



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Keith Evans | **Vice Chairman:** Cllr Dr David Bowry

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2022

Present: Cllrs: Bernard Arscott, David Bowry, Vinice Cowell, Keith Evans (Chairman), Anita Forde, Paul Gilson, Jill Healey, Emma Mills, Carole Mulroney, Leslie Parris, Craig Watt, Rory Windass and Andy Wilkins

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk) and Joanne Reece from Makaton

Absent: Cllrs: Doug Cracknell, Alan Hart and James Preston

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

74. CHAIRMAN AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Arscott and Watt to their first full Council meeting and updated Councillors on his civic duties. These included attending three remembrance services, the opening of the Yantlet memorial garden and the Queen's Award to a local business. He reported that the Over 60's social club was thriving and had recently driven the minibus for the latest community transport trip programme. Additionally, he had organised a Barn dance to raise funds for his Chairman's Charity – Gold Geese.

75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Cracknell and Preston.

The Town Clerk read out a request from Cllr Hart to have his apologies formally accepted due to ongoing health issues and support to a close friend. The request was made to avoid disqualification under the six-month rule. Cllr Cowell requested a recorded vote. The following Councillors voted to formally accept Cllr Hart's apologies:

Cllrs: Bowry, Gilson, Forde, Windass, Mills, Hart, Mulroney and Evans.

The following Councillors abstained from the vote:

Cllrs: Arscott, Wilkins, Watt and Parris

76. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mulroney declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 15 being the Southend City Council portfolio holder. She further declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same agenda item having been on the North Thames FLAG group. She advised that she would leave the meeting for this agenda item.

Cllr Arscott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 15 having been on the North Thames FLAG group.

Cllr Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in any agenda item where Southend City Council are mentioned.

77. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Following an amendment to the minutes to note Cllr Watt as being absent and having given his apologies, the minutes of the meeting 27th September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

78. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Joanne Reece from Makaton was welcomed to the meeting and gave a short presentation to Council on Makaton, a language programme to help those who find it difficult to communicate whether from learning difficulties, dementia or a health issue e.g. stroke patients. The Council were interested in helping to promote Leigh becoming Makaton friendly and there would be no cost involved other than using the existing training budget for staff and councillors to have basic training (approximately 90 minutes face to face) to ensure Council and the Community Centre was Makaton friendly. Council would then help promote the use of Makaton to 30 organisations within the town to get accreditation for Leigh to have the status of being Makaton friendly.

79. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none

80. SOUTHEND CITY COUNCIL

Cllr Mulrone in her capacity as a City Councillor confirmed that the City Council was in the midst of their budgeting process. She also confirmed that the 20mph consultation that recently took place had been approved by residents and the trial would be implemented shortly. Resurfacing works are taking place around the town as well as ongoing City Fibre works. It was clarified that despite rumours Broadway would not be dug up before Christmas but there was no specific end date for the City Fibre works in the area. Cllr Gilson expressed praise for the road surfacing contractors.

Cllr Evans in his capacity as a city councillor advised that the police had been targeting speeding and had been visible in New Road recently. A new timetable for the no.21 bus would be published shortly with revised 21s route. He also advised of the next community police meeting date and venue.

81. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council **NOTED** the report.

COMMITTEES / PDGS AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

82. COMMITTEES - **Agenda item 9**

- a) The minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Highways Committee were presented by Cllr Cowell as Chairman of the Committee and **NOTED**
- b) The minutes of the Community & Culture Committee were presented by Cllr Forde as Vice Chairman of the Committee and **NOTED**.
- c) The minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee were presented by Cllr Bowry as Chairman of the Committee and **NOTED with the following exceptions**

Minute 36 – Council **RESOLVED** that the operation of the café be incorporated within the Council structure.

Minute 39 – Council **RESOLVED** the expenditure list.

Minute 22 - Council **RESOLVED** the draft budget.

83. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Cllr Wilkins confirmed that he had recently attended a meeting of the Public & Passenger Transport group. There was nothing to report with regard to Leigh areas.

Cllr Forde had not attended the last Airport Consultive Committee meeting. The Chairman reminded her to inform the Town Clerk when she could not attend so that the nominated reserve representative could attend instead. The Chairman requested that this process be followed where nominated reserves for external groups were in place.

FOR NOTING/CONSIDERATION

84. STRATEGIC PLAN

Council **NOTED** the report.

85. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT **Agenda item 12**

Council **RESOLVED** that only 3,000 copies of the magazine would be printed in future and distributed from key places. The main focus would be on digital access. Councillors confirmed that they were happy to deliver hard copies to residents that were unable to access digital copies of the magazine.

Council **NOTED** the report on litter picking. Councillors were reminded of the protocols that needed to be followed regarding litter picking.

CONSULTATIONS

86. BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Council **NOTED** that the Leigh Town Council area was now being kept together in the recent proposal and therefore had no further comment to make.

CONFIDENTIAL DECISION ITEM

87. MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC – The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded and instructed to withdraw – SO 3(d) terms of proposals in negotiations for contracts.

Cllr Mulrone left the meeting

88. OLD MESS ROOM – LIBRARY GARDENS BUILDING

Council **NOTED** the confidential report and the recent changes offered by Southend City Council to the proposed lease. Following full discussion Council **RESOLVED** that they did not wish to proceed with the project and would therefore not be entering into a lease for the property no undertaking the funding conditions. The Town Clerk will advise Southend City Council.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm