



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

67 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP - Tel: 01702 716288  
council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Chairman: Cllr Pat Holden  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Carole Mulroney  
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Pat Holden (Chairman), Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Mike Dolby, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, Cliff Passmore, Caroline Parker (until Min 66), and David Stanley

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk), Major John Carmichael (Salvation Army), Judith Canham

### ***The meeting opened at 7.32pm***

Major John Carmichael led prayers.

#### 57. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. The Chairman had attended a film showing of the making of 'Beowulf' for which Cllr David Stanley had written an original score. Dean Hermitage (Senior Planning Officer, SBC) had attended a Planning Committee meeting to give an overview of material considerations. Councillors had attended presentations given by Anglia Ruskin University students on a brief involving the Elm Road Civic Site, there were ten groups of six.

The Planning Committee had considered the Havens application and she thanked Cllrs Richard Herbert and Carole Mulroney for the preliminary research work on the detail of the application. On Saturday the 'Leigh-in-Front' awards took place in Leigh Road Baptist Church, Hilary Davison was thanked for producing the carved wood trophy. Members were reminded that there were Remembrance Day Services at 2pm at Eastwood Memorial Hall and 3pm in St Clement's Church.

#### 58. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Mike Dolby ***declared a personal interest in respect of the Police Station*** due to his former membership of the Police Authority.

#### 59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Mark Bromfield, Alex Coulson, Patsy Ryan and John Wren

#### 60. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Was the statement in the press about St Clement's Hall site and the application to waive part of the section 106 agreement correct? The Chairman had no knowledge and the Council had not received any information to date.

#### 61. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Donald Fraser – Whenever an application for a grant or a donation is made to the Council, can we insist that no such application be considered unless a copy of the latest relative set of accounts is produced?

This would be referred to F&GPC as part of a discussion on the new process for grant aid applications.

62. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

63. COMMITTEES

- a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were **noted**.
- b) Transport & Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were **noted**. Attention was drawn to the fact that the police were issued with guidance on dealing with cycling on footpaths.
- c) Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were **noted**.
- d) Allotments Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were **noted**.
- e) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 were presented by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Alex Coulson and Donald Fraser for undertaking the cash and bank audit check. Members were also taken through minute 91 Office Rent Review and the differences between SBC and the independent advisor; this would be taken back to the next F&GPC for decision. The budget discussions were explained for those members who did not attend and as there was some doubt over the exact cost of the elections the Town Clerk was asked to request the invoice from SBC.

The minutes were **noted**.

64. MOTION TO RESOLVE THAT LEIGH-ON-SEA IS AN ELIGIBLE COUNCIL (POWER OF WELL BEING) under Section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000

The motion was **RESOLVED**.

65. ALTERATION TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Council **agreed** to take item 11 (Boundary Review) of the agenda next to allow Judith Canham to address the Council.

66. CONSIDERATION OF BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR SOUTHEND WEST CONSTITUENCY

***The meeting was adjourned to allow the representative of David Amess MP to address the council.***

The case for retaining West Leigh and Leigh Wards within Southend West was outlined. (Attached as Appendix 1)

***The meeting reconvened***

After some discussion the Council **RESOLVED** to write to the Boundary Commission in support of retaining the two wards within Southend West Constituency.

67. UPDATE ON LEIGH POLICE STATION

The Council were asked to endorse the letter sent from F&GPC about the possible closure of Leigh Police Station.

The Council **RESOLVED** to send a letter of endorsement.

68. AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AT LEIGH LIBRARY

Simon May (SBC Head of Libraries) had been contacted on the new arrangements for the display of notices at libraries. The policy would allow advertising of Borough and Town Council events only and all other on going information on meetings, clubs and societies would be contained within a file.

The Council **RESOLVED** to object to this arrangement. Cllr Carole Mulroney would draft a letter to send to the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Libraries suggesting that the general information on clubs etc. be kept in a file but that events continued to be displayed on the notice boards for local organisations.

69. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Income & Expenditure Report 1957/I&E was **noted**, (Appendix 1 to the Agenda).

***The meeting closed at 9.10pm***

JUDITH CANHAM.



Notes from the Boundary Commission Hearing 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011

The Boundary Commission's proposals would involve separating the wards of Leigh and West Leigh from the constituency of Southend West. A counter-proposal forwarded by David Amess MP, John Lamb and Central Office is to keep Leigh and West Leigh within the constituency and to keep the ward of Victoria in the Southend East and Rochford constituency.

The Labour Party and the Liberal Democrat Party have both come out in favour of the proposals, supporting the Boundary Commission's reasons for the changes.

Some reasons suggested by David Amess for why Leigh and West Leigh should remain within the constituency of Southend West:

- The two reasons suggested by the Boundary Commission for joining the wards of Leigh and West Leigh with Castle Point are:
  - The continuous development between the two areas – There is no current development between the two areas though
  - The close transport links between Leigh and Castle Point – Transport links are stronger with Southend than Castle Point
- Southend West is an extremely historic constituency which has been in existence for over 100 years. If the initial proposals are successful it would be silly to call the constituency Southend West as it would cease to be the original constituency and the same community.
- Leigh has a strong fishing heritage which links in closely with Southend and the surrounding areas. It boasts a thriving fishing business and has been home to some fishing families, such as Osborne Bros, for over 100 years.
- Leigh-on-sea is a much wider community than the two wards. Many other wards in the constituency benefit from and enjoy the delights of Leigh, attending events such as the Regatta in Old Leigh, the Christmas Lights ceremony in The Broadway, etc.
- To highlight how drastic the changes would be, Chalkwell would move from the end of the constituency to the beginning.
- Leigh Town Council is responsible for a wider area than just Leigh and West Leigh. It also captures ~~Blanchard~~ <sup>SELFORDS</sup> and Chalkwell. Therefore the Council would be split if Leigh and West Leigh were to be moved constituencies.
- The Salvation Army lands are a natural boundary between the existing constituencies of Castle Point and Southend West. It makes sense to draw the lines there.
- Leigh is a very close knit community. If Leigh were moved to Castle Point the residents of Leigh-on-Sea would still regard themselves as living in Southend.
- The only police station for the area is in Southend West. Whose jurisdiction would this police station fall under? If it were transferred to Castle Point what would happen to the new 'Southend West'?





- How would the Boundary Changes affect the catchment areas for local schools, such as West Leigh Primary School and the Westcliff High Schools?

Some reasons suggested by John Lamb for why Leigh and West Leigh should remain within the constituency of Southend West:

- Southend has an ageing population who would be confused by the change in the boundaries. The electorate in Leigh and West Leigh are not aware of any of the candidates in Castle Point. Furthermore, Castle Point has never been involved in Leigh issues.
- Leigh Town Council is only a small unitary authority and it would be extremely confusing and bizarre for the Council to have to deal with three separate MPs for the area. Furthermore the Council, which currently deals with a wider area than just Leigh and West Leigh, would be split.

**Leigh is a fishing village not only famous for its cockles but also for round fish, flat fish and other species.**

**John Lamb is Vice President of the North Sea Commission and as such is the key representative of the fishermen of Leigh.**

**In direct contrast, Castle Point has no link with the Commission, no interest or knowledge of Leigh's Fishing industry and therefore unable to represent their interests or concerns.**

- Community is the most important aspect to remember when considering these proposals. Leigh and West Leigh form a very important part of the wider community in Southend which cannot be easily overlooked.