



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 20 August 2024 commencing at 7.30pm
at Leigh-on-Sea Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road SS9 1SP

Present:

Chair: Councillor J Lloyd

Councillor Dr D Bowry

Councillor A Hart

Councillor C Mulroney

Clerk of the meeting

Mrs T Melhuish

Other

Councillor P Wexham

Public

12

CC24-30 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gilson.

RESOLVED that the apology be accepted.

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, the Vice Chair, Councillor Lloyd chaired the meeting.

CC24-31 Declarations of Members' Interest

Councillor Mulroney declared an other registerable interest in Agenda items 7. Leigh Community Centre, 8a. Strand Wharf, 8c. Paddling Pool in her capacity as a Southend City Councillor.

Councillor Hart declared a non-registerable interest in any discussions about the Folk Festival.

Councillor Wexham declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda item 5a. Merchant Navy Day.

CC24-32 Public Participation

Following a question raised on the safety testing of the lamp columns for the Hanging Baskets, the Chair of the meeting, Councilor Lloyd could not provide an answer.

Following a question raised on the number of attendees for the summer holiday events, the Chair of the meeting, Councillor Lloyd could not provide an answer.

Martin Wilcox, Chairman of the Manchester Drive Allotment Association provide a verbal report to Members following the statement made at the last Committee meeting.

The contents of the report included the current condition of the allotment site, being managed very well by the Allotment Association Committee.

Martin Wilcox also raised the issue of the current ban of a certain individual from the allotment site which the Allotment Association would like to remain in place.

The Chair of the meeting, Councillor Lloyd replied this is to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

CC24-33 Confirmation of Minutes

Following a couple of corrections to wording, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024 be approved.

CC24-34 Events

Members noted there had no meeting of the Events Working Party.

- a. Merchant Navy Day
Councillor Mulroney confirmed this is a joint event with Southend City Council and is being held on 1 September as the official event in Leigh.
All arrangements are in hand.
- b. Summer Holiday events
No further update was provided.
- c. Seasonal Markets
No further update was provided.
- d. Over 60s club
No further update was provided.
- e. Community Transport Programme
No further update was provided.
- f. Christmas Lights
No further update was provided.

CC24-35 Arts Group Working Party

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

- a. Artist in Residence
No update was provided.
Councillor Mulroney stated that the current tenure is coming to an end and an agreement is to be agreed with a new artist in residence.
The Chair of the meeting, Councillor Lloyd informed Members that the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Gilson has been discussing future exhibitions at the Community Centre from local artists.

CC24-36 Leigh Community Centre

- a. PA System
No further update was provided.
- b. Co-ordination of bookings
Members considered the report from Councillor Mulroney.
RESOLVED that:
 - i. A liaison group comprising of booking, caretaking and café staff to ensure a weekly liaison in relation to bookings, alterations to bookings etc be convened
 - ii. to ensure that all relevant staff are using the same format and information for bookings
 - iii. to make it routine practice that when a hirer fails to turn up they are followed up so that staff can understand why this is the case and to amend the terms and conditions to make it more apparent that hirers must give appropriate notice preferably at least 2 working days if they are not going to take up their booking
 - iv. to immediately act to allocate staff to the updating of the website with the details of events, booking facilities and all other relevant information

CC24-37 Community Facilities

- a. Strand Wharf
No further update was provided.
- b. Skate Park
No further update was provided.
- c. Paddling Pools
Councillor Mulroney stated there was no further update to the below since the last meeting.
 - 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

CC24-38 Allotments

- a. The Chair of the meeting, Councillor Lloyd provide a verbal report following a meeting of the Allotment Working Party.
Visits had taken place to all the allotment sites and a meeting of the Manchester Drive Allotment Association Committee meeting.
Working with both Associations to produce a new draft Tenancy agreement for consideration at the next Committee meeting. A new application form for an allotment plot is also being prepared which will include the mediation procedure should there be a complaint about a plothead.
Thanks were provided to both Allotments Associations for their co-operation and assistance.
- b. Members considered the request from the Marshall Close Allotments Association for an increase in the amount received from the Town Council to assist with the running of the allotment site.
RESOLVED that a recommendation is made to the next meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee for the annual payment to be increased to £700.

CC24-39 Hanging Baskets

No further update was provided.

The testing of the street lamp columns to be looked into.

There being no further public business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed Chair:

Date: 29th October 2024