



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Carole Mulrone
Vice Chairman: Cllr Helen Robertson
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson (Helen Symmons – acting)

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY 2017 AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Carole Mulrone (Chairman), Karen Bowden, Patrick Fox, Donald Fraser, Jill Healey, Richard Herbert, Fr. Clive Hillman, Valerie Morgan, Declan Mulrone, Ron Owen, Caroline Parker, Helen Robertson, Vivien Rosier and Jane Ward

Also in attendance: Helen Symmons (Town Clerk – acting), Gavin Dixon (Leader of Kings Church) and two members of the public

Prior to the meeting the Chairman made cheque presentations to Hadleigh Mountain Bike Club and the RNLI as winners of Best Floats at the Leigh Lights Parade and thanked Stibbards & Sons for their support. Gavin Dixon, Leader of King's Church, then led Councillors in prayers.

The meeting opened at 7.40 pm

93. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting hoping they had had a pleasant Christmas and wishing them a Happy New Year. 2017 would be a busy year for the Council. Several staffing changes had occurred during the holidays, in particular, Paul Beckerson, the Town Clerk had decided to retire and on behalf of the Council the Chairman expressed the good wishes of the Council to him and thanked him for his years of service to the Council. As one other staff member had been off sick some members had been assisting in the office to cover this difficult period until new staff are appointed.

The Chairman referred members to recent issues regarding the Post Office and the introduction into the Broadway of the Specsavers store.

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr: Jill Adair

Discussion commenced regarding the motion to extend the six month rule for Cllr Bromfield. Two Cllrs requested a signed ballot.

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

Following the above proposal (Cllr C Mulrone, seconded Cllr Bowden) Council **RESOLVED** that as further discussion may prejudice the public interest the public and press be excluded and instructed to withdraw (SO 3(d))

Gavin Dixon and the two members of public withdrew from the meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** Cllr Bromfield's absence thereby extending the six month attendance rule enabling him to remain in office until the Annual Council Meeting 16th May 2017. Should Cllr Bromfield fail to attend the Council meeting 16th May, he will cease automatically to be a member of the Council unless his failure to attend is due to a reason approved by Council before 16th May 2017.

Gavin Dixon and the two members of public re-joined the meeting

95. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Fraser declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 10 having been the independent financial examiner for the Club

Cllr C Mulroney declared a non-pecuniary interest should Strand Wharf be discussed as a Southend Borough Councillor and committee member of the Leigh Society

Cllr D Mulroney declared a non-pecuniary interest should Strand Wharf be discussed as a committee member of the Leigh Society

96. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 15TH DECEMBER 2016

The minutes of the meeting of 15th December 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

97. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

Paul Beckerson thanked the Chairman for her kind words. He then raised the fact that the projected income for LCC hire 2016/17 had reduced from the P&R approved figures in December 2016. He asked whether it would be looked at and a marketing plan prepared. Cllr Herbert replied that all aspects of the LCC business are monitored and reviewed in line with the budgeting and this is done continually.

98. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none

COMMITTEES

99. COMMITTEES – **Agenda item 7**

- a) Cllr Helen Robertson presented the minutes of the Planning, Highways and Licensing Committee of 22nd November, 13th December and 4th January 2017 which were **NOTED** by Council.

Cllr Fraser commented on the Salisbury Road residents' objections in relation to the Highways order and how LTC had supported these objections.

The Chairman reminded all members that for any objection made, clear reasons should be relayed to SBC for those objections.

- b) Cllr C Mulroney presented the minutes of the Community Facilities Committee of 6th December 2016 as she had chaired the meeting. These were **NOTED** by Council.

The donation towards the replacement of a new bus shelter was clarified and the Town Clerk – acting, will advise SBC that the LTC budget for bus shelters has now been fully used.

- c) Cllr Valerie Morgan presented the minutes of the Environment and Leisure Committee of 20th December 2016 which were **NOTED** by Council.

Cllr Fraser wished it noted that regarding minute 51 he had received many compliments for the Wesley hoarding project that the Artist in Residence had organised. Council will pass on the compliments.

- d) Cllr J Ward presented the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 29th November, 8th December 2016 and 3rd January 2017 which were **NOTED** by Council.

There was one recommendation

Minute 79 – To approve the expenditure and note the income (Report 2635/I&E – Appendix 1 to the agenda)

RESOLVED: That the expenditure and income in Report 2635/I&E be approved and noted respectively

Cllr Ward clarified a payment in the expenditure following a query.

Following a proposal (Cllr Ward, seconded Cllr Owen) Council **APPROVED** the P&R minutes 8th December 2016 as they contained minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the same date.

DECISION ITEMS

100. DATE OF ANNUAL TOWN/ELECTORS' MEETING – **Agenda item 8**

Following a proposal (Cllr C Mulroney, seconded Cllr Parker) Council **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Friday 28th April at 7.00 p.m.

FOR NOTING

101. TOWN CLERK'S (ACTING) REPORT 2637/HS

The report was **NOTED**.

102. CORRESPONDENCE FROM THURSDAY CLUB

The correspondence was **NOTED** and Cllrs advised of the Farewell Party details. Council will write to the Club to acknowledge their contribution over the years and to wish all the helpers well for the future.

FINANCIAL

103. BUDGET 2017/18 – **Agenda Item 11**

The Council **RESOLVED** the presented budget subject to confirmation from SBC that the Tax Base and LCGT figures remain the same. SBC Cabinet meeting is 19th January 2017.

104. TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2017/18

It was clarified that the proposed increase is 74p for the year (1.63%) and Members were reminded that we must ensure best value for money in all that the Council undertakes. It is hoped that the LTC magazine highlights the messages of what Council are trying to achieve.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the precept for 2017/18 be £46.01 subject to confirmation from SBC that the Tax Base and LCGT figures remain the same from that advised.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm