



COUNCIL MEETING

Members are summoned to attend a Meeting
of the Town Council

to be held at

Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ

on Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 7.30pm

to transact the business shown in the agenda.

Mark Squire
Town Clerk
16 April 2024

Councillor M Stubbings (Town Mayor)
Councillor K Valentine (Deputy Town Mayor)

Cllr P Abraham
Cllr C Davies
Cllr W Kauffman
Cllr M Owen
Cllr J Riley

Cllr P Beales
Cllr T Downing
Cllr N MacKinnon
Cllr C.C. Pond
Cllr G Wiskin

Cllr R Brookes
Cllr S Fontenelle
Cllr S Murphy
Cllr C P Pond
Cllr D Wixley

Cllr B Cohen
Cllr L House
Cllr S Murray
Cllr K Rainbow

Note to Councillors:
If you are unable to attend the meeting,
please email your apologies to the office contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies**
To RECEIVE any apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
For Councillors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any items on the Agenda.
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**
To CONFIRM the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2024.
- 4 Public Representations**
To hear any representations from members of the public who have registered a request to address the Committee in accordance with no 5, Appendix C, of the Standing Orders.
- 5 Questions Without Discussion**
To answer any questions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 4.
- 6 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report**
To report (for discussion only) on any further significant information / matters that may be of interest to Committee members.
- 7 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements**
The Town Mayor will report on any events he has attended to represent the Town Council, including the following:
 - Annual Town Meeting
 - National Jazz Archive – Performance at Loughton Baptist Church
 - Youth Makes Music – Rotary Club of Roding held at New Hall, Chigwell School
 - Visit and tour of New City College
 - Evening Performance of The Caucasian Chalk Circle, New City College
- 8 Reports from Committees**
 - 8.1 Recreation Committee**
Held on 27 February 2024.
 - 8.2 Planning and Licensing Committee**
Held on 19 February, 4 and 18 March and 2 and 15 April 2024.
 - 8.3 Environment & Heritage Committee**
Held on 26 March 2024.
 - 8.4 Resources and General Services Committee**
Held on 10 April 2024.
- 9 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**
 - 9.1 To receive brief reports from representatives on outside organisations**
Council representatives on outside organisations are requested to make a written report, which is attached to the Agenda, on meetings which they have attended. A verbal report can be made on meetings attended within ten days of the Council meeting.

- I. The Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership – Cllr Rose Brookes – 14 March 2024 - See page 3.
- II. Roding Valley Meadows Meeting – Cllr Neil MacKinnon - 27 March 2024 – See page 4.

10 Recording of Town Council meetings

To discuss 'In-house' recording of Council and Committee meetings,(including principles, parameters, safeguards and etiquette).

To review with a recommendation to be made to the next elected Town Council.

11 Weekly Market

The Town Clerk will provide an oral update.

**Mark Squire
Town Clerk
16 April 2024**

Agenda Item 9
Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership
14 March 2024

This meeting was totally devoted to the proposed repairs to the roof and was chaired by Councillor Stephen Murray. Ian Mudge, the head of Portfolio management for Qualis Commercial, and Shane Carroll, the Interim Project Manager for the Broadway works, were invited to address traders. A packed hall heard a presentation, followed by a Question-and-Answer session. Unfortunately, owing to problems on the M.25. Shane was very late arriving.

Most of the traders who attended are independent traders, who have been very much affected by Covid and the competition from the Epping Forest retail park just down the road. Many took out bounce back loans which they are in the process of paying back. Several of the shopkeepers complained of damage to their shop interiors caused by leaks through old roofs and poor maintenance by the Council over the years.

The Council also wants to do other maintenance and repair work to improve heat retentions. The leaseholders who own their own flats are also expected to make a contribution. The total cost is expected to be about six million. EFDC will make a contribution but much of the cost will be recharged to the traders and leaseholders. The cost can be repaid to the Council over several years, but the interest will be significantly higher the longer the loan. The work is going out to tender at the moment but is expected to start in the Autumn and finish in 2026 therefore trade over two Christmases would be affected. A suggestion was made that a goodwill gesture to encourage residents to still support the Broadway would be to offer free parking for at least ninety minutes in Burton Road or Vere Road. A certain number of spaces in one of the car parks would need to be taken up with the constructor's equipment.

Many of the attendees felt that the Council should have set up a "sinking fund" years ago, anticipating that eventually the roof would need to be replaced. A request was made that a couple of the members of the Cabinet be invited along to the L.B.T.C.P. to speak to traders. Councillor Murray explained that there were all out elections all over Epping Forest this May and a new Cabinet would be take a while to be appointed. Many shopkeepers are in the process of renegotiating their leases; several complained that they were only being offered six years, not twelve years. Rents are also rising substantially; most rents were not raised during COVID. The traders were advised to take legal advice as this not the role of the Partnership.

Many queries were raised by those present, and a copy of the minutes is available on request from myself.

As this is the last report, I shall write for the Town Council I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the LTC staff and Councillors for their generous contributions and help with the Christmas events whilst I have been the temporary chair of the Partnership. Special thanks to Councillor Les House, and retiring Councillor Kevin Rainbow, who have been a wonderful presence on the Broadway and taken a serious interest in their ward. PLEASE continue to take an interest in Loughton's second shopping area and support the traders.

Councillor Rose Brookes
(Interim Chair of the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership)

Agenda Item 9
Reports from Members on Outside Organisations - continued

Roding Valley Meadows Meeting
27 March 2024

On the 27 March I attended the Roding Valley Meadows meeting in place of David Wixley who was unable to be there due to a clash with an EFDC planning meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Iona Kay, the Roding Valley Meadows Ranger with minutes taken by Ruth Angrave, also of Essex Wildlife Trust, and representatives of Buckhurst Hill Parish Council and various other groups who use the nature reserve were also present.

Iona gave an update on the nature reserve which included discussing the following:

- a new path which is due to be completed in September 2024 which should provide easier access to the area for people with mobility issues.
- reports were received on various ongoing issues they are facing such as manhole covers being removed but not stolen which presents a significant risk for anyone not watching where they are walking, and the ever-present issue of dog poo bags not being placed in the bins provided.
- new signage is due to be installed throughout the reserve when finances allow this although the Intone Stone has been replaced following the previous sign's destruction.
- EWT receive regular requests for memorial benches to be placed on the reserve, but they would prefer the adoption of useful items such as bird and bat boxes.
- there will be no early spring cattle graze this year due to the wet weather and so it is likely the earliest this will now happen is in the summer after the first cut.
- EWT will offer 7 different walks and tours over the coming year, these include a Dawn Chorus walk (at 5am!), bat walks, butterfly walks, and pond dipping for children. The details of these are all available on the EFDC website.
- But it was suggested by me and Jane Forker-Clark of BHPC, that nature reserve events could be promoted in our respective town magazines as well as some articles with information on the reserve in general.
- EWT have been in consultation with various bodies regarding the impact of the proposed SANG. Although this wouldn't actually be on the meadows, they are expecting a influx of visitors, which seemed optimistic to me, and are hoping to obtain additional funds to help mitigate this.
- The team are setting aside specific areas so visitors can access the river from the meadows to swim and paddle, but it was suggested by the rangers that due to pollution and the unpredictable water levels, that this might not be a great idea.

The next meeting is planned for 7pm on 25 September.