



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

**Town Clerk:** Helen Symmons PSLCC



MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE  
TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

Present: Cllrs: David Bowry, Katie Cohen, Vinice Cowell, Doug Cracknell, Keith Evans, Anita Forde, Paul Gilson, Jill Healey, Emma Mills, Carole Mulrone and Andy Wilkins

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk) and Sam Batstone (until minute 100)

Absent: Cllrs: Alan Hart, Damian O'Boyle, James Preston, Emma Smith and Mike Wells

MINUTES

***The meeting opened at 7.30 pm***

95. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND HOUSEKEEPING

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Hart, Smith and Wells

97. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mulrone declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13 as a Southend Borough Councillor and Portfolio holder for parks and in any agenda items where the Borough were mentioned and the pilot traffic calming scheme (living in one of the roads).

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

Cllr Gilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 21 when the nominations were made knowing one of the nominees.

98. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed.

Under Standing Order 11 the order of business on the agenda was changed.

99. SAFE SUN PROJECT IDEA **Agenda item 12**

Sam Batstone presented his idea to Council. There followed questions, comments and suggestions which will be considered.

Following a proposal (Cllr Mulrone, seconded Cllr Cowell) Council **RESOLVED** to trial the free sun cream dispenser for a year subject to approval from the Borough Council to have it mounted on the toilet block at Bell Wharf Beach.

***Sam Batstone left the meeting***

100. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

There were none.

101. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

102. SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr Mulrone in her capacity as a Borough Councillor gave Council an update on various Borough Council work as did Cllr Evans.

103. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The report was **NOTED** and a councillor expressed an interest in the tickets for the Southend Gang Show.

<b>COMMITTEES / PDGS AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS</b>
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104. 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**

105. REPORT FROM PDG 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

The report was **NOTED**.

106. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

No reports were made, although Cllr Forde advised Council of the complaint she had made to Veolia.

<b>OTHER DECISION ITEMS</b>
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107. OLD MESS ROOM – **Agenda item 13**

Cllr Mulrone advised that Officers at the Borough had looked at the building that day and a report will be made to the Town Clerk. Council **NOTED** the agenda report.

108. COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/23 – **Agenda Item 14**

It was clarified that the rise in precept did not relate to the increase in staffing costs, the agenda item being mis-worded. Much discussion took place with general agreement that a small increase will help the Council continue to help the community. The Council would put in place signposting to get help for anyone in financial difficulties from Council tax or energy bills.

Cllr Wilkins requested a recorded vote which took place as follows:

To **RESOLVE** a Council precept for 2022/23 of £452,880 being £50.94 for a Band D equivalent property (a rise of 36p/0.71%)

For the proposal – Cllrs Bowry, Cohen, Cowell, Cracknell, Evans, Forde, Healey, Mills, Mulroney

Against the proposal – Cllrs Gilson and Wilkins

Council **RESOLVED** the precept as stated.

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

Council **RESOLVED** the expenditure

FOR NOTING/CONSIDERATION
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110. COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET UPDATE

Councillors **NOTED** the report.

111. COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES

Council **NOTED** the balances.

112. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The reports were **NOTED**.

It was agreed that any litter pick area suggestions should go direct to the Officer co-ordinating with Make Southend Sparkle and suggestions asked for in the next edition of the magazine.

113. COMPLAINT RECEIVED

Council **NOTED** the report. All Council decisions are democratic and the integrity of Council is paramount.

CONFIDENTIAL
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114. 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)

115. GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARDS

Council **RESOLVED** the nominations

***End of confidential business***

***The meeting closed at 8.59 pm***