



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Carole Mulronee
Vice Chairman: Cllr Caroline Parker
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2013 AT THE LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Carole Mulronee (Chairman), Mark Bromfield (Until Min 121), Margaret Cotgrove, Syrie Cox, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert (Until Min 121), Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Caroline Parker (Until Min 212), Cliff Passmore, David Stanley and John Wren.

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk),
Prior to the meeting prayers were read by Major John Carmichael.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

115. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and notified them that the Elm Road Brief Consultation would start on 15th April with an exhibition stand in the LCC. Members were reminded that the Farmers' Market was on the 19th April with the Annual Town Electors' Meeting that night.

116. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Richard Herbert, Carole Mulronee and David Stanley declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the 'Save the Library' Facebook Group.

117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Alex Coulson, Geoff Crawford and Patsy Ryan

118. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none

119. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none

120. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman with two amendments, change the date in minute 110 to 13th and add Cllr Jerry Holden to the list of those present.

121. COMMITTEES

- a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 26th March 2013 were **noted**
- b) Leigh Community Centre Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th March 2013 were **noted**.
- c) Allotments Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2013 were **noted**
- d) Leisure, Foreshore and Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2013 were **noted** after clarification was given relating to the scope of work relating to minute 67 and the Vice Chairman thanked the Councillors who had helped with the Easter Event. The Chairman also thanked staff for the extra work occasioned by the move to St Clements.

- e) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd April 2013 were **noted** with the exception of Minute 182, 183, 186, 187, 189, 190.

Council considered the following recommendations

Minute 182 - SBC LIBRARIES CONSULTATION

The Libraries WP had met with other local groups who were campaigning to retain the existing library as a fully funded and staffed library within Leigh-on-Sea. The WP had met on Monday and decided on a petition format and a strategy for responding to the formal consultation which would run between May and September. There was to be a public meeting in the LCC on Saturday 27th April followed by an event organised by the Facebook Group in the Library Gardens. Over 300 slips of people wished to be kept informed have been submitted and the petition was ready for signing.

Cllrs Richard Herbert and Carole Mulroney had attended the SBC Scrutiny Committee meeting and reported that the consultation document had been authorised. It was agreed that the criteria needed to be established for deciding on the hub facility.

A proposal was put by Cllr Richard Herbert, seconded by Cllr Mark Bromfield that the Publicity Budget be increased to £3,000 and that this should be taken from reserves.

An amendment to the proposal was put by Cllr Donald Fraser, seconded by Cllr Caroline Parker that the Publicity Budget should be increased to £1,000.

On being put to the vote and on the casting vote of the Chairman the amendment was **agreed**.

Council **RESOLVED** that the Publicity Budget be increased to £1,000.

The Council then **RESOLVED** the following recommendations:

- a) That this Council reiterates its support for the retention of the Borough Library in Leigh and will work with those groups and organisations which support this objective.
- b) That Councillors Bromfield, Fraser, Herbert, Mulroney and Stanley be appointed as Libraries Working party to proceed with preparing a response to the Borough Council's consultation process.
- c) That the Town Council initiates a campaign to retain the Borough Library in Leigh funded initially through F&GP's Publicity 2012/13 budget underspend and that control of this Budget is delegated to the Working Party.
- d) That the Council is supportive of the retention of all branch libraries throughout the Borough.

Minute 183 - VOLUNTEERS

Members discussed the role of the proposed Voluntary Volunteer Co-Ordinator (VCO). It was emphasised that the process would involve two stages, firstly to scope out the possible uses and roles reporting this to Council and secondly to actively recruit and manage the volunteers. Cllr Syrie Cox had produced a role description which had been circulated to members.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation with one amendment regarding expenses:

That a voluntary Volunteer Co-Ordinator be sought to undertake the task and that a description for the role be drafted and that they be offered out of pocket expenses on the same basis as employees.

Minute 186 - CREATION OF INTERNAL LIAISON GROUP

The exact role of the group was discussed and how this related to decisions of Committees and Council. It was stressed that this group had no power to make decisions but would provide a forum where the Chairmen could be informed of progress and how the work priorities were being dealt with.

Cllr Mark Bromfield left the meeting

The Council **RESOLVED**:

That an Internal Liaison Group consisting of the Chairmen of the main committees and the Town Clerk be established to meet monthly to discuss and agree with the Town Clerk the work programme for the month; the group to meet on a trial basis for 6 months when the decision would be reviewed.

Minute 187 - TO CONSIDER AN INITIAL LIST OF ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE WITHIN THE LTC AREA

The Council **RESOLVED** to add the following to the list contained in F&GPC minute 187 and to issue a press release:

The Bell Hotel, the Crooked Billet, The Smack, The Ship, Peter Boat, Carlton and the Elms

RESOLVED:

That the Council prepares a list of buildings and land of community value within the Leigh Town Council area and requests that SBC lists them

Cllrs Richard Herbert and Caroline Parker left the meeting

Minute 189 – REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the recommended earmarked reserves:

Allotments Committee 20th March 2013 - Minute 87

87. EARMARKED RESERVES

That £890 of the predicted underspends be put in an earmarked reserve to cover the balance of the cost of the perimeter fence and that the balance be allocated in an earmarked reserve for rubbish clearance.

Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – Minute 65

49. CREATION OF EARMARKED RESERVES

The creation of two earmarked reserves from the predicted underspends, £700 for the purchase of event lighting and £600 for the Coronation Event.

Minute 190 – ALLOCATION OF F&GPC EARMARKED RESERVES

The Council **RESOLVED** that the underspends of £8,585 on the Renewals Budget and £6,212 of the Elections Budget be carried forward to 2013/14 and that any additional underspends from other F&GPC budgets be added to the Elections Earmarked Reserve.

122. FINANCIAL REPORT

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Report 2185/I&E be approved – (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm