



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 Carole Mulroney
Vice Chairman: Cllr Helen Robertson
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson

MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00PM ON TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER 2016 AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Carole Mulroney (Chairman), Karen Bowden, Patrick Fox, Donald Fraser, Jill Healey, Richard Herbert, Declan Mulroney, Valerie Morgan, Helen Robertson, Vivien Rosier and Jane Ward

Also in attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.00 pm

72. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members and waved the rules regarding dress and standing when speaking during this Extra-Ordinary meeting.

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Jill Adair, Mark Bromfield, Fr. Clive Hillman and Caroline Parker

74. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were none.

75. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 20TH SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes of the meeting 20th September 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

76. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

There were none

77. REPORT FROM EALC AGM 22nd SEPTEMBER 2016 – (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

The Council considered the motion passed by EALC (**This meeting is resolutely opposed to proposals by the government to extend council tax referendum principles to some or all local councils; and calls upon all local councils in Essex to respond to the government consultation stating their opposition to the proposals**) regarding the extension of council tax referendum principles as set out in the consultation document "The 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement – Technical Consultation Paper"

A motion to support the EALC motion was proposed Cllr Carole Mulroney; seconded Cllr Karen Bowden

The Council **RESOLVED** to support the EALC motion and write to both DCLG and EALC accordingly. The Town Clerk to prepare the letter in consultation with the Chairman of Council.

COMMITTEES

78. COMMITTEE VACANCY

Cllr Jill Healey was elected to fill the vacancy on the Planning, Highways and Licensing Committee. (Proposed Cllr Carole Mulroney; Seconded Cllr Helen Robertson)

DECISION ITEMS

79. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CCLA

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £100,000 to the CCLA fund.

Council requested that the Town Clerk bring a report to the next meeting regarding the fund and other options that may be pursued.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

NB. The letter was subsequently agreed as Resolved and is attached as appendix 1 to these minutes for information.'



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James Livingston
Department of Communities & Local Government
2nd Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

26th October 2016

Dear Sirs

2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was established in 1996 with the intention of providing facilities to the residents of the town and over the intervening years it has been successful in doing so.

Having carefully considered the proposals contained in the Technical Consultation Paper dated September 2016 the Town Council fully supports the stance of the Essex Association of Local Councils in opposing the extension of council tax referendum to some or all local councils.

As an example in 2012 when faced with the loss of its community centre through local authority cuts the Town Council carried out its own consultation with the people of Leigh as to whether or not they would be prepared to see a rise of £5 in their council tax in order to save the Centre. This they overwhelmingly supported and the Centre now thrives. The cost of this consultation was under £1000 and was very effective.

If the referendum principles were applied to the Council then such an increase would have triggered a referendum costing in the region of £24,000; representing a Band D charge of £2.87 or 57% of the proposed increase and this would apply whether the result was positive or not.

As Town and Parish Council's functions are discretionary there can be differences from year to year causing large percentage changes as funds are raised for specific projects. These large changes in percentages do not necessarily equate to a large financial increase and that is what residents are interested in - percentages provide a false impression to the actual financial increase.

The consultation does not reflect the tremendous amount of work that local councils undertake on behalf of their communities and the closeness that exists between most councils and their residents.

Additionally the consultation does not take into account the diminution of the Local Council Support Grant or the fact that local councils do not receive other funding such as Revenue Support Grant, New Homes Bonus, Non-Domestic Rates or Council Tax Freeze Grant. Council tax therefore represents a much higher proportion of local council income.

At a time when principal authorities have to make cuts that affect services the extension of the referendum principle to town and parish councils will have a counterproductive effect and will reduce even further the amount of services they are able to provide for their local residents or even deter some from doing more in their communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Beckerson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Beckerson
Town Clerk

cc EALC