



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

Town Clerk: Helen Symmons PSLCC



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
TUESDAY 24th January 2023

Present: Cllrs: Bernard Arscott, David Bowry (Vice Chairman), Vinice Cowell, Doug Cracknell, Keith Evans (Chairman), Anita Forde, Paul Gilson, Alan Hart, Emma Mills, Carole Mulroney, Leslie Parris, Craig Watt, Andrew Wilkins and Rory Windass

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk) and Ingmar Lindberg-Jones (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Cllrs: Jill Healey and James Preston

MINUTES

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

89. CHAIRMAN AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and undertook the appropriate housekeeping announcements and updates. A minute's silence was held in recognition of the forthcoming Holocaust Memorial Day. The Chairman advised members of events he had attended including the Listening Room as well as the Over 60's Social Club which himself and Cllr Cracknell volunteer their time to help at along with several other volunteers. Thanks, were formally minuted at the request of Cllr Cracknell for those volunteers. Finally, the Chairman informed the meeting that he has organised a German Band Oompah Night to raise funds for his Chairman's Charity – Gold Geese.

90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Healey and Preston

91. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

Cllr Wilkins declared a non-pecuniary interest at agenda item 17 as there was discussion surrounding Leigh Lights and a family member organises St Clements Church Christmas fayre.

92. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 29th NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting 29th November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

93. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

The Town Clerk read a letter from the Town Clock Bell appeal group thanking the Council for their donation towards the refurbishment of the bell.

94. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none

95. SOUTHEND CITY COUNCIL

Cllr Mulroney in her capacity as a city councillor confirmed that the City Council is in the process of annual budgeting and that the development of Leigh Port will be happening soon. She also advised that playground works in Library Gardens and works to windows and doors at Leigh Library had been granted. There was to be a tree planting and service this coming weekend for the Holocaust Memorial Day to which all Councillors could attend.

96. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Council **NOTED** the report.

COMMITTEES / PDGS AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

97. COMMITTEES

The minutes of the Planning, Licensing and Highways Committee were presented by Cllrs Cowell, Gilson and Cracknell having chaired the meetings. The minutes were **NOTED** by Council.

98. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Cllr Evans and Gilson updated Council on the police meeting at St Andrews Church. It was recognised that Southend Police have to prioritise issues which can prove frustrating to others, but understandable. Concerns seem to be the same city wide. Speeding in Leigh Broadway was brought to their attention through reporting. This had been a surprise but endorsed the importance of reporting matters. The meeting was well attended and councillors were reminded that anyone can attend. The next meeting is Monday 13th March, 7pm at Leigh Community Centre.

99. COMMITTEE VACANCIES – **Agenda item 11**

Cllr Watt nominated himself for Planning and Licensing Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Gilson.

Cllr Windass nominated himself for Planning and Licensing Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Forde.

Voting resulted in a tied vote, with the Chairman using his casting vote. Cllr Windass was appointed to the Planning and Licensing Committee.

OTHER DECISION ITEMS

100. COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023/24 – **Agenda item 12**

Questions were raised by Councillors and answered by the Town Clerk. Following discussion, Council **RESOLVED** the budget and precept of £462,056 which would mean a reduction in the precept for a Band D property by 36p (-0.71%) to £50.58

101. TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE – **Agenda item 13**

Questions were raised by Councillors and answered by the Town Clerk. Council **RESOLVED** the expenditure.

102. STRATEGIC PLAN – **Agenda item 14**

Council **RESOLVED** the strategic objectives and accompanying actions. The Town Clerk will present the final plan to Council in March for adoption.

FOR NOTING/CONSIDERATION

103. COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET UPDATE AS 10TH JANUARY 2023

Council **NOTED** the report.

104. COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 16TH JANUARY 2023

Council **NOTED** the account balances

105. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Council **NOTED** the report.

106. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - **Agenda item 18**

Council **NOTED** the report on litter picking and decided the Town Clerk will send out two dates by email for Councillors to decide when to do the Spring litter pick.

Council **RESOLVED** the installation of a public defibrillator at the entrance to Manchester Drive allotment site and thanked Leigh Lions for their generous support.

CONFIDENTIAL DECISION ITEM

107. 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.

108. GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARD NOMINATIONS – **Agenda item 20**

Council **RESOLVED** all the nominations

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm