



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2013 AT THE LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present Cllrs: Donald Fraser (Chairman), Mark Bromfield, Syrie Cox, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker (from Min 198) and Patsy Ryan.

In Attendance: Cllr John Wren, 2 Members of the Public, Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk)

The meeting opened at 7.31pm

197. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and announced that agenda items 15 and 16 would not be taken as Cllr Syrie Cox had withdrawn it at this time.

198. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Alex Coulson, Richard Herbert and Jerry Holden

Cllr Caroline Parker joined the meeting

199. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

200. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2nd April 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the 2nd April 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

GENERAL PURPOSES

201. FORMATION OF JOINT CONSULTATIVE WORKING PARTY (STAFFING) – Report 2191 (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

The Town Clerk introduced the report; it was a mechanism to enable staff to have direct discussions with Councillors and to articulate their viewpoint. The Working Party would then make recommendations to Personnel Sub-Committee.

The Committee discussed the proposal, with differing views; one that it wasn't necessary and the other that it was always good to have positive dialogue.

On being put to the vote it was agreed on the casting vote of the Chairman.

It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** to Council that a Joint Consultative Working Party (Staffing) be established on a trial basis, with an evaluation at the end of the year with the terms of reference as set out in the report, with the addition that Junior Staff should also be able to put their views.

202. POTENTIAL AMALGAMATION OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, LICENSING COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEE INTO A SINGLE REGULATORY COMMITTEE – Discussion Paper by Cllr Carole Mulroney (Appendix 2 to the agenda)

Cllr Carole Mulroney spoke to the report outlining how this would streamline the Council's business. A view was expressed that it would be difficult to recruit members to this due to differing Councillor's interests.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that a single Committee be established – Planning, Licensing and Highways Committee and that revised terms of reference be drawn up for approval by Council.

203. THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE – Report 2208 (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

The Town Clerk clarified the report and agreed to do a presentation prior to the Annual Council Meeting.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that it resolves that it is an eligible Council under the Localism Act 2011 sections 1 to 8 and meets the criteria set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

204. CONSIDERATION OF THE CREATION OF THE POSTS OF TOWN MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Report 2209/TC (Appendix 4 to the agenda)

The Committee debated the report with differing viewpoints. The splitting of the role of Chairman into two posts could be advantageous because individuals had different skill sets and that the title Town Mayor gave more gravitas to the role. Others felt confusion could ensue with there being two Mayors in the Borough and that a Leader was unnecessary as Committee Chairman should lead on policy.

Councillors Syrie Cox and Patsy Ryan moved that the report be put to the vote. It was agreed that it would be taken in two parts.

- a. Does the Committee agree to the splitting of the role of Chairman into Town Mayor and Leader of the Council?

Cllr Mark Bromfield requested a recorded vote:

For the proposal: Cllrs Syrie Cox, Carole Mulroney, Caroline Parker and Patsy Ryan (4)

Against the proposal: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Donald Fraser, Pat Holden and Paul Lawrence (4)

The Chairman voted against the proposal with his casting vote, the proposal was therefore **lost**.

- b. Does the Committee wish to rename the role of Chairman as Town Mayor?

Cllr Mark Bromfield requested a recorded vote:

For the proposal: Cllrs Mark Bromfield and Caroline Parker (2)

Against the proposal: Cllrs Syrie Cox, Donald Fraser, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney and Patsy Ryan (6)

The proposal was **lost**.

205. GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGET

General Purposes Budget Report 2204/GP 23rd April 2013 (Appendix 5 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**.

FINANCE

206. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Transport and Highways Committee 17th April 2013 - Minute 27

27. EARMARKED RESERVES

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to F&GPC that the £2,500 under-spend be put in an earmarked reserve for Highways Infrastructure.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** the earmarked reserve to Council.

207. OFFICE AND COMMITTEE BUDGETS

- Office Budget Report 2205/FGP 23rd April 2013 (Appendix 6 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**

- Committee Income and Expenditure Report 2206/FGP 23rd April 2013 (Appendix 7 to the agenda)

A question was raised regarding the reallocation of the staffing budget. The Town Clerk replied that F&GPC had agreed to the reallocation, he would advise the minute number that refers to this. (Minute 160 of the meeting 5th February 2013) It was suggested that these were virements and needed to be approved by Council. The staffing budget is a main budget head as a whole and therefore no virements have taken place, merely reallocation to Committees as previously agreed.

The report was **noted**

208. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING

See report 2207/I&E (Appendix 8 to the agenda)

Members requested that individual allotment holder's names should not be shown on future reports.

The report was **noted**.

209. BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES as at 19th April 2013

The balances were **noted**.

210. TRANSFER OF SURPLUS FUNDS

The Committee **RECOMMEND** to Council that £100,000 be invested with the CCLA.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm