



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Cllrs: David Bowry, Doug Cracknell, Keith Evans (from minute 88), Anita Forde, Jill Healey, Emma Mills, Carole Mulrone, Emma Smith and Andy Wilkins

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk)

Absent: Cllrs: Katie Cohen, Vinice Cowell, Paul Gilson, Alan Hart, Damian O'Boyle, James Preston and Mike Wells

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 7.33 pm

70. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND HOUSEKEEPING

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and made the appropriate housekeeping announcements. A minutes silence was held for Sir David Amess MP.

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Cohen, Cowell, Gilson, Preston and Wells

72. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mulrone declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Southend Borough Councillor in any agenda items where the Borough were mentioned.

73. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 20TH JULY 2021

The minutes of the meeting 21st September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

74. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

There were none.

75. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

76. SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr Mulrone in her capacity as a Borough Councillor confirmed that meetings went into abeyance following the tragic death of Sir David. There is currently a full diary of meetings at present.

77. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The report was **NOTED**. The Town Clerk also advised that Ingmar Lindberg-Jones (Administrative Assistant) had recently passed the Introduction to Local Council Administration (the first rung on the Clerk qualification ladder). Council was delighted to hear this, Ingmar having joined the Council originally as an apprentice. Council requested congratulations to be minuted.

COMMITTEES / PDGS AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

78. COMMITTEES - Agenda item 9

- a) The minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Highways Committee were **NOTED**
- b) The minutes of the Community & Culture Committee were **NOTED**
- c) The minutes of the Staffing Committee were **NOTED**
- d) The minutes of Finance & Governance Committee were **NOTED** except minute 7,8 and 12.

Minute 7 – Reserves Policy
Council **RESOLVED** the new policy

Minute 8 – Co-option Procedure
Council **RESOLVED** the reviewed procedure and application form

Minute 12 – Annual Budgeting Process
Council **RESOLVED** the draft budget and the recommendations contained therein.

79. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The vacancies were **NOTED**.

80. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Cllr Wilkins advised that he had attended the SAVs AGM earlier which was held remotely. It had been rescheduled which was the reason Cllr Forde could not attend. Cllr Wilkins advised that SAVs have a good reserve of money.

OTHER DECISION ITEMS

81. LASTING TRIBUTE TO SIR DAVID AMESS – Agenda item 12

The Town Clerk provided an update on the blue plaque donated by Mr & Mrs Feather which will be installed at the Community Centre. Royal British Legion Leigh Branch would like to develop a photograph album tribute in partnership with Leigh Town Council to present to Lady Julia. A copy will be offered to the Heritage Centre for safe keeping.

Council **RESOLVED** to form a working group for the Council's own tribute. Cllrs Forde and Wilkins volunteered to be members and the Town Clerk will advise all other members of the group and organise a first meeting.

82. COVID 19 MEMORIAL – Agenda Item 13

Council **RESOLVED** to put representatives forward for the Committee. Cllrs Forde and Mills were the agreed representatives.

Council discussed funding assistance and established that a level of accountability would be required from the committee to the project and committee representatives should report back to Council regarding this. Council **RESOLVED** to offer a donation in due course once it has been

established what the cost of the project would be for each aspect i.e. the COVID memorial and the War memorial as separate items. Potentially the COVID recovery fund could be used.

83. OLD MESS ROOM – LIBRARY GARDENS BUILDING – **Agenda item 14**

Cllr Wilkins requested a recorded vote.

The voting for the recommendation that subject to a satisfactory survey the Council agree that a 5-year lease is acceptable was as follows:

Cllr Smith	FOR
Cllr Mills	FOR
Cllr Forde	FOR
Cllr Wilkins	AGAINST
Cllr Healey	FOR
Cllr Bowry	FOR
Cllr Cracknell	ABSTAIN

Cllr Mulroney did not take part in this item

The recommendation was **RESOLVED**

84. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE – **Agenda item 15**

Council **RESOLVED** the expenditure

FOR NOTING/CONSIDERATION

85. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Council **NOTED** the report

86. SOUTHEND AIRPORT – BREACHES OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

Council **NOTED** the report and the fact that recently air traffic movement had reduced drastically.

87. STRATEGIC PLAN – ACTION PLAN

Council **NOTED** the report and pleased that much of the action plan has been achieved.

88. COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

Cllr Evans joined the meeting

Council discussed the agenda item and ideas were put forward to engage further. It was felt that those that do not engage miss out on the councillor experience.

89. COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET UPDATE

Councillors **NOTED** the report.

90. COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

Council **NOTED** the balances.

91. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The reports were **NOTED**.

A request was made to hold the litter picks on alternate Saturday and Sundays and also during the week too to ensure all Councillors have the opportunity to engage. The Town Clerk will follow this up with the Marketing and Profile Officer who provides the administration on this project.

Cllr Wilkins asked about the photographs from the Good for Leigh Awards and the Town Clerk will follow this up and report back to him directly.

CONSULTATIONS

92. CONSULTATION – SOUTHEND BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Council discussed the consultation. Comments were as follows:

The number 21 bus needs to run more frequently to Leigh Station. There needs to be a frequent bus service that runs between stations particularly Leigh and Chalkwell Stations. Consideration should be given for half fares for certain sectors of the community e.g. over 60's. There should be a north to south route between Leigh and Eastwood as this would alleviate parking, link the town as a whole and bring more footfall in to the popular Leigh shopping districts.

The Town Clerk will convey this response.

93. CONSULTATION – PARKING STRATEGY SURVEY

The Council answered the survey questions which the Town Clerk will convey. Council felt that they should be a Citizen's Charter for positive parking and consideration given to a low rise multi storey car park in the Leigh area.

94. CONSULTATION – SOUTHEND NEW LOCAL PLAN STAGE 2 REFINING THE PLAN

Council **NOTED** the report. Cllr Forde advised that officers from the Borough Council had attended the Youth Forum and received good feedback from the children attending.

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm