



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Paul Gilson | **Vice Chairman:** Cllr Andrew Wilkins

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



MINUTES OF A MEETING COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE
Held **online** TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2020
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: David Bowry, Anita Forde (Chairman) and Emma Smith

In attendance: Cllrs Carole Mulroney, Keith Evans and Jill Healey and Helen Symmons (Town Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

26. CHAIRMAN'S MEETING PROTOCOL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and announced the online meeting protocol.

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Gilson, Hart, O'Boyle, Wells and Wilkins

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Rosier had tendered her resignation to the Chairman of Council on 7th December and was no longer a Councillor. A casual vacancy announcement will be made.

28. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllrs Evans and Mulroney declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda items 7, 13, 14 and 15 being Borough Councillors.

29. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 29TH SEPTEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Community & Culture Committee meeting on 29th September 2020 were **AGREED** as an accurate record of the meeting. They will be signed by the Chairman at the next available physical meeting where this is possible.

30. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

The Town Clerk read a Christmas Card addressed to staff which thanked them for the 'Keeping in Touch' publications and the feeling that somebody cared for the 'oldies', giving a lifeline for so many people to know that our offer of help is there.

Cllr Healey thanked the team too for a publication well put together. Cllr Smith thanked staff for the idea of the lighting display in Library Gardens. The Committee acknowledged a huge debt of gratitude to staff for being so adaptable in providing an alternative festive addition for residents, working with others and ensuring Leigh Town Council are part of the community.

31. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

32. FACILITIES REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the reports.

33. BOOKINGS REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

34. LORNA & LOTTIE'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

35. ARTS GROUP REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the reports.

With so few members of the Committee present, it was not possible to resolve the Panel for the Artist in Residence interviews. Cllr Bowry confirmed he was able to attend. Two further panelists will be sought although it was expressed it would be useful for the current Artist in Residence to be part of the Panel and also Vivien Rosier who had played an active part in recent years in the process so would be a valuable addition.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to co-opt Vivien Rosier to the Arts Group as she had expressed her interest to the Town Clerk to still be involved. Cllrs Forde and Smith indicated that they would like to be regular members of the PDG. The Town Clerk will contact all other Councillors to see who else wishes to be a regular member.

ALLOTMENTS

36. TENANCY RENEWALS

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

37. MAINTENANCE WORK

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

38. SKATEPARK

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

39. STRAND WHARF

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMMES

40. FESTIVE LIGHTING DISPLAY LEIGH LIBRARY GARDENS

The Committee **NOTED** the reports and Cllr Bowry confirmed that he had heard nothing but positive comments. The Town Clerk confirmed that lots of letters had been received for Santa! All will be answered.

The Committee felt that the Tiny Windows Trail was a great addition for residents.

41. FARMERS MARKET

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

42. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report

ENVIRONMENT FACILITIES & SERVICES

43. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

44. SPECIAL CONSTABLES

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

- Town Security PDG

The Committee **NOTED** the response.

45. YOUTH CLUB

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING

46. FIRST AID POST

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

FINANCE

47. HIRE CHARGE REVIEW

The Committee **NOTED** the report

48. COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT 2020/21

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

Cllr Evans wished to go on record with regard to the Community Centre finances to state that in the circumstances of the pandemic, the Committee cannot compare anything for previous years; everyone is missing the Community Centre and the wellbeing of residents is important. He felt the Community Centre was essential even if not breaking even. He acknowledged that some might say that the churches offer similar facilities to the community centre but not everyone wanted to go to a church.

All Councillors attending the meeting were given the opportunity to speak and various positive points were raised about the Community Centre. The Committee concluded that the Centre is

important to our residents' welfare, that it might not exist if the Council had not taken stepped in, that the Town Council had taken over the Centre in 2012 knowing of the dilapidations and that the reach of the Centre extends wide, bringing people from other parts of the Borough in to Leigh. It was felt that the provision of the Community Centre is the sort of facility/service that Town and Parish Councils do and Leigh Town Council are doing it well so let's concentrate on doing things for Leigh in the community and not focus on how to run the Council as that is being run well by staff.

The Committee then went over some finance points with the Town Clerk who also provided some background detail for newer Councillors as to the resident consultation when the Council took on the Centre, a report provided to Council in 2016 and the fact that Council had adopted the recommendation of creating an Earmarked Reserve for the Centre which was still being used to pay for unexpected repairs as and when they occurred. The Town Clerk provided details of how the finances are monitored carefully.

The Committee felt that a duty of care was being shown by the Town Clerk with regard to finances and problems raised as they happen.

Just prior to the meeting closing, the Chairman raised the issue of the Amazon box on the Broadway as it had been the subject of many complaints and social media discussion. Cllr Mulroney in her capacity as a Borough Councillor advised that Officers at the Borough from both Highways and Planning were looking in to the matter and that no one from the Borough or Leigh Town Council had had any prior knowledge or agreed to the installation.

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm