered the following:

- a. Artist in Residence
Claire Burgoyne was in attendance at the meeting and provided a verbal report.
Clare is one of 3 current Artists in Residence and monthly art discussion groups are held every other month. There is a proposal for their final year to hold a butterfly project (the Purple Emperor). This will be a community engagement project and will involve workshops and a display in the Library gardens and Community Centre café in September.
- b. Hall hire charges
Members discussed the current hall hire charges for the Community Centre.
RESOLVED that an increase of £2 be applied to one-off bookings and a 3% (rounded to the nearest 50p) be applied to regular hirers.
To commence from 1 August 2024.
- c. Future Administration
This item is being considered by the Staffing Committee.
- d. PA System
Members discussed the current PA system for the Community Centre.
RESOLVED that advice is sought from an acoustic company to provide assistance with the current system and the possibility of training the Community Centre staff on how to set up and use the system.

CC24-08 Community Facilities

Members considered the following:

- a. Strand Wharf
Members discussed the current issues with the lighting and street furniture in the area.
The Proper Officer confirmed that a new flag has been ordered and repairs to the damaged bench are in hand.
Benches around the flower area need maintaining and a site visit is to be arranged.
- b. Skate Park
The Chair reported there has been a request from local Police for more lighting in this area. Quotations are being sought and will be provided at the next meeting.
- c. Paddling Pool
Members discussed the 2 pools in the Leigh area. The Gypsy bridge pool is owned by Southend City Council and Councillor Mulroney provided an update.

The City Council is seeking permission from English Nature for work to be carried out as a license is required for the physical work due to the tides. Councillor Mulroneu will pursue this further with the City Council.

CC24-09 Library Garden Mosaic

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next Committee meeting. Members were encouraged to visit the area before the next meeting.

CC24-10 Allotments

The Chair and the Proper Officer had recently visited the allotment sites. Both sites had been amalgamated under one Society. Uncultivated plots were looked at with a view to making these available to people on the current waiting list. It is proposed to extend the use of the Leigh site to be brought back into use and improve the access for less able residents and make plots available for their use. It was noted that allotments rents are due in September and it was anticipated to have the member of staff return to work to administer the allotments.

CC24-11 Hanging Baskets

Members discussed the current and new provision for hanging baskets. The Proper Officer reported that 10-12 additional baskets would be provided this year. The exact expenditure to be clarified as there was refund from last year's contract due to the poor quality and a change in the provision with the baskets being rented and not purchased. Self-watering baskets had also resulted in a cost reduction along with additional income from sponsorship.

CC24-12 Christmas Lights

The Proper Officer confirmed the Christmas lights had been booked for this year, which would be the same as last year. This is the last year of this contract and a new contract will be considered at the October Committee meeting.

The Christmas Tree is to be arranged by the new Events Working Party.

CC24-13 Youth Club Working Party

The membership of the Youth Club Working Party was considered and agreed as the following:

RESOLVED that Councillors McCurdy, Robinson, Anita Ford, a representative from the YMCA and 2 Youth Club users be members of the Working Party and meeting date to be arranged.

CC24-14 Arts Group Working Party

The membership of the Arts Group Working Party was considered and agreed as the following:

RESOLVED that Councillors Gilson, Hart, artist in residence and Emma Mills be members of the Working Party and meeting date to be arranged.

There being no further public business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

The next meeting is being held on:
Tuesday 16 July 2024, 7.30pm
at Leigh Community Centre

Signed Chair:

Date: 16 July 2024