

# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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



## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs Jerry Holden (Chairman), Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulrone and Patsy Ryan

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk)

### ***The meeting opened at 8.02pm***

#### 80. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

#### 81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Alex Coulson, Mike Dolby and Caroline Parker

#### 82. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None

#### 83. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record. As the Terms of Reference for the Town Plan and Strategy Sub-committee were not on this meeting's agenda it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should consider them at its first meeting and submit them as a recommendation to the next F&GPC.

### **GENERAL PURPOSES**

#### 84. EALC LARGER LOCAL COUNCIL'S FORUM – Report 1956/TC 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**. It was agreed that the issue of funding information is put on the Town Plan and Strategy Sub-Committee agenda.

#### 85. PRESENTATION WORKING PARTY – Report 1952/PWP 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Appendix 2 to the agenda)

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the report.

#### 86. SLCC NATIONAL CONFERENCE Wokefield Park, Reading – Report 1958/TC 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**.

87. COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

It was reported that some Councillors had been invited to attend a meeting with members of the 'St Clements Community Hall Trust'. It was made clear that they would be attending as individual Councillors on a fact finding mission and that their attendance would not prejudice any meetings with others with similar objectives.

The Chairman read out a letter he had prepared addressed to the Chief Constable of Essex Police about the impending review of the police presence in Leigh, the meeting gave approval that the letter be sent. (Appendix 1)

88. LIBRARY INFORMATION POINT

There seemed to be some doubt about the ability of member of the public to post notices on the community notice board. It was agreed to approach SBC to clarify the position.

89. GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGET – General Purposes Budget Report 1953/GP 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Appendix 4 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**.

## FINANCE

90. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were **none**.

91. OFFICE RENT REVIEW

The independent advice had been received; basically saying that they felt due to the economic climate no increase in rent was justified. This would be conveyed to SBC.

92. INTERNAL AUDIT CHECK – Verbal Report by Cllr Donald Fraser

An internal audit check was undertaken on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 by Cllrs Alex Coulson and Donald Fraser only one minor typographical error was found.

93. OFFICE AND COMMITTEE BUDGETS

- Office Budget Report 1954/FGP 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Appendix 5 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**.

- Committee Income and Expenditure Report 1955/FGP 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Appendix 6 to the agenda)

Members **noted** the report

94. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – Report 1957/I&E (Appendix 7 to the agenda)

The Committee **noted** the report.

95. BUDGET for 2012/13 (Appendix 8 to the agenda)

Members considered the draft budget and made the following amendments:

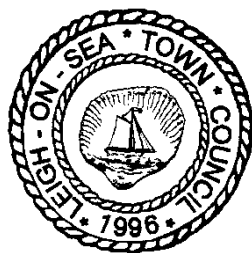
- Sheet 1 – Remove the Ear Marked Reserve Strand Wharf Capital £8,000  
Remove the Ear Marked Reserve GP Renewals Budget (Computers) £2,000  
Increase F&GP underspends from £13,000 to £17,200 – Community Affairs Budget £3,200 (GP Budget) and Insurances £1,000 (Office Budget)
- Sheet 6 - Reduce Communities Affairs budget from £3000 to £2000
- Sheet 8 - Allocate salaries across committee heads
- Sheet 3 - Refer back to T&H for reconsideration in regard to Highway Infrastructure
- Sheet 5 - Refer back to LFE for reconsideration with regards to the Leigh Lights expenditure

Revised Sheets 1 & 6 (Appendix 2)

96. BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES as at 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011

HSBC BMM A/c	£ 229,003.30
HSBC Current A/c	£ 32,712.38
HSBC Payroll A/c	£ 4,682.02
HSBC Imprest A/c	£ 530.90

***The meeting closed at 10.16pm***



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QUALITY  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

Chief Constable J. Barker-McCardle  
Essex Police  
PO Box 2  
Springfield  
CHELMSFORD  
Essex CM2 6DA

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011

Dear Chief Constable,

## **Leigh-on-Sea Police Station**

I have been asked by members of the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee to write to you to express our serious concerns about the future of the Leigh-on-Sea police station.

Having first heard that the front desk may be closing, we now understand that the police station itself is being considered for closure.

We believe that the presence of an operating police station in the centre of our town is essential for the well-being and security of our residents, particularly of our many elderly residents; many residents have approached their local councillors and come into our offices to express this view.

The station and the officers who man it have become an integral part of our community and a special relationship, mutually beneficial to all concerned, has been built up over the years. Local people are much more likely to raise issues with, and pass information to officers with whom they are familiar, especially if to do so does not also require a journey to the police station along Victoria Avenue in Southend.

Being based in the heart of our community, we are assured that the presence of our local station provides for both a prompt and effective response to incidents arising in our area. Located as Leigh is on the western boundary of the Borough of Southend, we fear that the closure of our police station will have a detrimental impact on this responsiveness, especially at nighttime.

We ask you therefore to take into consideration our concerns when deciding the future of Leigh Police Station.

Yours sincerely,

Jerry Holden,  
Councillor and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

cc. Chief Inspector D Colwell Southend District

## Sheet 1

Anticipated underspends by Committees	£	
Planning		0
Transport & Highways		4,000
Allotments		0
Leisure Foreshore and Environment		0
Finance & G.P.		
	GP Budget	16,200
	Office Budget	1,000
		17,200
Office		0
Staff		0
Total		21,200
Anticipated general reserve from Budget report		63,055
<b>Committed Reserve Expenditure 2011/12</b>		
Skate Park L/S		2,000
Exterior		
Decoration		4,525
Allotment Posts		500
Allotments Balance to remove tree		800
Provision for Rent Review		6,400
		14,225
Move to earmarked reserves		
Strand Wharf Capital		0
GP Renewals Budget (Computers)		0
Elections Reserve		5,000
		5,000
General Reserves carried forward		65,030

## Sheet 6

GP 2nd draft budget F &amp; G.P. 04-10-11

<b>Heading</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Community Affairs*	0	2,000
Premises	0	500
Elections	0	5,000
Legal Costs	0	500
Annual Town Meeting	0	500
Publicity	0	3,000
Civic	0	0
Renewals Fund**	0	12,500
Totals	0	24,000
Nett cost		24,000

\* Grant Aid Budget subject to advertising and application

\*\* New Rolling Renewals Programme