



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 Richard Herbert
Vice Chairman: Cllr Carole Mulrone
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson

Minutes of 20th Annual Town Electors Meeting 29th April 2016, 7.30 pm at Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road

Present: Councillors: Richard Herbert (Chairman), Carole Mulrone (Vice Chairman), Mark Bromfield, Patrick Fox, Donald Fraser, Fr. Clive Hillman, Valerie Morgan, Ron Owen, Caroline Parker, Helen Robertson, Vivien Rosier and Jane Ward.

Sir David Amess MP, Ron Woodley, Leader of Southend Borough Council and Borough Councillor Bernard Arscott. Press - Mark Insull (Leigh Times)

Plus 35 members of the public

The meeting opened at 7.32pm

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked the attending Borough Councillors and MP. Thanks were expressed to fellow Councillors, Chairmen of Committees, staff, the community and press for all the support over the year. The Chairman reiterated that the Town Council is non-political and looking forward to the year ahead.

2. Apologies

Councillors: Jill Adair, Declan Mulrone, Rob Tinlin (SBC Town Clerk), Southend Police Inspector Bill Potter, Past Councillors: Terry Birdseye, Syrie Cox, Peter Dolby, Ashley Hitchcock (Chairman MDAS) and Simone Giles (Scott and Stapleton)

3. Minutes of the 19th Annual Town Meeting were agreed with an amendment 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), passing a letter to Sir David Amess regarding the Neighbourhood appeal debate.

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

Cllr Richard Herbert (Community Facilities)

Cllr Carole Mulrone (Environment & Leisure)

Cllr Mulrone added that Leigh Lights remain in its current format for this year and thanked the people of Leigh for their support.

Donald Fraser (Community Transport)

Cllr Caroline Parker (Planning, Highways & Licensing)

Cllr Jane Ward (Policy & Resources)

Cllr Ward extended thanks to staff member Vivien Choppin and fellow Cllr Rosier for their assistance with the LTC magazine and to the volunteers.

6. Annual Accounts of the Council year ending March 2015

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

7. Details of the balances and expenditure up to date year 2015/16

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

8. Observations on the Town Council Budget 2016/17

The figures were noted (Appendix 6 to the Agenda).

Following the observation made by a member of public that the precept has increased again, the Chairman responded by highlighting the financial observations made in Appendix 6. Cllr Mulroney also clarified that changes made to Town Council events are generally in response to residents' and traders' views and that these events bring people together and enhance the Town.

A further observation was made by another member of the public that although the Community Centre is a big achievement, it is costing a lot and queried where the money was coming from for any proposed refurbishment. The Chairman responded that the net cost of the centre is reducing year on year and any refurbishment costs would be financed by a loan repaid from the Community Centre revenue and grant funding.

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

Leigh Library Volunteers

We all know how precious our library is to the town – we all fought it. The Library Volunteers go 'quietly' about their business but play an important role in our community for young and old alike – they support our librarians and the community and are a credit to the volunteering system.

David Elcock

It is difficult to quantify all the tremendous support to various organisations the Town Council received from David. He helps with our events and activities, Leigh Art Trail and Leigh Folk Festival, as well as being a youth leader at Leigh Road Baptist Church and co-ordinating the Love Leigh Road Traders' Association. True community spirit.
(even though he didn't dress up as super hero!!!!)

Amy Noakes

These are difficult times for many people and communities. Individuals who go the extra mile to help those who need it should be appreciated by us all. Amy has pioneered the local food bank and we commend the great work she has done.

Jennifer Simpson (not present)

Many people will know Jennifer through her work in the local U3A and her presence in the Community Centre in organising the Cards for Good Causes at Christmas. Jennifer has a busy time of it and with her husband Ed, organises the archives for the Leigh Society and many other heritage projects, and helps steward the Heritage Centre. We all care about Leigh's heritage and Jennifer is at the forefront.

Ondie & Miranda of Beat it

Breast Cancer rehabilitation classes are held regularly at the Community Centre and provide essential support for those affected by this terrible disease. Ondie and Miranda work tirelessly to help those who are going through one of the most traumatic experiences of their lives and we recognise, with gratitude, their work.

Scott & Stapleton (not present)

Scott and Stapleton have been a great support to the Town Council in recent years in helping to promote our Leigh Maritime Festival and Leigh Lights. Their enthusiasm and willingness to assist are greatly appreciated.

Leigh Folk Festival

This annual extravaganza goes from strength to strength, has clearly put Leigh on the folk map of the UK and provides a wonderful event year on year for local people and visitors alike. We congratulate them for their enterprise and dedication which enhances the reputation of Leigh.

10. **Observations from Guests**

Sir David Amess MP apologised for not being able to attend last year's meeting. He was delighted to see many new faces and paid tribute to all the Councillors that retired from office last May. The services of the volunteers was recognised and tribute was paid to Cllr Fraser in his 90th year. Sir David supports LTC completely and enjoys all our events. He reminded the meeting that Southend is the alternative City of Culture for 2017 and monthly events are planned which will be announced soon. Paul Beckerson, Town Clerk was wished a return to good health and was congratulated on

his recent marriage. Finally, Cllr Herbert was thanked for his Chairmanship over the past 2 years and good wishes passed to the Vice Chairman and Councillors for the coming year.

Cllr Ron Woodley, Leader Southend Borough Council (SBC) thanked the Town Council for their invitation to the meeting for the past 3 years. He stated his pleasure working with the Town Council and referred to the Borough funding for the Belton steps project. There is a good dialogue and communication between Leigh Town Council and the Borough and he thanked the Chairman and Councillors for the work they do.

Cllr Bernard Arscott (SBC) passed on apologies from Cllr John Lamb and thanked Leigh Town Council for their hard work and assistance in helping the Borough make decisions.

11. Resolutions of which written notice has been received

There were none.

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

Prior to receiving questions and comments, the Chairman paid tribute to Paul Beckerson, Town Clerk.

12.1 Member of the Electorate

Raised that the 2 hour parking had still not been extended to other areas and asked whether it had been considered.

From **Cllr Ron Woodley**

A member request (i.e. a Borough Councillor) can be made to Traffic & Parking at SBC whereupon it would be considered.

12.2 Member of the Electorate

Asked when the new lighting is to be switched on and reported a leaning lamp post outside the Broadway pub.

From **Cllr Carole Mulroney**

The leaning lamp post will be reported to SBC.

From **Cllr Ron Woodley**

Under the new system the new lighting can be adjusted. Exact times are unknown but enquiries will be made of the officer at SBC. Cllr Jane Ward reported that her road now has the new lighting.

12.3 Member of the Electorate

Was proud of the Council this year as it had done 'quite' well' although the new double yellow lines outside his home had become an issue as they were being ignored causing obstruction issues.

From **Cllr Ron Woodley**

Will take the matter on board and raise with the Civil Enforcement Officers.

12.4 Non-member of the Electorate

Expressed concern about the traffic on Two Tree Island especially on Sundays and the safety issues this causes..

From **Cllr Richard Herbert**

The Council are very aware of this problem and are hoping that the new design by Veolia at the refuse tip will improve the situation. It is a matter for serious consideration in connection with any project for the skate park area. Any matters in relation to the traffic do have to be referred to the police and Southend Borough Council and Cllr Ron Woodley stated he would ask Civil Enforcement to visit more regularly.

12.5 Member of the Electorate

Reported the dog mess poster has worked outside his property and thanked Leigh Town Council for the initiative.

Had an issue with the Council's transparency as he is unable to attend Allotment PDG meetings

From **Cllr Richard Herbert**

All decisions made by the Council happen at public meetings which the public and press may attend. PDG meetings are discussion groups for Councillors and co-opted members where no decisions are made. Cllr Carole Mulroney added that she had spoken with the elector on a few occasions regarding the Allotment PDG and if he wished to be co-opted then he needed to be appointed through an allotment society

Asked in relation to Strand Wharf whether the incorrect placement of a pillar and the change of wood for the benching were errors made by the Council

From **Cllr Richard Herbert**

Reported that it was frustrating that the delay in the delivery of the paving was holding up the project. The pillar in question was being re-sited and an alternative wood had been supplied as the Council were not happy with what had been supplied. As with any project, a contingency sum was available within the budget.

12.6 **Member of the Electorate**

Asked that the Folk Festival be kept informed regarding Strand Wharf.

From **Cllr Richard Herbert**

Confirmed the contractors undertaking the work had been advised of the planned event at the end of June.

Asked whether anything was known regarding the work at the Grand Hotel.

From **Cllr Bernard Arcsott**

Some work has started but he believes a new planning application might be forthcoming.

12.7 **Member of the Electorate**

Wished it known that Leigh Town Council do a wonderful job.

From **Cllr Richard Herbert**

The Elector was thanked for her kind words.

12.8 **Member of the Electorate**

Highlighted the speed of some of the cars in the area, especially in Hadleigh Road

From **Cllr Carole Mulroney**

Cllr Mulroney speaking as a Borough Councillor advised that a 20mph scheme on residential roads was being looked into and speed assessments were to be undertaken on Leigh Hill.

13. **Conclusion**

The Chairman thanked those attending advised the café would remain open where discussions could continue and ***closed the meeting at 9.00pm***