



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council



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Vice-Chairman: Cllr Valerie Morgan

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons

Minutes of 23rd Annual Town Electors Meeting 22nd March 2019, 7.00 pm at Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Valerie Morgan, **Vice** Chairman of Leigh Town Council

Other Town Cllrs: Mark Bromfield, Keith Evans, Anita Forde, Paul Gilson, Jill Healey, Fr. Clive Hillman, Carole Mulrone, Declan Mulrone, Caroline Parker and Vivien Rosier.

Guests: Southend Borough Councillor Bernard Arscott. Press - Leigh Times

Officers: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk) and Abbie Cotterell (Assistant Proper Officer)

74 members of the public.

Those attending who were Leigh Town Council electors numbered 47.

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everybody and thanked the attending Borough Councillor. Leigh Town Council members were asked to stand and introduce themselves from within the audience.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Sir David Amess MP, Councillor John Lamb (Southend Borough Council), Paul Worrell (Fisherman's Chapel), Kate Mansfield (St. Michaels School), Mrs Clements (Chalkwell Hall Infant School), Darrell Binding (Co-Op), Michael Guy (Leigh Times), Rev. Andrew Cowley (Leigh Road Baptist Church) and Terry Birdseye.

3. **MINUTES OF THE 22nd ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** were signed by the Chairman.

4. **REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN – Cllr Valerie Morgan**

Good evening and welcome to you all. Thank you for coming to this meeting, which is your meeting not a council meeting. I hope you have had the opportunity to visit some of the local community stands and find out a little more about what happens in our town.

Our magazine, Leigh Town Council News, edition 9, has just come out and if you haven't already received your copy they are available this evening. So I won't bore you with the events of the past year as it is all either in our magazines or in reports on our website. I hope you have been able to participate in some of them.

We are now coming to the end of the 4 year term of your current council with elections due in May. We pride ourselves in being a non-political council and if any of you would be interested in becoming a councillor, it is an interesting and rewarding role, our Town Clerk can guide you in the right direction for the necessary paperwork.

I mentioned last year that the first session of Friends of Library Gardens had taken place and the project continues to flourish. Those of you who have visited the gardens recently will have noticed an area to the south has been cleared. This area is not open to the public but is now in the process of becoming a nature garden and is really exciting so keep an eye on it and perhaps join in.

One of the council focuses this year has been on the youth of the town and that was one of the reasons for choosing Southend YMCA as my charity for the year. In conjunction with them we have set up a youth club for 8-12 year olds and I hope that will continue to thrive. We continue to explore other ways of providing something for the teenagers. On the subject of YMCA, the Ray Miso Trio kindly offered to play to help raise money and we are holding a Jazz Cafe here in the Community Centre next Saturday, the 30th, if any of you would like to pop in.

It remains to me to thank Rev Andrew Cowley for being my Chaplin for the year, councillors for their support over the past year and to wish the new council when it convenes in May my very best wishes and also to thank the members of staff for all their hard work.

5. **COMMUNITY GUEST SPEAKERS**

Anglian Water & Environmental agency had to withdraw from the meeting and sent their apologies. They hope to attend a Council meeting later in the year to update Leigh Town Council on the monitoring and improvement steps regarding water quality at Bell Wharf Beach. The representatives were happy to receive questions through the town clerk.

6. **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AND GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARDS** - Presentations were made to:

Donald Fraser Volunteer of the Year Award

Hilary Le Marie

Hilary Le Marie is the first recipient of the award. Hilary volunteers for a variety of charitable organisations, she runs the Leigh British Legion's Poppy Appeal, is an active citizen for the Police, does speed watch, and also helps with the RSPB and Marie Curie. Hilary also volunteers for the Town Council and updates the Council noticeboards on a weekly basis. She is always on hand to help out at community events, as well as collecting money for charity and taking part in litter picks around the Town. She is a shining example of a good citizen, and are very grateful of the hard work she puts in to making Leigh-on-Sea a better place to live.

Bob O'Leary (Secretary of the Leigh-on-Sea Branch of The Royal British Legion) collected this award on behalf of Hilary.

Good for Leigh Awards

Danielle Austin

Danielle launched Litterless Leigh in 2018, a community group who take time out of their weekends to go and litter pick around the Belton Hills and other areas of the Town.

Allan Webb

Allan has lived in Leigh for over 30 years and has been a volunteer for the Art Ministry based in Hadleigh for 12 years, acting as their Trustee Treasurer, Fundraiser, Events Co-ordinator and more. Allan helps to deliver art sessions to children and adults in need across South Essex, including cancer sufferers at Southend Hospital, people with additional needs in sheltered housing schemes, people with drug and alcohol addictions in hostels as well as their regular sessions at their base for adults with learning difficulties, physical disabilities, partially sighted and blind adults and adults with mental health problems. Allan has also developed strong links with the Leigh Lions and the Leigh Town Council to deliver affordable art activities for families in Leigh.

Blade Education

Blade Education is a not for profit company based in Leigh-on-Sea that works within the local community creating innovative ways to tackle social issues through education and information. They especially emphasise connection between the older and younger generations. Blade has done a great amount of work with West Leigh Schools and brought together many schools in the Ceramic Poppy Project (on the Cliffs) on and last year the displays at Southend Airport of the

poppies and background history of local people who were involved in the Great War. In this they have worked very closely with the Leigh Branch of the British Legion. and have greatly raised awareness of the amount of work which can be done within the community when that community comes together.

Rockamilly

Rockamilly is a family run boutique in the heart of Leigh Broadway who demonstrated a fantastic joyful and community spirit during the Leigh Lights night.

LOSITA

A new and very welcome addition to the many community groups in Leigh concentrating on the business community and more particularly, the independent traders for which Leigh is famous. The group has made a start in bringing the business community together, liaising and working with both the Town and Borough Councils, organising awareness functions and generally being a proactive force within Leigh.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The meeting received the report. No questions were raised.

8. OBSERVATIONS

Past Councillor Syrie Cox & CEO OF YMCA commented that it was nice to see how the Community centre had become a well-established part of Leigh-on-Sea. She also complimented the Council on the quality of the annual report.

9. RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAD BEEN RECEIVED

There were none

10. OPEN FORUM

9.1 Member of the Electorate

Concern was raised at last year's Annual Community Meeting with regards to the speeding vehicles on Hadleigh Road. Southend Borough Council recently issued a consultation for the proposal of chicanes to be installed on Marine Parade. Asked if there was an update on either of these.

From Southend Borough Cllr Bernard Arscott

Consultations had recently taken place for both. Southend Council had received a significant number of objections from local residents regarding Marine Parade, so the chicanes would not be going ahead. Alternative measures are currently being looked into. Hadleigh Road consultation finished 13th March.

9.2 Member of the Electorate

Concerned about the number of shops closing on the Broadway. Can LTC lower the business rates

From Cllr Valerie Morgan & The Town Clerk

Advised that Leigh Town Council has no jurisdiction over the business rates and these are set by central government. The Town Clerk was aware that Business rate relief has been implemented by the Government. The new government initiative cuts business rates by a third of retail properties with a rateable value not exceeding £51,000 for two years, to provide upfront support for high streets.

The Town Clerk advised that through Southend Borough Council (SBC), Leigh Town Council and the existing Leigh

Traders Groups, a Leigh Partnership Group had been formed in 2018. The first work of the group had been to send out a survey to all Leigh traders and businesses. From this an action plan is being put in place. Additionally the group were invited to place an Expression of interest in bidding for the Future High Streets Fund, and are looking to implement additional 'Way Finding' in the town.

- 9.3 **Member of the Electorate**
Asked if there were any plans for trees or landscaping to be planted at the new steps on Belton Way.

From **Southend Borough Cllr Bernard Arscott**

Yes. The grass will be replanted and trees will be replaced in the area when the new planting season commences.

- 9.4 **Member of the Electorate**
Disappointed that Anglian Water & Environmental Agency did not attend. Wanted more information on the rules contractors have to follow.

From **The Town Clerk & Cllr Carole Mulroney**

The Town Clerk was happy to pass the question on.

It is suggested that if any building work is carried out relating to connection problems within the pipes, the connection is checked after the work is complete. This would prevent any ruptures and reduce pollution.

- 9.5 **Member of the Electorate**
Past Councillor & Ex-Chairman of Leigh Town Council congratulated the current Councillors on their work.

From **Cllr Valerie Morgan**

Thanked the resident for their kind comments.

- 9.6 **Member of the Electorate**
In relation to the answer on 9.2 re business rates will this affect Southend Borough Council's income?

From **Southend Borough Cllr Bernard Arscott**

75% of the business rates are retained by the principal authority, so they do make up a proportion of Southend Borough Council's income, but this does not make up the main source of income.

- 9.7 **Member of the Electorate**
Is the youth club well attended?

From **Cllr Valerie Morgan**

Yes. There are 40 youth members on the books, with 20 of those attending regularly.

11. CONCLUSION

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked all for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.34pm