



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Richard Herbert
Vice Chairman: Cllr Syrie Cox
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson

Minutes of 19th Annual Town Electors Meeting – 20th March 2015, 7.30 pm at Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road

Present: Councillors: Richard Herbert (Chairman), Syrie Cox (Vice Chairman), Margaret Cotgrove, Donald Fraser, Pat Holden, Valerie Morgan, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker, Patsy Ryan, David Stanley and Jane Ward

Borough Councillors: Alan Crystall and Ron Woodley (Leader of SBC) – Father Clive St Clements Church, Southend Police Inspector Bill Potter, Leigh Police Sgt Stephen Parry – Press Paul Njinskyj (Echo) and Mark Insull (Leigh Times)

Plus 55 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the Annual Town Meeting. He then introduced all the Councillors present on the stage.

2. **Apologies**

Councillors: Geoff Crawford, Jerry Holden, Paul Lawrence and John Wren – Sir David Amess MP, Rob Tinlin (SBC Town Clerk),

3. **Minutes of the 18th Annual Town Meeting** were agreed and signed

4. **Annual Report of the Town Council**

The Chairman reported on the work of the Council over the past year. (Appendix 2 to the Agenda)

5. **Annual Reports from Committee Chairmen** (Appendix 3 to the Agenda)

Cllr Donald Fraser (Community Transport Sub-Committee)
Cllr Caroline Parker (Transport and Highways Committee)
Cllr Pat Holden (Allotments Committee)
Cllr Pat Holden (Planning Committee)
Cllr David Stanley (Leigh Community Centre Committee)
Cllr Carole Mulroney (Leisure, Foreshore and Environment Committee)

6. **Annual Accounts of the Council year ending March 2014**

The meeting noted the accounts. (Appendix 4 to the Agenda)

7. **Details of the balances and expenditure up to date year 2014/15**

The balances were noted and there were no questions. (Appendix 5 to the Agenda)

8. **Observations on the Town Council Budget 2015/16**

There were no observations. (Appendix 6 to the Agenda)

9. **Good for Leigh Awards** - Presentations were made to:

Body's Opticians (Not Present)

Leigh Lights is always a major event in Leigh. Year on year it attracts more and more people, families and visitors alike. It is a massive event to stage and Leigh Town Council is grateful for the help of local businesses. Body's Opticians has supported Leigh Lights event every year,

without fail. They are not a business which benefits from the influx of people but that hasn't mattered to them as they contribute regardless, showing a commitment to our community for which we are grateful.

Clive Shirett (Not present received by a colleague)

For several years now Clive has been an integral part of Leigh Town Council events. Every year he has made a large area of his car park in Leigh Road available to us to place our fairground attractions for the Night of the Lights and at other events he assists us with parking arrangements for participants and regularly advertises events for us. We are most grateful to Clive as he is always ready to help in any way he can.

Esoteric Buddhist Meditation Group

In 2014 the Leigh Buddhist Group led by Marc Allen & Jo Slater set up a collection point for the local food banks at the Community Centre. Each week food is left in a box at the Centre, collected and taken to one of the three food banks run and supported by local churches and the Trussell Trust in Southend and Leigh. Poverty is often hidden and these quiet acts of kindness facilitated by the Leigh Buddhists make a real difference to the wider Community.

Garry Lowen

At the Night of the Lights, the Yuletide Parade has been an integral part of this major event in Leigh and Garry has played a vital role in voluntarily acting as Parade Manager in recent years. This has become an increasingly challenging role as the parade size has grown in the last two years, with over 500 people taking part in 2014. Garry's involvement starts early in the year attending meetings and working closely with our Events Officer. Between them in 2014 they reversed the parade, which proved a resounding success but obviously involved more of Garry's time in event planning. With Garry being Chairman of Southend Council Association and running a successful hotel business his commitment to Leigh is truly remarkable.

Ian Johnson

Leadership tempered with caring are wonderful attributes and Ian Johnson has proved over many years' service in Leigh that he has both of these qualities in abundance. Ian is known to many generations of Leigh youngsters for all the wonderful work he has done, and continues to do with the 3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scouts in the Old Town. Always in charge and ensuring a positive and enriching experience for the troop. Ian is also a leadership figure in the St John Ambulance which assists Leigh Town Council at all its events – ready to assist and again leading and educating the young cadets. Ian is truly good for Leigh.

Majors John and Teresa Charmichael

This year we are losing two very dear friends who are taking a very well earned retirement after many years of service to the community of Leigh. We always expect the Salvation Army to be there when its needed and John and Teresa have never let Leigh down whatever the request, whatever the need, whether it's the band playing at events, or help for the elderly and young. John has acted as Chaplain for Leigh Town Council on many occasions and his wise words and guidance have been a help to successful Chairmen and Councillors. We wish them a long and happy retirement.

Norman Sutcliffe

Norman has had many roles, local doctor, comedian, poet, gardener and conservationist. Norman is a friend of Leigh Community Centre and in the work to keep the Centre open and inviting spends much time looking after the floral displays at the front of the building. For many years Norman has also looked after the conduit in the Old Town, preserved as part of our heritage. Norman recently won our 'Leigh and Me' competition with a poem about why he loves Leigh.

10. **Observations from Guests**

Cllr Alan Crystall (SBC) thanked the Town Council for all the work it undertook on behalf of the residents of Leigh.

Cllr Ron Woodley, Leader Southend Borough Council (SBC) thanked the Town Council for the work it undertakes on behalf of the residents of Leigh, and commented on the positive relationship the two authorities enjoyed.

11. **Resolutions of which written notice has been received**

There were none.

12. Questions and comments from residents and electors of Leigh-on-Sea

- 12.1 **Peter Monk**
Asked if it was possible to co-ordinate the colour of street furniture?
From **Cllr Richard Herbert**
There was a policy document regarding street furniture but it was unlikely that existing furniture will be replaced due to financial constraints.
- 12.2 **Mr Smart**
The hedge in Church Hill was still overgrown?
From **Cllr Carole Mulroney**
The hedge has been trimmed in places and undertook to take it up with SBC Officers.
- 12.3 **Sally Hayes**
Asked why the 2 hour parking limits had not been applied to London Road.
From **Cllr Richard Herbert**
The next Council administration could look at these issues and perhaps undertake a residents survey.
- 12.4 **Mike Dolby**
Thanked the Council for all the work it undertakes on behalf of residents.
From **Cllr Richard Herbert**
Thanked former Councillor Mike Dolby for his comments.
- 12.5 **Jon Mullett**
Raised a concern about protecting architectural features.
From **Cllr Carole Mulroney**
Undertook to investigate if they could be listed as Community Assets or afforded some protection.
- 12.6 **Inspector Bill Potter**
Gave a resume of policing activity in the Town.
13. **Conclusion**
The Chairman thanked those attending and ***closed the meeting at 8.51pm***