



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr Valerie Morgan  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Jill Healey  
Town Clerk: Helen Symmons

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018  
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Valerie Morgan (Chairman), John Duprey, Keith Evans, Anita Forde, Paul Gilson, Gerry Glover, Fr. Clive Hillman, Carole Mulroney, Declan Mulroney, Ron Owen and Vivien Rosier.

Also in attendance: Alison Griffin CEO, Rob Walters and Councillor Stephen Aylen (Southend Borough Council) and Helen Symmons (Town Clerk)

Prior to the meeting, the Environment Agency in partnership with Anglian Water provided an informative presentation with regard to Leigh Bell Wharf Bathing Water. In the interests of our residents, this is attached at Appendix 1 to the minutes.

***The meeting opened 7.50 p.m.***

63. THE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS INCLUDING HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Alison Griffin, the CEO of Southend Borough Council and apologised for the delay in the start of the meeting but felt that the presentation was informative and important. The appropriate housekeeping announcements were made.

64. RESULT OF LEIGH ROAD WARD BY-ELECTION AND OFFICIAL WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

The Council **NOTED** the report and officially welcomed Cllr Gilson.

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: Jill Adair, Mark Bromfield, Patrick Fox, Jill Healey and Caroline Parker

66. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

***Cllr C Mulroney declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Borough Councillor in Agenda item 16 as Southend Borough Council are landlords for Strand Wharf.***

67. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> September were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

68. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

There were none.

69. SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL

A presentation was made by Alison Griffin on Southend 2050 and the feedback the Borough had received, interpretation of the data and reviews that would be taking place. Councillors were then invited for their input, concerns and comments and to ask questions. It was established

that there had been a targeted strategic approach to the engagement process, that an outcomes based budgeting approach would need to be adopted, working together was key for all, not just in Southend but across South Essex and that other parts of the Borough are just as important as the central area of Southend. There was concern that issues today were being overlooked but reassurance given that the Borough are looking at those issues but that it is important to have an eye for the future as well as focussing on now. A 5 year road map will develop with strategic delivery plans for each theme. Alison made various notes during the discussion and reiterated that further stakeholder input would be possible in due course.

The Chairman thanked both Alison and Rob for their time.

***Alison Griffin and Rob Walters left the meeting***

Cllr Ayles was then invited to address Council. He raised three matters. The Council confirmed that they would look into the request for basketball nets at Bonchurch Park; confirmed that a war memorial existed within St Clements church in addition to the Memorial Hall at Eastwood and confirmed that the Council gave a grant to the Folk Festival annually.

***Cllr Ayles left the meeting***

Cllr C Mulroney as a Southend Borough Councillor also advised the Council that the Borough were considering a Public Spaces Protection Order and if enforced the Town Council would need to monitor it with regard to any knock on effect in Leigh.

70. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS (for which written notice has been received)

There were none

71. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

<b>COMMITTEES</b>
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72. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Cllr Gilson was appointed to the Planning, Highways & Licensing Committee following a nomination (Proposed Cllr Gilson and Seconded Cllr Fr. Hillman)

73. PLANNING COMMITTEE PROCESS

The Council **NOTED** the process reminder

74. COMMITTEES

To receive the Minutes of Committees for 2018/19 and report 2705/I&E

a) Planning Committee – In the absence of the Chairman & Vice Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Duprey presented the minutes of [25<sup>th</sup> September](#), [9<sup>th</sup> October](#), [23<sup>rd</sup> October](#) and [13<sup>th</sup> November 2018](#)

**NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

b) Community Facilities Committee – Cllr C Mulroney presented the minutes of [2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018](#)

**NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL –**

c) Environment & Leisure – Cllr Morgan presented the minutes of [16<sup>th</sup> October 2018](#)

**NO RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

d) Staffing Committee – Cllr Duprey as Vice Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of [23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL –**

**Minute 12** – Administrative Apprentice - **RESOLVED** the recruitment of a full-time administrative apprentice for a year.

e) Policy & Resources – Cllr D Mulroney presented the minutes of [6<sup>th</sup> November 2018](#)

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL –**

- **Minute 42** – Community Infrastructure Levy – Concerns had been raised by a local Borough Councillor although it transpired that he was unaware that the project had been instigated by Southend Borough Council (SBC). One member raised concerns surrounding the stability of the site but it was highlighted to Council that the project was subject to a survey by SBC and the donation by Leigh Town Council to the project was not from any precept. Other members spoke of positive aspects to supporting the project.

**RESOLVED** to allocate £15,000 of CIL receipts to the project and work in partnership with Southend Borough Council to restore the viewing platform.

- **Minute 47** – Committee Draft Budgets 2019/20 - **RESOLVED**
- **Minute 49** – P&R and Council Draft Budget 2019/20 – **RESOLVED** in principal all budgets subject to confirmation from Southend Borough Council of the Tax Base for 2019/20.
- **Minute 52** - To Approve Expenditure - **RESOLVED**

<b>DECISION ITEMS</b>
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75. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Council **RESOLVED** that the volunteer would have to live or volunteer in the Leigh Town Council area and be nominated by someone. The Town Clerk will promote this with a deadline date so Council can consider nominations in January.

76. NEW ADMINISTRATION PLANNING

The Council **RESOLVED** to hold an open evening which the Town Clerk will organise. It was felt that an information pack for those considering standing for Council would be useful.

77. STRAND WHARF LEASE

The Council **RESOLVED** the execution of the lease by the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 27.

78. STRATEGIC PLAN AND COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The Council **RESOLVED** the new Council and Committee structure with effect from May 2019 with the Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation as presented. A review of the new structure is to take place in November 2019.

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations are to be reviewed and amended ready for adoption by Council at its annual meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

The Town Clerk is to work with Cllr Rosier in preparing the draft Strategic Plan and Council Action Plan for review in January 2019

**FOR NOTING**

79. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) – 150 POINTS OF LIGHT

Council were pleased to **NOTE** the report

80. INTERNAL AUDIT

The Council **NOTED** the report.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

81. 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 3(d) other special reason

82. REQUEST TO COUNCIL

The Council **RESOLVED** to have a board in recognition of Town Clerks who serve the Council.

***The meeting closed at 9.16 pm***

**REPORT ON PRE-MEETING PRESENTATION  
BY ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND ANGLIAN WATER**

The Senior Environment Officer presented an information sheet to Councillors (as below) and spoke further on each element. It was highlighted that at the beginning of July there seems to be a spike in the samples taken which has had a significant effect on the rating. It would appear that this might be linked to a one off event and more analysis needs to be undertaken. Additionally, DNA sampling of the bacteria within the samples is hoped to take place to find out where exactly the bacteria is coming from:



## Leigh Bell Wharf Bathing Water

November 2018

### Bathing beaches

The European Union Bathing Water Directive creates Europe wide standards for bathing water quality. These are protected areas which are designated because they receive a 'large number of bathers proportionate to their size'.

There are 8 designated beaches in the Southend area including Leigh Bell Wharf.

### Classifications:



We collect bathing water samples throughout the summer. These are used to give the beach a classification, using on a 4 year rolling time frame.

Classifications are based on bacteria levels in the water.

### Bathing classification of Leigh Bell Wharf:



**2018 classification: Poor**

The deterioration in classification at Leigh Bell Wharf is disappointing. It means that next bathing season (2019) an 'advice against bathing' symbol will need to be present on signs at the beach, and online, so people can make an informed choice on whether to go into the water.

Although sample results in 2018 were not particularly bad, 2015, 2016 and 2017 did have some high bacteria levels on occasions. 2014 had some comparatively good results, however

the data no longer falls within the 4 year time frame which forms the classification.



### Will the beach be closed?

The beach will remain open for people to enjoy and we are committed to improving water quality.

These classifications help provide advice and inform the public on local water quality - they do not mean swimming is prohibited.

Action plans are being produced in partnership with Southend Council and Anglian Water with the aim of improving water quality at Leigh Bell Wharf to at least 'Sufficient' next year when the classifications are refreshed.

### What can cause problems in bathing waters?

The bacteria that is tested for is found in faecal matter, which can be harmful to us.

Possible sources of these bacteria include:

- Sewage from storm outfalls
- Mis-connected properties/businesses
- Dog poo on the beach
- Litter left on the beach leading to more sea bird droppings
- Tipping dirty water down rain drains which run out to sea
- Sediment and seaweed, as these can harbour the bacteria for long periods of time



### What are we doing to improve the bathing water quality?

Throughout the summer the Southend Bathing Water Steering Group, which consists of Southend Borough Council, Anglian Water and The Environment Agency, have been monitoring and investigating possible sources of pollution which could be causing the bathing water issues.

- 8 misconnected properties were identified and rectified.
- Surface water outfalls were monitored weekly
- Local businesses along the sea front were visited to check their drainage and advise them on pollution prevention measures
- "Yellow fish" campaign was launched to remind people to not pour anything other than clean water down surface water drains.



### What are we planning to do?

We will be investigating the causes of this pollution. We will test the DNA of the bacteria found in the water samples to find out if the source is human or from animals such as dogs or sea birds. This will enable us to focus our efforts in identifying the source of the bacteria.

We will also:

- increase our focus on misconnections
- visit local businesses to ensure they are not polluting
- Work with the highways department to cleanse the surface water sewer network to reduce the build-up of potentially polluting sediments

**Everyone has a part to play in protecting and improving our great bathing waters. If we continue to work together to reduce pollution, we can improve water quality and ensure our bathing waters and coastal communities continue to thrive.**

### Where can you find out more?

- **Bathing Water Explorer:**  
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/>  
Zoom and click on Leigh Bell Wharf
- **Bathing water Classifications:**  
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/help-understanding-data.html>
- **Southend Council website:**  
<http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200307/beaches>
- **Anglian Water beach aware website:**  
<http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/our-commitment/performance/bathing-water/>

Anglian Water also highlighted that the poor results are not always linked to rainfall. They have found and corrected some mis-connections in the Leigh area and will be targeting this over winter. They will also be looking at the 2 outfall pipes adjacent to Bell Wharf. Annual reviews of assets are undertaken outside the bathing water season along with year round monitoring and dye monitoring. They also plan to work with Southend Borough Council Highways with regard to jet washing road gulleys as this produced good results in Thanet. Raising awareness is important and therefore the Council invited both the Environmental Agency and Anglian Water to return at the Annual Town Meeting to make a short presentation to residents.