



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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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 14th DECEMBER 2011 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Pat Holden (Chairman), Alex Coulson, Margaret Cotgrove, Mike Dolby, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, Cliff Passmore, Caroline Parker (from Min 77a) and Patsy Ryan

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk), Major John Carmichael (Salvation Army) and 21 Members of the Public

The meeting opened at 7.34pm

Major John Carmichael led prayers.

70. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Several Councillors had attended the Remembrance Day services at Eastwood Memorial Hall and St Clement's Church and Leigh Town Council had laid wreaths at both. Councillors had been warmly welcomed at the newly built West Leigh Baptist Church and been shown around. Manchester Drive Allotment Society won first prize in Southend Borough Council's allotments competition and the Chairmen of the Council and the Allotments Committee attended the prize-giving at Porters. Several Councillors attended the Salvation Army Family Carol Service.

Cllr Carole Mulroney was thanked for organising our Christmas party and for doing the catering. It was a friendly and relaxed evening and included a quiz about Leigh.

Leigh Town Council put on a very successful Night of the Lights, benefitting from good weather and greater participation from the traders than previously. The Chairman expressed gratitude for the excellent help from the police with the planning and the actual event.

We also held Carols on Strand Wharf, the Chairman's favourite event. Once again we were blessed with good weather, important down by the sea, and a wonderful community atmosphere. Special thanks go to Cllrs Paul Lawrence and Jerry Holden who worked from 10am until almost 10pm on this event, and to Cllr Donald Fraser who held the fort in the Heritage Centre until the end, providing lighting to work by and hot drinks. The Chairman was very pleased to see so many members of the Council working hard together on both these events and feels that it is these occasions which help to bring us together as a team.

The Chairman reported that Andy Exley had resigned his position on the Council.

71. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Mark Bromfield, Geoff Crawford, David Stanley and John Wren

73. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Michael Heath (Artistic Director) involved in the Leigh Music Festival asked what the Town Council were doing to ensure the continued community use of the Leigh Centre and if needed volunteered his services to that end. Cllr Jerry Holden outlined what the Strategy and Town Plan Sub-Committee through F&GPC were recommending that evening to Council and that if this was agreed would be commencing discussions with SBC to secure the future community use of the Centre. He also commented that a Working Party has been set up to look into options available to the Council and that interested parties would be invited to participate. Two other members of the public spoke in support of the Leigh Centre and the Town Council's role in taking this forward.

Former Town Councillor Peter Dolby asked why the resolution of last year (unspent money from the Election Budget being transferred to the Strand Wharf Capital Reserve £13,000) had been changed without a special resolution. Cllr Jerry Holden responded that F&GPC had resolved that the money would be better utilised being transferred to Reserves to keep any precept increase to a minimum and that any shortfall for the Strand Wharf project could be acquired through external funding. The Town Clerk stated that a special resolution was only needed if the resolution was made less than six months ago.

74. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

75. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the 9th November 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

76. ALTERATION TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Council **agreed** to take item 7(e) of the agenda next as members of the public had an interest in F&GPC min 101(c).

77. COMMITTEES

- a) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2011 were presented by the Chairman.

The Chairman drew member's attention to min. 110 and 111, External and Internal Auditor's Reports and thanked the staff for achieving such good reports.

There were two recommendations in minute 101:

- b. DRAFT STRATEGY STATEMENT – Report 1966/RH
It was **RESOLVED** that the Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the F&GPC minutes is adopted by the Council.
- c. LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE
That Leigh Town Council express an interest and enter into negotiations with Southend BC to secure the continued community use of the building.

An amendment was proposed and seconded to change the word 'negotiations' to 'discussions'

There was a request for a named vote:

For the amendment: Cllrs Alex Coulson, Margaret Cotgrove, Mike Dolby, Donald Fraser, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney and Caroline Parker

Against the amendment: Cllrs Richard Herbert and Patsy Ryan

Abstentions: Cllr Cliff Passmore

It was **RESOLVED** That Leigh Town Council express an interest and enters into discussions with Southend BC to secure the continued community use of the building.

The minutes were **noted** with the exception of minute 114, Budget 2012/13

- d. Planning Committee – The minutes of the meetings held on 8th and 22nd November 2011 were **noted**.
- e. Transport & Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2011 were **noted**.
- f. Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2011 were **noted**.

78. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL BANK SIGNATORY

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Jerry Holden as a signatory.

79. APPOINTMENT OF EALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr John Wren be appointed.

80. BUSINESS & RATEPAYERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Members were asked to bring draft questions to the January meeting of F&GPC.

81. ROAD TRAFFIC ORDERS – Report 1985/TRO (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

There was no objection to the orders relating to the High Street and Belton Bridge. With the order relating to the Broadway it was felt that the hours of prohibition were not sufficient. It was **RESOLVED** to write to SBC requesting prohibition from 8.30am to 6.30pm.

82. CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS – Report 1984/TC (Appendix 2 to the agenda)

The office would be closed from Friday 23rd December 2011 to Monday 2nd January 2012.

83. DATE OF ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

It was agreed to hold the meeting on the 27th April 2012 subject to availability.

84. AMENDMENT TO CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2011/12

It was **RESOLVED** to change the frequency of Allotment Committee meetings to bi-monthly commencing January 2012.

85. BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2012/13 (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

Cllr Jerry Holden listed the additional provisions and changes to this year's budget. There were new budget heads for Elections, Premises maintenance, an extra £5000 for the Localism Act and additional consultations. Staff costs were now allocated across committee expenditure heads giving a more accurate cost of delivering services.

It was **RESOLVED** to set a precept of £205,990 and approve the Budget for the year 2012/13 as set out in the budget report.

86. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Income & Expenditure Report 1971/I&E was **noted**, (Appendix 4 to the Agenda).

The meeting closed at 8.55pm