



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 24th Annual Town Electors Meeting Friday 8th April 2022, 7.00 pm at Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Keith Evans (Vice Chairman of Leigh Town Council)

Other Town Cllrs: David Bowry, Paul Gilson, Jill Healey, Carole Mulroney and Andy Wilkins

Guests: Southend West MP Anna Firth, three officers of Southend Police

Leigh Town Council Officers: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk), Ingmar Lindberg-Jones (Admin Assistant) and Francesca Watkins (Marketing and Profile Officer)

53 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.04pm

Cllr Cracknell, the Leigh Town Council Chairman was not able to attend the meeting therefore Cllr Evans as Vice Chairman of Leigh Town Council undertook the role of Chairman for the meeting

1. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. Leigh Town Council members were asked to stand and introduce themselves from within the audience. A minute Silence was taken in remembrance of past Cllrs and Chairmen of Leigh Town Council Caroline Parker, Mike Dolby and Mike King, also for Michael Guy (Leigh Times) and Sir David Amess.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Katie Cohen, Vinice Cowell, Doug Cracknell, Emma Smith and Southend City Councillor Beth Hooper.

3. **MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** were signed by the Chairman.

4. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

Unfortunately, a long-standing family wedding means I cannot attend this evening's Annual Community Meeting, the first since 2019. I know, however, that my absence won't affect the celebration of all that is good about our town.

As a community we have struggled through the difficulties that Covid19 brought upon us; we were rocked by the senseless killing of our much loved and respected MP, Sir David Amess; and we are now witnessing the devastating effects of the invasion of Ukraine. The resilience and compassion shown by so many in our community as they have pulled together and supported one another has been uplifting to see. We should all be proud to be part of such a warm and caring community – I know I am, and I am proud to have served as Chairman of Leigh Town Council for the past year.

This evening is all about you – the residents of our community – thank you for coming and thank you for all you do to make Leigh-on-Sea the town we are proud and happy to live in.

And finally.... thank you to Councillor Keith Evans, who has been an excellent support as Vice Chairman of Leigh Town Council for the past year.

Signed/Initialled

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Cllr Evans added his thanks on behalf of Council to the staff.

5. **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AND GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARDS** - Presentations were made to:

Donald Fraser Volunteer of the Year Award

This year's award was presented by Donald Fraser Jr who spoke on behalf of his late father:

Bob and Jill O'Leary

Bob and Jill O'Leary are both invaluable members of our local Royal British Legion taking on all the administrative duties voluntarily, raising thousands over the years for the Poppy Appeal. They support local veterans and have held some amazing events for the Royal British Legion Centenary in 2021, including the Leigh Poppy trail. They have been very active in supporting the Town Council at our events in Leigh.

Good for Leigh Awards

James Paul

Was unfortunately unable to attend and will collect his award at the Annual Council Meeting. James, an excellent student from Belfairs who was nominated for the Citizenship Award, is dedicated to making a difference to climate change and plays a huge part in the school's eco warrior club. He inspires his peers and leads by example

Jack and Theo Chapman

Jack and Theo sent round notes to all their neighbours during lockdown offering their help to collect shopping, walk dogs and to provide family calls. This launched a messaging group for their street and they will keep in touch with their neighbours regularly. Jack was the recipient of our Belfairs Citizenship Award in 2021.

Debbie Fox

Debbie can often be seen litter picking throughout Leigh and we want to recognise her for her efforts to make Leigh a cleaner and tidier place.

Friends of Love Leigh Cliffs

Since the FOLLCC group was established, there have been many hundreds of man hours put into rejuvenating the area, and we wish to recognise the members for their hard work.

Rose Johnson

Rose was a nominee for our Citizenship Award that we run through Belfairs Academy. She is a fully committed art student, who has raised money for art enrichment projects and has volunteered for two years at create 98 to help teach younger children to draw.

Carolyn Sherwin

Carolyn was the founding member of the friends of Love Leigh cliffs group and has worked hard to build the group membership up, making a real difference to the cliffs area.

6. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The meeting received the report. No questions were raised.

7. OBSERVATIONS

SGT Dan Hirsch introduced himself and his team and answered questions from members of the audience and advised that for any non-emergency matter the Southend Community Policing Team could be emailed on southendcommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk

Anna Firth introduced herself to those present, clarified that she now has a full team in Parliament and is there to help.

8. RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAD BEEN RECEIVED

There were none

9. OPEN FORUM

Member of the Electorate

Raised a concern about the lights that run across the bridge not working.

From **Cllr Keith Evans and City Cllr Mulroney**

It was clarified that the bridge belongs to Network Rail and the lights, Southend City Council. Southend are trying to negotiate with Network Rail to move the lights and currently chasing monthly. Leigh-On-Sea Town Council will continue to monitor the matter.

Various Members of the Electorate

Concerns were raised regards to speeding vehicles on New Road and in the area of Leigh On-Sea

From **City Cllr Carole Mulroney, Sgt Dan Hirsch and Anna Firth MP**

The issue is very much on Southend City's current administration's radar. A review is being undertaken of seafront roads. Police will try and get PCSOs in the area with cameras. A community speedwatch team is available to join – email community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

Trial of 20 mph will be happening in some areas of Leigh. Anna Firth informed the meeting that she has received many letters regarding this issue and had a meeting with the CEO of SCC recently requesting action.

Member of the Electorate

Raised a concern about the dip in the road at the St Clements Arcade.

From **City Cllr Carole Mulroney**

Has been reported to Southend City Council Highway Maintenance. It relates to the camber of the road

Member of the Electorate

Charging points in Leigh-On-Sea for electric cars are insufficient as petrol and diesel cars will stop being sold from 2030, is there any ambition to bring charging points to Leigh-On-Sea?

From **City Cllr Carole Mulroney**

Cllr Mulroney gave information about what is being asked and the problems surrounding it: a high percentage of houses in Leigh with no off-street parking; capacity of the grid; technology changing rapidly and the desire for rapid chargers. She advised that the City administration are looking at Gridserve in Braintree as an example of what can be done. It is a high priority of SCC.

Member of the Public

Thanked the current Councillors on their work and the events that Leigh-On-Sea Town Council have put on for the older people of Leigh-On-Sea that have been stuck in lockdown.

From Cllr Keith Evans

Thanked the member of the public for their kind words.

Member from the Leigh Tin Teams

Thanked Leigh-On-Sea Town Council for hosting the community fridge and encouraged other members of public to use it and gave an outline of how it works

From Cllr Keith Evans

Thanked the member of the public for their kind words.

Cllr Evans also highlighted the collaborative working that goes on in Leigh with the Council and other community groups and thanked them.

Member of the Electorate

West Leigh Ward will fall under Essex County council. How will this effect in terms of its relation to Southend city Council?

From MP Anna Firth

The boundary will only change for parliamentary voting, this means that West Leigh Ward would fall under Castle Point Borough council when voting for an MP. Southend Conservative Group and the Liberal Democrats have put forward alternative plans which both strive to keep West Leigh Ward in the Southend West parliamentary boundary. It is hoped that one of the suggestions will be accepted.

Friends of Love Leigh Cliffs

Want to keep the garden green and have less anti-social behaviour. Would like to change the garden status to a park, to get more funding.

Cllr Keith Evans

Advised this is a Southend City matter and only they can make the decision on park status for an area.

10. CONCLUSION

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm