



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 Richard Herbert
Vice Chairman: Cllr Syrie Cox
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2014 AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Mark Bromfield (until Min 3), Carole Mulroney, Margaret Cotgrove (Until Min 13), Syrie Cox, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Caroline Parker, Patsy Ryan, David Stanley and John Wren.

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk) and four members of the public.

Prior to the meeting prayers were led by Rev Julia Monaghan (Wesley Methodists)

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS – Cllr Caroline Parker

Good evening and welcome to my last meeting to declare open, before the new chair is elected. The new sign on the door was donated by your Chairman as I believe a 'Council Chamber' should be clearly marked.

The past year has flown by – 10 years waiting to be Chairman, and then in a blink of an eye it's gone. Your former Chairman C.M. had the best year any chairman could have in-as-much as: we took over the Community Centre, it was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and also the Olympic Torch came through Leigh for the first and probably the last time ever (we really should have made more of that important event, every other town did!)

However whilst no major projects were accomplished last year, our overworked staff did need some respite and sometimes it's good to sit back, take stock of the situation, before rushing into pastures new – always bearing in mind it is other people's money we are spending!

We were successful in saving Leigh library which is something to be proud of, and Strand Wharf looks as if the light at the end of the tunnel is beaming brighter..... Which brings me to reflect on the fact that most major new towns in the 1950/60 were built in the time it has taken to bring Strand Wharf to fruition...(that is not something to be proud of!)

During my year in office, I've attended some very informative business meetings, some very varied events and met people from all walks of life which I found fascinating. But the projects I had on my agenda for the year: one of them was to form a Youth Council to work alongside us:- to inform us, the Council what the coming generation would like to see happening in our town, another was a 'Love Your Street' campaign to encourage residents to look after their own patch of street in front of their home to keep it clean and litter free, as people did in yesteryear. These projects did not materialise, for confidential reasons I cannot state here. BUT there is always next year!!

To move on, we do need to raise our profile and fly the flag for Leigh in a wider hemisphere as outside of Leigh, accompanying areas ie; Rochford, Rayleigh do not know we exist! Also our original chain of office needs to be located, as all the chairmen I've met have a dignified chain of office, not a 'man club' ribbon with names on it – such as we have at present.

Now to move on to events attended; firstly the 'Spring Horticultural Show' of which I am Honorary President (as with Leigh Lions) which was blooming lovely, no pun intended, the displays were a joy to behold Then I attended a Talking Heads seminar at the Tickfield Centre, on Local

Government and the changes central government will be implementing over the next few years – giving more power to local councils BUT where will the financial backing come from? NOT the government according to Carolyn Downs L.G.A. Chief Executive who works within the government representing local councils. David Amess invited me to attend his mother's 102nd birthday party. What an incredible lady who still retains a sense of humour and love of music.

Next was the last Mayoral event of the year (which I've had to pay for each one I've attended) The Hog Roast at the Mayors official residence 'Porters', a lovely historic building going back 500 years in fact. After the meal, which took place in the beautiful grounds we had a guided historical tour of the house, including the Mayor's silver, antique china etc. Famous guests included Oliver Cromwell, Queen Mother, Princess Anne, Disraeli and aCllr. Parker.... my 4th visit in fact. Lastly I have been interviewed twice by Peter Holmes recently on BBC Essex, first occasion was the outside gym project (all passers-by were in favour) the second occasion was the Grand Hotel, (again all passers-by were in favour of Mick Norcross saving this stately building).

To summarise I would just like to add being a chairman does devour hours and hours of your time each week – attending all committee meetings for a start, going out and about meeting the traders and public, every time they have a grievance. Reward is leaving them satisfied and with a smile on their faces as you head for the door (United Nations has nothing on me). But a chairman could not be as effective without the support of certain councillors thank - you, and our hard working, Town Clerk thank you TC, and his diligent staff. Special thanks to *Susan Marx with whom I've worked closely for the past 3 years regarding 'T & H' and especially this year, when she has acted as my 'P.A'. in the office during the year. Efficient, reliable, Susan always has a smile on her face, therefore making her a pleasure to work with.

Thanks also to Helen* for all her hard work regarding events: the 'Christmas Procession' was the longest ever, 'Carols on Strand Wharf' drew the largest crowd ever, and the recent 'Easter Event' attracted people in their hundreds throughout the afternoon with lots of new entertainers and stallholders positioned, plus refreshments, who could not be impressed? The public love our free events and never fail to tell us so.

This is what we excel at putting smiles on faces.

Grateful thanks to Pat, Paul, Matt, Jerry, John, Donald, Carole, Syrie, Richard and Mr. Music Man himself David Stanley. Also my daughter Cheryl and granddaughters Blue and Cozy for their amazing hard work on the day of the Easter Event.

To conclude thank you all for the time you commit to council business, thanks to my Vice Chair Paul for his support during the past twelve months, and the odd touch of humour, which helped.

*T.C. please minute my thanks to Susan Marx as acting P.A. to Chairman, and to Helen Symmons for efficient production of events.

I'll bring the curtain down with my final quote of the month which is:

"What I set out to do was to virtuously and justly administer the authority given to me and to do it with wisdom, for without wisdom nothing is worthwhile.

For each man according to the measure of his intelligence must speak what he can speak, do what he can do."

King Alfred 890

I HAVE BEEN PROUD AND HONOURED TO REPRESENT LEIGH-ON-SEA.

The Chairman then requested nominations for Chairman.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

There were two nominations for Chairman:

Cllr Paul Lawrence, proposed Cllr Pat Holden, seconded Cllr Mark Bromfield.

Cllr Richard Herbert, proposed Cllr Patsy Ryan, seconded Cllr Donald Fraser.

A recorded vote was requested.

For Cllr Paul Lawrence: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Syrie Cox, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Caroline Parker and John Wren. 6

For Cllr Richard Herbert: Cllrs Margaret Cotgrove, Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Carole Mulroney, Patsy Ryan and David Stanley. 7

Cllr Richard Herbert was elected Chairman; the Chairman signed the statutory declaration of office.

The Chairman thanked members for his election and committed himself to work positively for a united and cohesive Council.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

There were two nominations for Vice Chairman:

Cllr Syrie Cox, proposed Cllr Pat Holden, seconded Cllr Caroline Parker.

Cllr Carole Mulroney, proposed Cllr Richard Herbert, seconded Cllr Donald Fraser.

A recorded vote was requested.

For Cllr Syrie Cox: Cllrs Mark Bromfield, Margaret Cotgrove, Syrie Cox, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Caroline Parker, David Stanley and John Wren. 8

For Cllr Carole Mulroney: Cllrs Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Carole Mulroney, Patsy Ryan. 5

Cllr Syrie Cox was elected Vice Chairman

Cllr Mark Bromfield left the meeting

4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jerry Holden

6. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

Deferred until next Council meeting

7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOR 2014/15

The following Committees were formed with the following memberships:

Ex-officio members indicated*

Transport & Highways Committee	Planning & Licensing Committee
Cllr Margaret Cotgrove	Cllr Margaret Cotgrove
Cllr Syrie Cox*	Cllr Syrie Cox*
Cllr Geoff Crawford	Cllr Donald Fraser
Cllr Richard Herbert*	Cllr Richard Herbert*
Cllr Caroline Parker	Cllr Pat Holden
Cllr John Wren	Cllr Paul Lawrence
2 Vacancies	2 Vacancies

Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee	Allotments Committee
Cllr Syrie Cox* Cllr Geoff Crawford Cllr Donald Fraser Cllr Richard Herbert* Cllr Pat Holden Cllr Carole Mulroney Cllr Caroline Parker 3 Vacancies	Cllr Syrie Cox* Cllr Richard Herbert* Cllr Jerry Holden Cllr Pat Holden Cllr Paul Lawrence 3 Vacancies
Leigh Community Centre Committee	
Cllr Syrie Cox* Cllr Geoff Crawford Cllr Richard Herbert* Cllr Jerry Holden Cllr Pat Holden	Cllr Paul Lawrence Cllr Carole Mulroney Cllr Caroline Parker Cllr David Stanley 2 Vacancies

8. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The meeting adjourned to elect Chairmen as follows -

- Transport & Highways – Cllr Caroline Parker
- Planning – Cllr Pat Holden
- Leisure Foreshore & Environment – Cllr Carole Mulroney
- Allotments – No nominations
- Leigh Community Centre – Cllr Jerry Holden

The meeting reconvened.

9. MEMBERSHIP OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (F&GPC) 2014/15

The membership of the F&GPC was elected as follows:

Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Syrie Cox (Vice Chairman of Council) Cllr Donald Fraser Cllr Richard Herbert (Chairman of Council) Cllr Jerry Holden (Chairman, Leigh Community Centre Committee) Cllr Pat Holden (Chairman, Planning & Licensing Committee) Cllr Paul Lawrence Cllr Carole Mulroney (Chairman, Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee) Cllr Caroline Parker (Chairman, Transport & Highways Committee) Cllr Patsy Ryan 1 Vacancy

The meeting adjourned to elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee

- Cllr Patsy Ryan was elected as Chairman
- Cllr Donald Fraser was elected Vice Chairman

The meeting reconvened

10. MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES FOR 2014/15

The membership of the Sub-Committees was elected as follows:

Personnel Sub-Committee (F&GPC) - 8
Cllrs: Syrie Cox, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Pat Holden, Carole Mulroney, Paul Lawrence, Caroline Parker and Patsy Ryan
Strategy and Town Plan Sub-Committee - 7
Cllrs: Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulroney and Caroline Parker
Community Transport Sub-Committee (LFEC) - 4
Cllrs: Margaret Cotgrove, Donald Fraser, Pat Holden and Paul Lawrence

11. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Allotments Committee
Representatives of: Anne Scobie, Marshall Close, Alan Ashdown, LOSALGA, Ashley Hitchcock, MDAS, David Hammond, Orchard Group and Ron Bates
Community Transport Sub-Committee
Jan Andrews, Ruby Frost and Brian Houssart MBE

12. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Deferred until next Council meeting

13. REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The following were appointed for 2014/15:

- Representative to Public and Passenger Transport Group – Cllr Donald Fraser, Reserve Cllr Caroline Parker
- Leigh Port Partnership – Cllr Richard Herbert
- Thames Estuary Partnership – Cllrs Paul Lawrence and Carole Mulroney
- Southend Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Geoff Crawford
- Leigh Crime Prevention Panel – Cllr Paul Lawrence
- EALC Larger Local Council Forum & AGM – Cllrs Donald Fraser, Carole Mulroney and Town Clerk
- EALC Executive Committee – Cllr John Wren
- Southend Business Partnership – Cllrs Margaret Cotgrove, Syrie Cox, Carole Mulroney and Town Clerk
- Southend Finance Business Briefing – Cllrs Richard Herbert and Syrie Cox, Reserve Cllr Caroline Parker.

Cllr Margaret Cotgrove left the meeting

14. DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS

The dates and times of meetings were agreed.

15. PAYMENT OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following were approved:

- Essex Association of Local Councils and National Association of Local Councils £1503.54
- Essex Playing Fields Association £25.00
- Local Council Review £16.00
- Community Transport Association £295.00
- Thames Estuary Partnership £250.00
- Parish On Line £220.00
- RCCE Village Halls & Community Buildings £40.00

16. APPOINTMENT OF BANK SIGNATORIES

Cheques and salary payments

Cllrs: Cllr Margaret Cotgrove, Donald Fraser, Richard Herbert, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence, Carole Mulrone and Caroline Parker

17. NOMINATION OF 2 REPRESENTATIVES TO SOUTHEND'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Cllrs: Margaret Cotgrove and Carole Mulrone, Reserve Cllr Caroline Parker

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the 9th April 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

19. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTORS' MEETING 25th APRIL 2014

The minutes were **noted**.

20. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were **none**.

21. COMMITTEES

a) Planning Committee – The minutes of the meetings held on the 8th and 22nd April 2014 were noted.

b) Leigh Community Centre Committee – The minutes of the meeting of 7th May 2014 were noted with the exception of recommendations in Minutes 127 and 136.

Minutes 127: The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that the Community Centre Manager is appointed as a co-opted non-voting member of the committee under Standing Order TR1 (d)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendation.

Minute 136: FAÇADE QUOTES: The Committee considered the three tenders received and **RESOLVED** to award the contract to Contractor 3 in the sum of £12,423.00.

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the award of contract to Contractor 3 in the sum of £12,423.00 under Financial Regulations and Terms of Reference TR1(c).

c) Transport and Highways Committee – The minutes of the meeting of 16th April 2014 were noted.

d) Leisure, Foreshore & Environment Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th April 2014 were noted.

e) Finance & General Purposes Committee – The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th May 2014 were noted with the exception of the following recommendations:

Minute 188: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure and note the income.

Minute 189: TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CCLA A/c

The Council **RESOLVED** that £50,000 be transferred to the CCLA Investment Account.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm