



# 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 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Pat Holden (Chairman), Alex Coulson, Margaret Cotgrove, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker (until Min 110b) and Patsy Ryan

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk), Ryan McCarthy (Echo)

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

#### 104. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Major John Carmichael was on a well earned holiday and gave his apologies. Cllr Mike Dolby had resigned from the Council. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to him for his long service to the Council. The Leigh Community Centre was booked on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April so it was agreed to move the date for the Annual Town Meeting to Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

A Civic Carol Service had been organised by Councillor David Norman at Leigh Wesley Church which the Chairman had attended. The 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Salvation Army was celebrated at St Clement's with the combined Salvation Army Bands of Southend and Leigh followed by refreshments. A Mencap concert had been organised by Cllr David Stanley at Highlands Methodist Church. Two Community Transport trips had taken place with one to a pantomime.

The Town Council was receiving some surplus furniture from Southend BC and Councillors were asked for their assistance on Friday and Saturday.

#### 105. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none

#### 106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Cliff Passmore and John Wren

#### 107. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none

#### 108. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions were submitted by Cllr Richard Herbert.

##### STRAND WHARF

The refurbishment of Strand Wharf has been part of the Town Council's policy since its inception and is ratified in the Vision for Leigh which was produced in 2003 (See Policy M6 – return Strand Wharf to the benefit of the community) after consultation with the public.

1. What works are proposed to be carried out on the wharf?

It has always been proposed that the works to the Wharf would provide a level paved surface with seating, lighting, information etc and subsequently it was agreed that there should be a memorial to those fishermen lost at sea. The flag pole was passed to the Town Council by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chalkwell Sea Scouts some years ago. The fishing community would also be able to use the Wharf for activities such as net mending, which would be a welcome addition to the experience that visitors gain from a visit to Old Leigh.

A layout plan was approved some time ago and this is to be reviewed and finalised so that architectural standard drawings can be produced, but the main elements will not alter.

2. Is it intended to consult with all councillors and the public in drawing up plans for a refurbishment of the wharf?

Any revised plan will be considered initially by the Strand Wharf Working Party and through LFE will be placed before the Council before submission for approval by the Borough Council as landowners and the submission of a planning application. At the time of a planning application the public will have the opportunity to make their views known on the final proposals.

3. How much is it estimated that a refurbishment of the wharf will cost?

Public consultation took place on the Vision for Leigh in 2003 and in line with that decision the Council has, over intervening years, placed monies in an earmarked reserve for the project - this has always received the wholehearted support of changing councillors throughout the years.

It is not known exactly how much the refurbishment will cost and cannot be known until the final plan is costed.

4. How will the refurbishment be funded?

The earmarked reserve will go some way to cover the costs and it has always been intended that the remainder would be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board which is available to Council's at a very low fixed rate. This is normally how Council's fund such capital projects and it is paid back over a period of years. Any possible source of external funding would also be investigated.

5. What is the purpose of the refurbishment and what benefits will it bring?

The Old Town is a place of resort for local people; it is a major contributory factor in what attracts people to live in Leigh. It is a constant – shops may come and go, but the waterside and its attraction remains for everyone to enjoy. It is right that our residents and visitors should enjoy the Town's heritage and its wonderful setting.

The plan has always been to refurbish the Wharf to provide a central public space within the Old Town. The Old Town is the historic core of Leigh and attracts thousands of visitors each year, not just on festival days, so it is very important that facilities should be provided for both local people and visitors who help boost the economy and profile of the Town. Just as the Community Centre would provide a venue for indoor community activities, this would provide a wonderful waterside venue for outdoor activities, performances and celebrations, similar to a village square or green.

The Wharf is used on a number of occasions in the year for Town Council functions and major festivals. The only reason why this is not more used is because of the current physical state of the wharf and legal issues which arose between the Borough Council and an adjoining owner/lessee which had to be resolved. Had those issues not arisen, the lease would have been completed in 2005 and the Wharf would now be refurbished and in regular use by the residents of Leigh and visitors.

#### 109. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 110. COMMITTEES

- a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were **noted**
- b) Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were presented by the Chairman

Minute 49(a) A question was raised on the suitability of the sockets on the lampposts. The current sockets were weatherproof 13 amp sockets with standard plug tops. An IP socket would be preferable as these were less prone to disengagement, but replacement would incur extra expenditure.

Minute 49(b) The Chairman of the Committee agreed to hold a discussion about the Strand Wharf project at the next Committee meeting.

The minutes were **noted**.

- c) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 were presented by the Chairman.

Minute 127 Office Rent Review - **Recommendation** to accept the increases proposed by Southend BC

**RESOLVED**

The minutes were **noted**.

111. BUSINESS & RATEPAYERS CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Members agreed that the following questions should be put to the forum:

- 1 What are the Council's intentions in the short, medium and long term for the Leigh Community Centre, both building and site?
- 2 What action will the Council take in the coming year regarding the parking and traffic situation in Leigh Old Town in order to enhance the Old Town as an attractive place to visit, live and work in?
- 3 What plans does the Council have, including advance public consultation, on a review of the parking situation in the roads leading north from Glendale Gardens to London Road in the coming year?
- 4 Is the council prepared to review its policy on allowing run-ins to residential properties on streets suffering from parking stress?

112. AMENDMENT TO CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2011/12

It was **RESOLVED** to change the frequency of Transport and Highways meetings to bi-monthly commencing February 2012, and that the both Allotments and Transport and Highways meet on the third Wednesday of the month on alternate months, commencing with Transport and Highways in February.

113. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Income & Expenditure Report 1993/I&E was **noted**, (Appendix 1 to the Agenda).

***The meeting closed at 8.10pm***