



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Valerie Morgan
Vice Chairman: Cllr Jill Healey
Town Clerk: Helen Symmons

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2019
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Valerie Morgan (Chairman), John Duprey, Keith Evans, Anita Forde, Gerry Glover, Jill Healey, Fr. Clive Hillman, Ron Owen, Caroline Parker (until minute 98) and Vivien Rosier.

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk), Rev. Andrew Cowley (Leigh Road Baptist Church), Cllr Bernard Arscott (Southend Borough Council), representative from Stibbards and Morgan Academy of Performing Arts.

Prior to the meeting, PierTalk gave an informative presentation on their group which is seeking to combat loneliness and isolation. The group has grown from 10 members to 87 in a short space of time and is starting to meet in Leigh on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. onwards at the Sarah Moore pub.

Following the presentation and prior to the meeting prayers were said by Rev. Andrew Cowley, the Chairman's Chaplain.

The meeting opened 7.30 p.m.

83. THE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS INCLUDING HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all, made the appropriate housekeeping announcements and reminded Councillors of her forthcoming Quiz Night 8th February to raise money for her charity, the Southend YMCA. A presentation was then made by the Chairman and Stibbards to the Leigh Lights Parade winners, Morgan Academy of Performing Arts. Stibbards had kindly sponsored the competition, the winners receiving £150 for their charity and runners-up St. Pierre School £100, again for their chosen charity.

The representative from Stibbards and Morgan Academy left the meeting

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Jill Adair, Mark Bromfield, Patrick Fox, Paul Gilson, Carole Mulroney and Declan Mulroney.

85. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None declared.

86. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 20th November were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

87. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

The Town Clerk was asked to recommend that the Southend Borough Council Bus Working Party be contacted in the matter. Leigh Town Council are happy to support the introduction of any additional transportation network within the Town Council area and promote any service if instigated.

88. SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Arscott to the meeting and invited him to speak. Council were advised that SBC are half way through the CCTV installation, the Library is having some refurbishment work and there will be the resurfacing of some further roads in due course. Questions were asked on the following:

Marine Parade traffic calming – Cllr Arscott confirmed that the consultation period had concluded. He spoke of the proposed measures but these will now be reviewed by SBC in consideration of any consultation comments.

Broadway area parking permit scheme – Cllr Arscott confirmed that this was going to consultation imminently and extensively.

Speed concerns – Cllr Arscott gave advice that SBC Traffic department and/or SBC Ward Councillors should be contacted with concerns. Only through reports can a picture be built up of issues. Unless national policy changes, the speed limit will remain at 30 mph.

89. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS (for which written notice has been received)

Questions from Cllr Gilson

Question 1

What are we to do about the fact that we have voted for something that has no support from SBC and does not exist as a scheme?

At the Council meeting 20th November, the vote was a democratic vote. Council were provided with a report from the Town Clerk, the project information being provided by Southend Borough Council (SBC) and prior to the vote discussion took place between members. Clearly there is a scheme, one which is subject to a professional survey. If the results of this survey show that further restoration of the viewing platform is not viable then it will be the decision of SBC not to proceed and Leigh Town Council (LTC) will retain the CIL money for other valid CIL projects. The partnership suggestion for restoration of a viewing platform came from Borough officers following demolition of the toilet block under the old viewing platform. This was work under the remit of the Estate Management department at the Borough Council. It is not for Leigh Town Council to know or comment on the internal workings of SBC. However support for the scheme from SBC is evident in that the Town Clerk sent an email 21st November to SBC advising of Council's decision and on 18th December the Town Clerk then received an email from a SBC Officer, at the request of the Director of Culture, Tourism and Property at the Borough for a copy of her report submitted to Leigh Town Council. The reason given by the Borough Officer was so that SBC could formulate their funding bid based on said report. The Town Clerk is aware that Cllr C Mulroney in her capacity as a Borough Councillor sent an email to Cllr Lesley Salter 27th November advising of the Council's decision. Cllr Salter acknowledged the email the same day. Cllr Salter is the Cabinet member at the Borough for Healthy Communities and Welfare.

Question 2

Why or how did it get this far without some kind of scrutiny of the scheme?

The matter was first reported to P&R. This Committee resolved it as a viable project for CIL expenditure and recommended it to Council. Both agenda items were accompanied by a full report from the Town Clerk. SBC demolished the toilet area under the viewing platform which was deemed unsafe. In undertaking this work, it exposed the coping stones. In her capacity as a Southend Borough Cllr, Cllr Carole Mulroney approached the Borough Council to highlight their historic significance.

The demolition of the toilets and making good the area following was a decision by SBC and a budget already existed under Estate Management at the Borough. Estate Management decided to keep and replace the stones effecting a viewing platform at a lower level as a seating area. However at that point the funding for the works ran out and an approach was made to Leigh Town Council by SBC officers to work in partnership to restore the area. The Town Clerk presented it to P&R Committee as it met the criteria for Community Infrastructure Levy receipts. No funding would be from Leigh Town Council precept. The remainder of the budget would be from grant funding which SBC would source. No funding would be from SBC council tax either. Two site visits were undertaken between SBC & LTC officers with agreement that the whole project was subject to a professional survey. Only the results of the survey would establish whether the project was viable.

Question 3

Where is the money now?

If Cllr Gilson is referring to the £15,000 that Leigh Town Council has resolved to provide towards the project from CIL receipts, then this remains in the bank account of Leigh Town Council. As the project is subject to a professional survey to ascertain viability and to SBC obtaining grant funding, the money will remain in this Council's bank account until confirmed by Borough Officers that the project is moving forward.

Rev. Cowley left the meeting

90. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

COMMITTEES

91. COMMITTEES

To receive the Minutes of Committees for 2018/19 and report 2708/I&E

- a) Planning Committee – Cllr Healey presented the minutes of [27th November](#) and [11th December](#) 2018 and [15th January 2019](#)

NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- b) Community Facilities Committee – Cllr Owen presented the minutes of [4th December 2018](#)

NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL –

- c) Environment & Leisure – Cllr Morgan presented the minutes of [18th December 2018](#)

NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

- d) Policy & Resources – In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Morgan presented the minutes of [8th January 2019](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL –

- **Minute 62** – Grant Aid Award Policy - **RESOLVED**
- **Minute 68** - To Approve Expenditure - **RESOLVED**

DECISION ITEMS

92. COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019/20

The Council **RESOLVED** the budget pack for 2019/20.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the precept for 2019/20 be £47.70 for Tax Band D electors and that the total precept that Leigh Town Council will receive is £421,625.

93. SALARY BUDGET

The review of the Salary budget was signed by the Town Clerk and Chairman of the Council.

94. COUNCIL SIGNATORIES

The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Healey and Rosier become signatories on the bank account along with the Town Clerk who would just be a signatory for emergency purposes only.

95. STRATEGIC PLAN AND COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

Cllr Rosier presented the document to Council which was discussed in detail. Various amendments were suggested by Councillors which the Town Clerk will undertake and present the revised document to Council in March. Cllr Rosier was thanked for her hard work.

FOR NOTING

96. ELECTION TIMETABLE

Council **NOTED** the report

97. MAGAZINE TIMELINE

The Town Clerk highlighted that the Marketing & Profile Officer had written over 8,000 words at present in compiling the next edition of the magazine. Cllr Rosier made a final call for articles and there was a brief discussion on what difference the magazine makes in the community. Cllr Rosier felt that better recording of this should happen but recognised it was difficult to quantify. Council recognised the fantastic job that the Officer undertakes in the magazine preparation. Cllr Rosier mentioned that in due course that she would like support.

Cllr Parker left the meeting

98. RECORDING OF A COMPLAINT

The Council **NOTED** the report

99. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Council **NOTED** the report.

CONFIDENTIAL

100. 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) other special reason

Cllr Arscott left the meeting

101. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

The Council **RESOLVED** the item.

102. GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARDS

Following a proposal (Cllr Fr. Hillman, seconded Cllr Healey) Council **RESOLVED** that 5 awards will be made at the Annual Town Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm