



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP - Tel: 01702 716288
council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Chairman: Cllr Caroline Parker
Vice Chairman: Cllr Paul Lawrence
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



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

Present: Cllrs: Caroline Parker (Chairman), Carole Mulroney, Margaret Cotgrove, Syrie Cox, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Cliff Passmore, Patsy Ryan, David Stanley and John Wren.

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk) two members of the public and a member of the press.

Prayers were read by Rev Julia Monaghan (Wesley Methodists).

The meeting opened at 7.32pm

33. OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman was unable to attend Armed Forces Day on Canvey Island the other weekend as she had a stomach upset, on speaking with the town Clerk a few days after the event she told the Chairman that the parade and memorial service had been most successful.

On Saturday the Chairman will be attending the 'Village Green' event at Chalkwell Park, on Sunday the Coronation Event staged between LTC and Leigh Lions, on Monday Leigh Infants Sports Day, on Thursday a special assembly at Belfairs and at the end of July a special cream tea afternoon at a residential home organised by Leigh Lions.

The Vice Chairman will be presiding over the September Council meeting due to the Chairman being on holiday.

34. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Alex Coulson (The Council agreed to extend his leave of absence for a further 6 months due to continuing illness) and Richard Herbert.

36. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

37. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Donald Fraser moved that the questions from Cllr Mark Bromfield be taken at the end of the meeting under Standing Order 27(a) as they related to a member of staff.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. COMMITTEES

- a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the meetings held on the 11th and 25th June 2013 were **noted**.
- b) Transport and Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th June 2013 were **noted**.
- c) Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th June 2013 were **noted**.
- d) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on the 24th June 2013 and the meeting of 2nd July were **noted** with the exception of minutes 35, 36, 39 and 41.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr Donald Fraser for the staff who had prepared the accounts for the Final Internal Audit, as there were no issues raised.

The following recommendations were considered:

Minute 35 - MOTION (Proposed Cllr Caroline Parker, Seconded Cllr Paul Lawrence) – Reference back from Council Meeting 12th June 2013.

“Councillors could claim expenses for disbursements occasioned in carrying out the office of Councillor within the Leigh Town Council area”.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Syrie Cox and seconded by Cllr Cliff Passmore:

“Councillors could claim out of pocket expenses for disbursements occasioned in carrying out the office of Councillor within the Leigh Town Council area up to £85 per annum”.

A recorded vote was requested:

For the amended proposal: Cllrs Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Syrie Cox, Donald Fraser, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Caroline Parker, Cliff Passmore, David Stanley and John Wren.

Against the amended proposal: Cllrs Carole Mulroney and Patsy Ryan.

It was **RESOLVED** that **Councillors could claim out of pocket expenses for disbursements occasioned in carrying out the office of Councillor within the Leigh Town Council area up to £85 per annum.**

Minute 36 - LEIGH LIBRARY WORKING PARTY – Report 2234/CM - 13th June 2013

Cllr Carole Mulroney presented the report and suggested response to the consultation to the Committee.

The Council **RESOLVED** to submit the response contained in Appendix A of the report to Council.

Minute 39 - TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANT TO ADVISE ON LCC VAT

The Council have been given a cost from a firm for £525 plus travel expenses for a day's work.

Council **RESOLVED** that the services of the accountant be taken up.

Minute 41 – IMPREST ACCOUNT

Council **RESOLVED** that the Imprest Account balance be increased to £1,000.

e) Leigh Community Centre Committee – The minutes of the meeting of 3rd July 2013.

The minutes were **noted**.

40. MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC – The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

RESOLVED; That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded and instructed to withdraw (SO.1(c)) - (staffing)

Start of Confidential Business

41. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

From Cllr Mark Bromfield

Would the Chairman agree that meetings between Members and Officers should be a normal part of the good management of Leigh Town Council, and that when some officers refuse to meet with some members that this is not helpful?

Would the Chairman also agree that when some Officers refuse to comply with the agreed legal actions of a committee that this does not reflect well Leigh Town Council?

"If any officer is refusing to meet with Councillors or refusing to carry out an agreed and minuted action from any Committee then they should formally put this in writing, with an explanation as to why, to the Town Clerk for him to pass onto Council. The Council will then decide what action to take and how to resolve the situation through mediation, or a more formal process. We could potentially have a situation in which work is carried out for some Councillors and Committees rather than others and instead of professional duty being the overriding factor, personal relationships and past divisions become the overriding factor. I do not want my year as Chairman to be characterised by such an approach. I want us all to move forward together for the benefit of everyone and with professionalism."

Given that all Councils are looking to control costs, and be cost effective, that Leigh Town Council should consider contracting out the management of the Leigh Community Centre so as to give better value to precept payers?

"Yes if the full Council is in agreement, we must always bear in mind it is other people's money we are spending."

End of Confidential Business

42. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was **RESOLVED**: that the Income & Expenditure Report 2238/I&E be approved, (Appendix 1 to the agenda).

The meeting closed at 9.03pm