



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

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



MINUTES of the Meeting of the Community and Culture Committee
held on Tuesday 16 July 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 J Lloyd

Councillor C Mulroney

Clerk of the meeting

Mrs T Melhuish

Proper Officer

Councillor B Arscott

Public:

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CC24-15 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hart

RESOLVED that the apology be accepted

CC24-16 Declarations of Members' Interest

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

CC24-17 Public Participation

A member of the public addressed the Committee with regards to agenda item 9. Library Garden Mosaic and the history of the proposed project.

A member of the public addressed the Committee with regards to agenda item 5d. Over 60s club and volunteers.

CC24-18 Confirmation of Minutes

The date of the previous meeting was incorrect on the agenda and should have been 11 June 2024.

Following an amendment to CC24-02 to read folk festival it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2024 be approved.

CC24-19 Events

There had been no meeting of the Events Working Party and Members received a verbal report from the Proper Officer, Councillor B Arscott on the following:

a. Merchant Navy Day

The event is being held on 1 September in Leigh and is the official event.

Discussions have taken place with Southend City Council. The flag raising will be in Leigh and the order of service is being prepared.

b. Summer Holiday events

Arts and crafts events, sports events and a Punch and Judy show have been organised by the Office. Details of attendance numbers to be circulated to all Members.

c. Seasonal Markets

To be discussed by the Events Working Party.

- d. Over 60s club
Events have been organised by the Office. Clarification to be sought regarding the use of volunteers.
- e. Community Transport Programme
An event for August has been organised. There is still a lack of volunteers drivers for the mini bus and Councillor Gilson offered his services.
- f. Christmas Lights
The lights are due to be taken down in the Library Gardens.
As this is the final year of the contract the Events Working Party to look at the current contract and arrange for quotations to be sought.

CC24-20 Arts Group Working Party

Members noted there has been no meeting of the Arts Group Working Party.

- a. Artist in Residence
No update was provided.

CC24-21 Leigh Community Centre

- a. PA System
No further action has been taken on this, the Proper Officer, Councillor B Arscott to investigate further.
- b. The Chairman reported that a new cooker in the café is required.
A quotation has been sought for approximately £1,200. Additional quotations to be sought.
Item to be considered at the next Committee meeting for recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee.

CC24-22 Community Facilities

Members received a verbal report from the Proper Officer, Councillor B Arscott on the following:

- a. Strand Wharf
Southend City Council will be relocating the current PSPO sign on the flagpole.
A quotation is awaited from a local surveyor for the required works in the area.
Item to be considered at the next Committee meeting for recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee.
- b. Skate Park
There was no further update on this item as costs for required work are awaited.
- c. Paddling Pools
Councillor Mulroney provided a verbal update on the following:
 - i. Leigh Paddling Pool
Southend City Council has prepared a design for the pool which is not self cleansing and there are issues with dredging
It was confirmed there is an Earmarked Reserve of £17,000
 - ii. Gypsy Pool
There is an issue with dredging which Southend City Council is looking into
The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Gilson will liaise with the officer at Southend City Council.

CC24-23 Library Garden Mosaic

Members received a verbal update from the Proper Officer, Councillor B Arscott on the history of the project. The decision to pause the project was made at the Community and Culture Committee meeting held on 13 June 2023 due to concerns with the limited access to the site.

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting whilst the Proper Officer obtained additional paperwork.

CC24-24 Allotments

The Chair, Councillor Gilson provided an apology to residents on behalf of the Town Council following his recent visit to the allotment sites.
A number of allotment plots are unworked and/or fallow and it appears that the allotment rules and regulations are not being enforced.

There is a current waiting list of between 40-80 residents.
Several issues need to be looked into – sites, vacant or unpaid; current waiting list; make plots usable; allotment plots for disabled users; map and grid system; removal of waste including tyres; service level agreement, allotment rents which are due in September.

RESOLVED that an Allotment Working Party is established and Councillors Bowry, Gilson, Lloyd and Mulroney the Chair and Vice Chair of both the Manchester Drive and Marshall Close Allotment Societies be members of the Working Party and meeting date to be arranged.

CC24-25 Hanging Baskets

Members received a verbal report from the Proper Officer, Councillor B Arscott. Contact had been made with Southend City Council regarding the testing of the lamp columns for the hanging baskets. This is now in hand and an application is to be submitted. It was confirmed that additional baskets are hanging on previously used and tested columns. Councillor Arscott will confirm this with the officer at Southend City Council.

There is a testing fee of £245 for each road.

It was confirmed that the current contract is for 2 years, 2024 and 2025 at a cost of £13,000.

CC24-26 Special Constable for Leigh

It was reported that a different Special Constable for Leigh is in place.

Members requested an operational report from Specials Supported Policing Coordinator for the next Committee meeting.

CC24-27 Date of the next Meeting

Tuesday 20 August 2024.

At 8.38pm, the meeting was paused.

At 8.48pm, the meeting was reconvened.

CC24-29 Library Garden Mosaic

The Proper Officer, Councillor B Arscott reported that the information requested at item CC24-23 could not be provided to Members due to its confidential nature.

RESOLVED to rescind the proposal made at the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 5 March 2024 and for the project of £5,000 to be funded from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

In line with Financial Regulation 4.1, the funding to be approved at the next Finance and Governance Committee meeting being held on 13 August 2024.

There being no further public business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

The next meeting is being held on:
Tuesday 20 August 2024, 7.30pm
at Leigh Community Centre

Signed Chair:

Date: 20 August 2024