



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP | Tel: 01702 716288

council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk | www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Chairman: Cllr Doug Cracknell | **Vice Chairman:** Cllr Keith Evans

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



MINUTES OF A MEETING
COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021
Leigh-on-Sea Community Centre

Present: Cllrs: David Bowry, Doug Cracknell, Keith Evans, Emma Mills and Andy Wilkins

Absent: Cllrs: Anita Forde, James Preston, Emma Smith and Mike Wells

In attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk) and one member of the public

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

75. CHAIRMAN'S AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Wilkins as Vice Chairman chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Forde, Chairman. He welcomed all to the meeting.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Forde, Preston and Smith

77. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in any agenda item with reference to Southend Borough Council (SBC) as a Borough Councillor.

78. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12TH OCTOBER 2021

The minutes of the Community & Culture Committee meeting on 12th October 2021 were **AGREED** as an accurate record of the meeting and signed.

79. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

There were none

80. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

81. FACILITIES REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

82. BOOKINGS REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

83. INCREASE TO HIRE CHARGES **Agenda item 9**

The Committee **RESOLVED** the new rates with effect from 1st April 2022.

84. LORNA & LOTTIE'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report but asked the Town Clerk to obtain an answer from the Café directors as to why the printing, postage and stationery costs of £2,496 in 2020 were so high when the café was closed for 9 months.

85. ARTS GROUP REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the reports.

ALLOTMENTS

86. FLY TIPPING ON THE LEIGH SIDE OF MANCHESTER DRIVE ALLOTMENTS **Agenda item 12**

The Committee discussed the matter in great detail being very disappointed to see such lack of respect for the allotment site and **RESOLVED** that a waste charge be applied to all invoices for 2022/23 for Leigh side plot holders to cover the cost of removing this fly tipping.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

87. SKATEPARK

The Committee **NOTED** the report and **gave permission** for the Town Clerk to make arrangements for an appropriate tribute to be installed by Phil Mersh's family.

88. STRAND WHARF

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

89. PADDLING POOL

The Committee **NOTED** the report and thanked the Town Clerk for ensuring that an application was submitted by Leigh Town Council to Enover Community Trust.

HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMMES
--

90. EVENTS

The Committee **NOTED** the reports and thanked the Events & Projects Officer. Apologies were given by two Councillors for not being able to attend some of the events.

The Town Clerk read out the debriefing statement from the Events & Projects Officer (Appendix 1) regarding the Festive Event.

The Town Clerk also gave a personal statement to the Committee highlighting the lack of response by many councillors to emails sent to them and the impact on staff by councillors 'liking' negative social media comments aimed at the Council. It was also highlighted that an events programme requires commitment from Councillors and this only seems to be forthcoming from a bare number.

The statement was discussed by the Committee with the Chairman of Council reminding all that as Councillors they have a responsibility to Council but also to members of staff and that unless support was forthcoming going forward, then it would put any events programme in jeopardy.

91. FARMERS' MARKET

The Committee **NOTED** the report but wished to ensure that 'Farmers' Market' was retained in any new branding, albeit that it could be an addition to Artisan Market.

92. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the reports.

93. CHILDRENS' SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

ENVIRONMENT FACILITIES & SERVICES
--

94. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING AND HANGING BASKETS

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

95. SPECIAL CONSTABLES

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

96. YOUTH CLUB

The Committee **NOTED** the report. A written update was provided by Cllr Anita Forde (Appendix 2) which the Chairman read.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING

97. FIRST AID POST

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

FINANCE

98. COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT 2021/22

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP | Tel: 01702 716288

council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk | www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

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

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



Report 2777/EF

LEIGH LIBRARY GARDENS EVENT DE-BRIEF

Leigh Library Gardens Festive Event took place on Saturday 11th December, 5-7pm. This is the first time we have held this event. It involved working with a number of community groups to raise funds for the Chairman's Charity and was well attended.

The Council ran a stall offering mince pies, (kindly donated by Home Made Bakery and Tesco Broadway) finger lights for children and a photo opportunity with Santa. 'Santa UK' volunteered to stay on site as long as possible before his official work duties started and we are grateful for his time – it was evident from the kids faces that he was a fabulous addition to the event.

The Council stall raised £201.05. Cllrs Cracknell, Evans, Healey, Mulroney and Smith helped on the stall.

Other stall holders included Cats Protection tombola, Leigh Lions pig race, Friends of Leigh Library Gardens tombola and card game and Phab Life chocolate tombola. Some of these stalls also raised money for the Chairman's charity. There was also a candy floss, popcorn stall and a hot drink stall. In addition, a staging area hosted Hoy Shanty Crew, Peter Monk and the Salvation Army providing festive music and readings.

Unfortunately, despite tireless planning, the day was met with challenges outside the Town Council's control, including:

1. Cancelled princess appearances due to Covid.
2. The stall holders hot drinks machine stopped working.
3. Our Caretaker getting Covid, resulting in rota adjustments to staff the community centre and the event. Said caretaker was also going to drive the event equipment down to the gardens so Cllr Evans kindly stepped in last minute and arranged to borrow a mini-bus from Trustlinks to transport the event equipment – helping to load and unload too.
4. Poor wet weather conditions also made the event very slippery and difficult for people to move around, despite all stalls being located by the paths and over 40 anti-slip mats laid out.

But, sadly the biggest issue was the festive lighting display not coming on. The reason for this is unknown. The lights were on the previous day and no power issues were reported to us by the building behind. The power source and connections looked in working order. The Events Officer noticed the lights were not on at 3.30pm and made 3 calls to try to rectify the issue but unfortunately our lighting company were unable to send an emergency engineer out before the event start time at 5pm and our usual contact was on another job. The lights did eventually come on around 6pm as Salvation Army began to play.

These issues meant the Event Officer and Councillors attending the event were working under a lot of pressure and it was evident more support would be needed from Council in future.

Despite these issues, there were still lots of smiley faces and positive comments on the day from visitors and stall holders. Friends of Leigh Library Gardens have already expressed support to hold more events like this in the gardens.

Youth Forum - Thursday 9th December 2021

Lead Councillor Anita Forde

The forum was well attended. Councillor Andy Wilkins was also present.

A speaker from the Youth branch of Extinction Rebellion (who I hasten to add, act within the law at all times) came to outline global issues and how young people can have a positive impact on the environment. This issue has always been at the forefront of young people's concerns. Our first Youth Forum in 2018, pre Greta Thonburg, raised this issue as their main concern.

A good talk was had by all with intelligent discussion and debate.

Some suggestions were made by our youth.

1. A new poster to advertise the Youth Forum - more graphic, animated, less wordy to be more engaging. One attendee of the forum is an A-Level art student who is going to layout some ideas.
2. Based on the environmental and climate discussion had at the meeting it was suggested that an event is organised in the New Year (March hopefully) for an Open Forum for Young People to be able to ask a panel of adults in authority (those responsible for policy making in the town and scientists / teachers who have knowledge and understanding of our environment) about their stance on the local environmental issues. A similar format to Question Time - adult panel, youth audience who submit questions to be answered and debated with a chair. The youth would like to see this as an opportunity to engage with those who make decisions which affect them and have an impact on their lives and the town.

The next Youth Forum meeting is 13th January 2022.

We will continue to hold the meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

2022 dates:

13th January
10th February
10th March
14th April
12th May
9th June
14th July