



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP - Tel: 01702 716288  
[council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk) [www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)



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

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 AT THE LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present Cllrs: Patsy Ryan (Chairman), Donald Fraser, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney, and Caroline Parker (until Min 145)

In Attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk)

### ***The meeting opened at 7.33pm***

#### 127. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

#### 128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Syrie Cox and Richard Herbert

#### 129. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

#### 130. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014

The minutes of the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 131. PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014 (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

The Chairman of PSC undertook to provide the written advice regarding disclosure of the Grievance results for filing with the minutes (Minute 34). The Committee **noted** the minutes.

#### 132. PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014 (Appendix 2 to the agenda)

Cllr Richard Herbert had indicated prior to the meeting that he no longer wished to put any questions to the Chairman of Personnel Sub-Committee. The Committee **noted** the minutes.

#### 133. RESIGNATION OF CLLR MARK BROMFIELD FROM THE COMMITTEE

A proposal was put that Cllr David Stanley be co-opted to the Committee. Proposed Cllr Carole Mulroney; Seconded Cllr Caroline Parker.

The proposal was agreed. It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** to Council that for the remainder of the Civic Year Cllr David Stanley be co-opted to the Committee.

#### 134. REPLACEMENT MEMBER FOR PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Syrie Cox to serve on the Sub-Committee and increase the membership to 9.

Proposed Cllr Pat Holden; Seconded Cllr Paul Lawrence

135. RESET DATE FOR AUDIT & GOVERNANCE WORKING PARTY FOR STANDING ORDER REVIEW

The Committee **RESOLVED** to hold the meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and to include proposed changes to Financial Regulations.

136. DEVELOPING SOUTHEND-ON-SEA LIBRARIES (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

The Committee **noted** the letter.

137. REPORT BACK FROM SBC FINANCE EVENT – Cllr Caroline Parker (Appendix 1)

138. USE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Committee discussed the widening of the criteria for use of the Capital Projects Fund. It was suggested that a Capital Project F&GPC could pursue was a War Memorial.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to Council that the Capital Projects Fund be used for Council initiatives, third party capital projects subject to agreed criteria and saving match funding towards a major project.

139. GENERAL PURPOSES BUDGET

General Purposes Budget Report 2317/GP as at 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (Appendix 4 to the agenda)  
The report was **noted**

140. INTERIM AUDIT REPORT (Appendix 5 to the agenda)

The Committee **noted** the report and **RESOLVED** to agree to the additional Audit Day at an approximate cost of £400.

141. OFFICE AND COMMITTEE BUDGETS

- Office Budget Report 2318/FGP as at 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (Appendix 5 to the agenda)

It was agreed to change the descriptor for Subscriptions to Subscriptions / Membership. The report was **noted**.

- Committee Income and Expenditure Report 2319/FGP as at 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (Appendix 6 to the agenda)

The report was **noted**.

142. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

See report 2322/I&E 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (Appendix 7 to the agenda)

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that pending an insurance claim that the Allotment fence be repaired at a cost of £1,300 to be taken from reserves.

***Cllr Carole Mulroney left the meeting***

Members **approved** the expenditure and **noted** the income.

143. BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES as at 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were **noted**.

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

That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw (SO.1c) – (Contractual)

***Start of Confidential Business***

***Cllr Carole Mulroney returned to the meeting***

145. VOLUNTEERING (Confidential Appendix 1)

***Cllr Caroline Parker left the meeting***

The Council discussed the letter in some detail and agreed that a different approach be pursued in future.

***End of Confidential Business***

***The meeting closed at 9.40pm***

**Southend New Finance Business Partnership Meeting 22-01-2014**

I attended the above meeting today; it was very informative about what is happening in Southend in the light of government cut-backs over a five year period.

As a Unitary Authority millions of pounds are ploughed into education, with the abundance of pre-school children there will be a demand for another primary school in Southend.

Two more Care Homes for the elderly are to close shortly with residents being moved into the private sector care/nursing homes which apparently are more cost effective. We have a fairly high percentage of senior citizens in the borough which is increasing year on year.

There are now three stewards patrolling the High Street and sea front areas keeping an eye on what's happening as well as being of assistance to the public when required.

Parking and leisure/recreational fees have again been frozen, in order to aid business's in the first instance and help those on a limited income to keep fit and healthy in the second (which reminds me of a project which was presented to Leisure and Foreshore Committee recently).

The carbuncles on the landscape in Victoria Avenue (which is the gateway to the town) will be dealt with at long last – the carbuncles being the boring 60's design office blocks/commercial units. SBC now have government permission to issue 'CPO' should the owners be unwilling to utilise their buildings or demolish them. These brown field sites could be put to good use in the future and perhaps attract major companies back into the town. We lost the likes of Customs & Excise, Access and Barclays years ago; we need to entice them back again to ease our big unemployment problem AND to contribute to the rates revenue.

Finally SBC have laid off 500 people in the last two or three years (49 one month ago) but only paid out for twenty five redundancies. The pool of staff linked with ECC helped ease the situation, by relocating people into other work opportunities.

We also had a presentation by a gentleman from the Anglia Ruskin University regarding the new business park near the airport (which everyone is talking about). Med Tech (which is linked to ARU) will be instrumental in purchasing one of the commercial units/plots available and will invite any companies involved in medical research or medical instrument manufacture to rent floor space within the building, thereby enabling these companies to possibly work together on certain projects or research in the future. This business spark could create 12,000 jobs.

Cllr Caroline Parker