



# 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 LEISURE, FORESHORE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICE, 67 ELM ROAD,  
LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present Cllrs: Carole Mulroney (Chairman), Paul Lawrence, Mark Bromfield, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Pat Holden, Patsy Ryan and David Stanley (from min 55b)

In attendance: Cllrs Margaret Cotgrove and Jerry Holden and Vivien Choppen (Assistant to Town Clerk)

***The meeting opened at 7.00pm***

51. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting at the earlier start time for an exchange of views on Strand Wharf. She mentioned that the Farmers' Market leaflet for 2012 had been produced and that the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, would take place this year in the Community Centre. She advised that Committee Chairmen's reports should be no longer than five minutes each and requested nominations for Good for Leigh Awards by the end of February. She further mentioned that Chris Page, the Belfairs School representative on this Committee, is a nominee for Youth Mayor and that she would write to thank him for serving on the Committee and wishing him luck for the future.

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

53. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

None

54. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

55. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Strand Wharf Project at the request of Cllr Mark Bromfield

The Chairman outlined that the development of a Town Square on Strand Wharf is a long term aim of the Council, supported by an ear-marked reserve. Legal issues with the adjoining lease were now resolved. An on-site meeting was planned with SBC Cllr John Lamb on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January to discuss certain issues. The high costs currently being mentioned for the development related to the regeneration of a much larger area than the proposed Town Council scheme and the cost of the scheme to the Town Council was anticipated to be considerably less than had been at first thought. Possible sources of funding for the Council to explore were a Lottery Fund Grant and S106 monies (from SBC) designated for Community Improvements. Cllr Mark Bromfield stated that this clarification resolved his concerns about the project and particularly costs and funding. These sentiments were endorsed by Cllr Richard Herbert.

b) Leigh Lights SAG Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 – Report 1996/LLWP (Appendix 1 to Agenda)

Whilst the content of the Report was noted, discussion ensued which made the following points:

- i. more volunteers along the route and to help clear up at the end of the event were needed
- ii. more people willing to dress up and expand the procession were needed
- iii. more choirs and singing groups along the roads were needed
- iv. feed back from the shops was very encouraging
- v. the Crime Prevention Panel had commented that the Police were very pleased with the event overall

c) Strand Wharf WP Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 – Report 2000/SWWP

The report was noted

d) Southend-on-Sea Shore Line Strategy Plan Consultation

Cllr Fraser outlined key points raised in the consultation document that had implications for Leigh. He expressed concerns that certain proposals would result in increased risks of flooding. **It was RESOLVED that the following comments would be made to SBC:**

Section 1 – Hadleigh Marsh – proposed for the creation of an ‘intertidal habitat’ between the sea wall and the railway. The Town Council has concerns about the possible creation of a weak point in the sea wall and the practicality of this proposal so close to the railway – there would need to be sluice gates.

Section 1A – Two Tree Island – there seems to be no recognition that this is a nature reserve and a marina and seems to dismiss these in considering there is ‘little economic benefit’ and ‘limited intervention’ required in connection with the Island. – it is not just a tip but it was a sewage works so there are concerns regarding potential environmental issues. The boating fraternity use the sea wall and there are big cracks in it – the Borough Council should review and monitor these closely and rectify where necessary.

If the tide tops the Island there is potential pollution from landfill and leaving of contaminants. There needs to be a constant monitoring of this.

When the Thames Barrier is closed the issues are more pronounced and the Council should review the warning system which appears to be inadequate.

Section 2 – Station to Bell Wharf – The document seems to imply that this area is only liable to flooding at the eastern end. This is incorrect. The Borough Council should not be complacent that this area would not be affected by flooding. With climate change there is potential for flooding all along this front. An up to date survey is needed as flooding is a public concern.

At the time of printing the report it is stated that the responses of Network Rail had still to be received. It is imperative that these are taken into account and if necessary further consultation takes place depending on their comments.

Section 3 – Cinder Path – there is a proposal for a barrier between the path and the railway. The aesthetic effect of a steel barrier would be disastrous along this stretch given the heavy public usage, the attraction it would make for graffiti. Network Rail do not have a happy history along this stretch given their unsightly use of tarmac.

e) Flag for Strand Wharf

The flag pole was working and Ian Johnson had found the flag. The condition of the flag was to be examined.

f) Town Guide – Inclusion of Time Line

The final draft of the Town Guide was being prepared by the publishers. It was resolved that the time line, outlining the history of Leigh, would go into the guide as an insert. LPC Stationers had been approached and the cost of 10,000 copies was quoted at £520.00 plus VAT. It was agreed that 5000 copies would suffice and the cost would be met from the Community Initiatives budget. The Town Guide Working Party had agreed that the guide would not be delivered to all households, but would be available in targeted shops and buildings.

g) Spring Clean

Spring clean week would be set for 31<sup>st</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April. SBC would be asked to cut the grass on Belton Hills during the week before. Councillors would undertake a litter pick of Belton Hills on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Cllr Mark Bromfield undertook to identify local groups who could help and co-ordinate the event.

56. BUDGETS 2011/12 – Report 1997/LFE (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

The report was noted and the Town Clerk was asked to chase the bill for the flower baskets.

***The meeting closed at 8.20pm***