



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP | Tel: 01702 716288

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**Chair:** Councillor B Arscott | **Vice Chair:** Councillor C Mulroney

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting.

The Council met at 4.10pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the Lower Hall, Leigh-On-Sea Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-On-Sea, Essex, SS9 1SP.

Chair: Cllr B Arscott

Vice Chair: Councillor C Mulroney

Present: Cllrs P Barber, Dr D Bowry, J Garston, A Hart, J Lloyd, O Richards, J Suttling, P Wexham and C Willoughby.

In attendance: The Town Clerk, Clare Milligan, and 14 members of the public.

## **270/24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and agreed for Cllrs R Arscott, J Garston and P Gilson. Cllrs C Lambert and C Watt were not in attendance.

## **271/24 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Cllr C Mulroney declared she was a Southend City Councillor. There were no other declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registrable Non-Pecuniary Interests.

## **272/24 Public Participation**

One member of the public spoke at the meeting. They asked if the Council would be taking on board the recommendations from the external auditor re the AGAR investigation. Cllr B Arscott explained that there were no recommendations at present the emails received to be discussed at the meeting were stipulating that the external auditor was investigating queries raised to them by members of the public. The member of the public also asked if the Council would consider asking Southend City Council to ask Castle Point Borough Council to have a meeting.

## **273/24 Appointment of Vice Chair**

Cllr B Arscott asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Council. Cllr C Mulroney was nominated by Cllr Dr D Bowry, seconded by Cllr C Willoughby. Cllr P Gilson was nominated by Cllr B Arscott, seconded by Cllr J Garston. With 7 voting for Cllr C Mulroney and 4 voting for Cllr P Gilson, Cllr C Mulroney was duly elected as Vice Chair.

## **274/24 Committee Vacancies and Election of Chair of Staffing**

Cllr P Barber and Cllr O Richards put themselves forward for the Community and Culture Committee. With 6 voting for Cllr O Richards, 4 voting for Cllr P Barber and 1 abstention, Cllr O Richards was elected to sit on the Community and Culture Committee.

Cllr C Mulroney nominated Cllr Willoughby to join the Finance and Governance Committee. Seconded by Cllr B Arscott and agreed unanimously.

Cllr C Mulroney nominated Cllr P Wexham to join the Planning, Licensing and Environment Committee. Seconded by Cllr A Hart and agreed unanimously. Cllr C Mulroney nominated Cllr Dr D Bowry as Chair of the Staffing Committee. Seconded by Cllr C Willoughby; with 7 for and 4 against the motion was passed.

#### **275/24 AGAR**

The Clerk had circulated the emails that the Council had received from the external auditor PK Littlejohn. The emails showed the concerns raised by the Council's electorate, decisions already made by the auditor and further actions to be taken by them. A short discussion took place and Cllr C Willoughby suggested that the Council contact the external auditor to see if resubmitting page 1 of the AGAR, the governance page, would alleviate some of the queries being looked into. Proposed by Cllr C Willoughby, seconded by Cllr C Mulroney and agreed unanimously.

Cllr A Hart asked for item 9 Castle Point Borough Council Local Plan to be brought forward as he had to leave the meeting by 5pm the latest. Proposed by Cllr B Arscott, seconded by Cllr A Hart it was agreed to bring the item forward.

#### **276/24 Castle Point Borough Council (CP) Local Plan**

The Clerk had circulated the reply letter received from CP declining a meeting with the Town Council. An in-depth discussion took place as to how important it was that the views of the residents of Leigh-on-Sea and the Town Council were heard. That the Council needed to keep abreast and in front of any further actions/processes to be taken by CP so that they can respond accordingly. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply to CP expressing that it is essential they engage with the Town Council throughout the process as it is the residents themselves and the Town Council who are best to decide on whether the plan impacts Leigh-on-Sea or not. It was also agreed the Clerk would write to SCC giving them a copy of the letter the Town Council sent to CP so they are aware of the Town Council's objection to any of the Salvation Army land being used and ask that the Town Council is involved in any action SCC takes. The Clerk will also write to the local MP's and ECC in regard to the matter. A public meeting will also be organised for January 2025. Proposed by Cllr C Mulroney, seconded by Cllr A Hart and agreed unanimously.

#### **277/24 Southend City Council's Governance Consultation on Wards**

A short discussion took place and Cllr Mulroney suggested that Councillors got together to go through the map and consultation details and decide on comments. This meeting will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the afternoon. As many Councillors as possible are asked to attend. Proposed by Cllr C Mulroney, seconded by Cllr O Richards and agreed unanimously.

#### **278/24 EDGE Software**

The Clerk had circulated the quotes for the contract for the EDGE software the Council uses. It was agreed to sign up for another 3 years at a cost of £2,995.68 per annum. This will start from 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Proposed by Cllr B Arscott, seconded by Cllr C Willoughby and agreed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.56pm