



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council
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Chairman: Cllr Bernard Arscott | Vice Chairman: Cllr Sandra McCurdy

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



**Minutes of the meeting of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council
Held on Wednesday 29 November 2023 at 7.30pm
at Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea**

Present:

	Cllr B Arscott - presiding	
Cllr O Cartey	Cllr S McCurdy	Cllr J Lloyd
Cllr P Gilson	Cllr J Garston	Cllr D Bowry
Cllr Hart	Cllr M Agdeve	Cllr Mulroney
In Attendance -		
	M Letch & G Lopes (Locum Clerks & Minute taker)	
	Approx. 70 x public	

110) Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

111) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from the following members –

Cllr R Arscott	Cllr M Flewitt	Cllr Lambert
Cllr C Watt	Cllr J Suttlng	Cllr Dr A Robinson

112) Declarations Of Members' Interests

Declarations of Interest were received as below –

Cllr Mulroney – Southend City Councillor
Cllr Garston – Relative of Southend City Councillor

113a) Minutes of the meeting held 13 September 2023

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr McCurdy, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Minutes of the meeting held 13 September 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

113b) Minutes of the meeting held 25 October 2023

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr McCurdy, it was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve the Minutes of the meeting held 25 October 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Some matters arising from the above Minutes were raised and noted by members.

114) Public Representations (on agenda items)

None received.

115) Public Questions (for which written notice has been received)

Letter from Allotment society was read out and had been previously submitted – matter to be discussed at the Community & Culture Committee meeting.

Letter from resident concerning council activities – Acknowledged there is a backlog of Minutes which is being addressed. The Chairman advised Councillors could not be identified by their home addresses.

ACTION: COM & CULTURE COMMITTEE

116) Correspondence

None received.

117) Questions From Councillors (for which written notice has been received)

Cllr Mulroney raised several issues which included the following –

- Publication of previous Audit report – will be issued with Minutes and made available to the public
- Concern regarding the Council Chairman speaking to the press on an item not discussed by Councillors – Chairman advised he had not said anything confidential
- Reference to changes to the Library – Chairman had raised concern and wanted to keep the Library open
- Concerns re cost of Locums and HR
- Queries regarding HR brief
- Requested list of outstanding actions

118) Southend City Council

City Cllr Aleyn gave a brief verbal report which included the following points –

- Basketball net is still not in place
- Moving of fence has not been done
- No plants on corner of Manchester Drive
- Leigh Fund 1912 – gasworks was sold to Urban Council and money was transferred to Leigh TC for sporting activities. £28k in 1996, LTC borrowed £25k to build playground 25 years ago and should have paid funds back. Cllr Aleyn is investigating this matter.

Cllr Mulroney's verbal report included the following –

- Advised the Leigh Fund money had been spent and in July 2023 there was £2k left, she will investigate further.
- Wants Leigh Library to be placed on Community & Culture Committee agenda

City Cllr Cartey's verbal report included the following –

- Agreed Leigh Library is important but was not yet named for closure, he was happy to work with all on this
- When the City Council carries out a consultation the response is low, there are currently 4 public consultations and residents need to respond
- At the next City Council meeting there is a motion on fly tipping which he will support

City Cllr Longstaff gave a verbal report which included the following –

- Several consultations, election reform is very important matter and gave explanation
- There is lots of discussion around budget, currently £14million deficit
- Green Party have been very proactive and are looking for savings
- Reviewing Library service, has run at deficit for 15 years, is a hub and must be defended
- Lights at Leigh Hill – badgers are protected and no work can be done at this time

MINS LOSTC 29.11.23

- Attended water summit
- Electric fitting in social housing, prototype to be rolled out
- Sea Shelter project was started but Contractor went bankrupt so been delayed but will restart this Winter
- Area of broken pavement has been repaired after many reports of falls/trips

119) Town Clerk's Report

No update this month

120) Committees

a) Planning, Licensing and Highways Committee –

Minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Highways Committee held on 1 August 2023; 22 August 2023; 12 September 2023; 3 October 2023; 24 October 2023 and 14 November 2023 were all noted.

b) Community & Culture Committee – Minutes are awaiting Committee approval

c) Finance and Governance Committee - Minutes are awaiting Committee approval

d) Staffing Committee – Minutes are awaiting Committee approval

Query raised regarding objection to licence application for Prologue Books and if Chairman of Planning Committee would be attending; he advised he will consider comments

Reminder to Chairman of Community and Culture Committee that report is outstanding re Community Centre

Concern re Strand Wharf lighting – Mr Letch (Locum Clerk) confirmed Electrician is attending

121) Strategic Plan PDG

No report

122) Youth Provision PDG

No report

123) Representative Reports

No report

124) Councillor Training

Suggestion for training on Social Skills

Confirmation some Councillors had attended Planning training which they found useful

125) Bus Route

Cllr Hart had left the meeting as unwell - update deferred.

126) Disposable Vapes Ban

Cllr Hart had left the meeting as unwell - update deferred.

127) Grant Applications

On the motion of Cllr Mulroney, seconded by Cllr Gilson, it was

RESOLVED the Grant applications presented should be considered at the next Community and Culture Committee meeting.

ACTION: COM & CULTURE COMMITTEE

128) Old Leigh Regatta

There was a brief discussion to consider Council support to the 3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scout Group to enable return of Old Leigh Regatta in 2024. To be invited to make a Grant Application to Council.

129) Christmas Lights Update

The Chairman confirmed the Christmas tree and lights were installed and thanked the staff involved for their efforts with this.

130) Financial Matters

a) Draft Budget for 2024-25 – The Chairman advised the Staffing Committee had agreed to increase the Staff budget by 5% and the F&G and Community and Culture Committees would meet before Christmas to consider. The taxbase figures have not yet been received

b) CIL project funding – Reference to previous suggestion to use CIL money to repair broken bench, not been done. Funds could be taken from LOSTC budget as needs to be repaired.

c) Bank balances - Council bank balance as at 24 November 2023 and listed below were noted -

Current account	£20,478.72
Imprest	£829.77
Payroll	£18,472.92
Savings	£350,765.10
PSDF	£532,364.07

d) Expenditure for September 2023 –

On the motion of Cllr Arscott, seconded by Cllr McCurdy, it was

RESOLVED to accept and approve the list of Expenditure presented for September 2023.

131) Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting – 16 January 2024

Meeting closed at 9.20pm