



COUNCIL MEETING

Members are summoned to attend a Meeting

of the Town Council to be held at 7.30pm on

Wednesday 16 October 2024

**At Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber,
1 Buckingham Court, Loughton IG10 2QZ**

to transact the business as shown in the agenda.

**Mark Squire
Town Clerk**

9 October 2024

**Councillor K Valentine (Town Mayor)
Councillor L House (Deputy Town Mayor)**

Cllr I Allgood
Cllr S Fontenelle
Cllr N MacKinnon
Cllr J Obaseki
Cllr M Stubbings

Cllr R Brookes
Cllr A Fricker
Cllr R Minhas
Cllr M Owen
Cllr R Sylvan

Cllr C Davies
Cllr S Harriman
Cllr S Murphy
Cllr C Pond
Cllr C Ubah

Cllr W Dodd
Cllr K-W Lee
Cllr S Murray
Cllr J Riley
Cllr D Wixley

Note to Councillors:

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

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
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 Council meeting held on 17 July 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 Town Council members.
- 7 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements**
The Town Mayor will report on any events she has attended to represent the Town Council. See attached report on page 3.
- 8 Reports from Committees**
 - 8.1 Planning and Licensing**
Held on 29 July, 19 August, 2, 16 and 30 September 2024.
 - 8.2 Recreation**
Held on 3 September 2024.
 - 8.3 Environment and Heritage**
Held on 18 September 2024.
 - 8.4 Resources and General Services**
Held on 2 October 2024.
- 9 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**
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.
 1. Roding Valley Meadows Consultative Group meeting held on 25 September 2024 – Cllr D Wixley (see pages 4 – 5)
 2. Essex Association of Local Councils 80th AGM & Conference held in Colchester on 26 September 2024 – Cllr D Wixley (see pages 6 – 8).

10 Appointment of Loughton Town Council (LTC) members on outside bodies

At the Extraordinary Council meeting of 29 May 2024, Cllr Brookes name was put forward as one of the LTC representatives on the Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership (LBTCP). She was not consulted about this beforehand and had always been clear with others that if she was elected into a Buckhurst Hill ward; she would step down as chair and completely withdraw. She cannot do justice to her many Buckhurst Hill constituents if she continued to be active in the Partnership.

Members to review and potentially appoint another Councillor. Also to be mindful that a member should not be put forward for a role if he/she is absent from the meeting and has not given prior consent.

11 Potential redevelopment of the Changing Rooms on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground (RVRG)

Epping Forest District Council (EFDC), Councillor Chidi Nweke, met for a preliminary site meeting with Cllr Wixley, the Town Clerk and Services Manager with a view to transforming the existing derelict changing room buildings to house a 'Men's Shed' for the benefit of the local community.

A further oral update will be provided at the meeting and will be further progressed via the Recreation Committee.

To receive and note

12 Exclusion of the Press and Public

This Committee is asked to RESOLVE to exclude the press and public from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as it contains confidential information relating to contractual matters.

13 Local Charity in Liquidation

Notification has now been received from Kirks, the appointed liquidator for the Red Balloon Foundation. See attached report and attachments pages 10 – 16. The Town Clerk will provide a further update.

To receive and note.

**Mark Squire
Town Clerk
9 October 2024**

Agenda item 7
Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

20 July	National Jazz Archive – Loughton Methodist Church 2.30pm	LH
7 Sept	Loughton Horticultural Show and Town Mayor's Best Allotment Competition Presentation	KV
14 Sept	National Jazz Archive – De Fuego Where Gypsy Meets Jazz	KV
20 Sept	Haslers Foundation Charity Breakfast 11am – 12.30pm	LH
21 Sept	Loughton Day	KV

Agenda Item 9

Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Roding Valley Meadows Consultative Group meeting held on 25 September 2024.

There were 8 attendees at the meeting. Iona Kay (Reserve Ranger) chaired the meeting with three of her colleagues present, plus four people, including myself, representing interest groups.

I raised an issue which appeared in the previous minutes which referred to a meeting between the Essex Wildlife Trust and EFDC and the latter's proposal, as part of its Local Plan 2011-2033, to designate the RV Rec. as a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace). The purpose of the SANG is to attract visitors away from Epping Forest to other areas and thus reduce harm to the forest caused by the pressure of high numbers of visitors. However, it seems that the EWT has concerns about the displacement of visitors from the forest, to the RV Rec. and potentially to the Nature Reserve and the harm that that could cause.

Some members may recall the site meeting between EFDC and LTC that took place in June 2022 regarding the SANG proposals and that nothing else has been heard since and likewise there is no further news regarding the meeting between the EWT and EFDC.

Hay cut:

The annual hay cut has not been a success as the normal practice of a contractor cutting the hay and removing it without charge, but benefitting from its sale, had broken down this year. It had been cut down but not removed thus leaving the problem of wet hay, which was no longer fit for animal feed, having to be disposed of. Next year there are plans to deal with hay cutting "in house".

I asked about the risk of Ragwort, which is poisonous to horses and cattle, becoming mixed-in with the hay. I was advised that the Ragwort is hand pulled by volunteers but is left at the field margins as it is a source of food for the Cinnabar moth. A member of the group commented that Ragwort seeds are viable for up to 30 years.

Dog litterbins:

Emptied twice a week by EFDC.

Benches:

No more have been installed.

Noticeboards:

No major damage to report. The "Intone" noticeboard has been replaced. (This refers to a Signal Unit that was based at the RAF Barrage Balloon Site during the Second World War).

Boardwalks:

Several to be installed in muddy areas.

Cattle Grazing:

This had not occurred this year because of the very wet Spring and later the outbreak of Blue Tongue disease, which is spread by midges which are prevalent near water and in this case the River Roding. Flooding is another problem and while the cattle could be moved to higher ground the quality of grazing is less favourable, adversely affecting milk yields and meat production.

Agenda Item 9

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Roding Valley Meadows Consultative Group meeting held on 25 September 2024

/ Continued ...

Events:

Mixed results as no one enrolled for a Butterfly event and a Pond Dipping session had to be cancelled because of a growth of algae. The Dawn Chorus Walk attracted only four people, but the Bat Walk had twenty-two participants.

Dog Trust events:

These may not continue due to Dogs Trust staff changes.

Andrew's Pond:

There are plans for restoration work to be carried out on this overgrown pond.

The official minutes of the meeting will be available in due course.

Date of next meeting 26th March 2025.

David Wixley

Agenda Item 9

Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Essex Association of Local Councils 80th AGM & Conference held in Colchester on Thursday 26 September 2024

Cllr C Davies and myself attended.

Conference – Presentations:

Roger Hirst - PFCC (Police Fire and Crime Commissioner).

He mentioned that he had had a meeting with the new Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, reporting that the recruitment of extra police officers in the last seven years was in line with Government policy as was focussing on crime against women and girls and knife crime. An emphasis on Neighbourhood Policing in recent years had reduced Anti-Social Behaviour and Fire and Safety inspections had increased.

Andy Prophet - Deputy Chief Constable.

He reported that he was the “national lead” for tackling ASB and that Community Policing had an important role in reducing ASB. Another priority was dealing with County Lines. While domestic and rural crime had reduced the Rural Engagement Team were working to reduce the theft of agricultural vehicles. Shop lifting amounted to half of all business crime.

There was a target to reduce road accident deaths to zero and vehicle manufacturers had a role to play in this and he would be meeting them.

Another aim was to get a working smoke alarm in every home.

Face recognition technology and partnership working were useful in policing and had helped in locating a missing German national whose family were happy to see him repatriated back home to Germany.

Moira Bruin – Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

MB gave details on the number and type of Fire Stations Essex which in total numbered about 50.

Five people had died in Essex in the last year. Older people were particularly vulnerable to fire risk most of which started in the kitchen.

Road traffic deaths were another concern and road accidents had been increasing. The long Essex coastline meant that a number of accidental deaths had occurred in the sea.

MB also referred to the Grenfell Enquiry and its list of 46 recommendations. She said that Essex had 150 high rise buildings (later defined as 18 stories or above).

There is to be a “Community Risk Management Plan” and consultation on this will be held shortly.

After these presentations there was a very limited Q&A session but I’m pleased to report that both Carol and myself managed to get selected to ask questions.

Carol asked what plans there were to tackle fires in Epping Forest which could spread to nearby properties.

My question related to a topic I receive lots of complaints about but which doesn’t seem to be a police priority i.e. obstructive parking on pavements.

Following my question RH and AP both spoke to me later with RH offering to visit LTC (Mark is planning to invite him to our Council meeting on 26.2.25.)

AP supplied me with his email address so that I can give him details of the parking problem.

Other presentations:

Cllr Mark Durham – ECC Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & The Arts.

His report emphasised the economic importance of visitors coming to Essex with an estimated value of £3.3 bn and supporting 62,000 jobs.

Agenda Item 9

Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Essex Association of Local Councils 80th AGM & Conference held in Colchester on Thursday 26 September 2024 / Continued ...

The Essex Record Office had records dating back 1,000 years as well as 8 miles of shelving on which to store documents.

25,000 people are employed in the creative industries across Greater Essex and the County had a long history as a location for filming e.g., the James Bond film “Goldfinger” and more recently “Mr. Bates v the Post Office”, the court scene having been filmed in the Shire Hall, Chelmsford.

Cllr Beverley Egan – Chair of the Caring Communities Commission

This is a new initiative with the aim of tackling issues arising from an increasing population (including those with disabilities) and the 65+ age group.

More information can be found on the ECC website.

Charlotte Eisenhart – Head of Member Services at NALC (National Association of Local Councils)

NALC has a membership of 43 county associations covering 10,000 town and parish councils, 100,000 councillors and 3,500 clerks represented by the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks).

NALC engages with the Government and political parties.

CE regretted the increase in abuse that councillors were receiving and supported civility and respect in public life.

A new NALC website is to be launched on 7.10.24.

There then followed presentations from three of the exhibitors:

Worknest - (HR advice service).

Cloudy IT – (information on how AI can help local councils).

Aubergine – (Advice on ensuring that websites are compliant with new regulations i.e. WCAG2.2AA).

AGM 2024.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were agreed subject to me pointing out that LTC had been omitted from the attendance list. Another Council advised that it had also been omitted from the list.

There were two notable retirements:

Cllr John Jowers as EALC President, who in a few months' time would also be retiring as a councillor after 45 years of service.

Mr Mick Page, who had served for 8 years as a Vice President.

Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst, Lord Lieutenant of Essex, was elected as the new President for a term of 4 years.

Reports Submitted and approved:

Chairman, Cllr Peter Davey – Annual report

Chair of Finance, Cllr Stephanie Gill – Accounts of the Association for 2023-24.

Reports included thanks to ECC for grants received.

Agreed – an increase in affiliation fees and the appointment of the external auditor.

Agenda Item 9

Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Essex Association of Local Councils 80th AGM & Conference held in Colchester on Thursday 26 September 2024 / Continued ...

C.E.O. Report by Charlene Slade (who was unable to attend) was presented by Cllr Mike Eldred who also reported that the EALC had received NALC's "Star Council Association of the Year" award.

Date of next year's AGM is Thursday 25th September 2025.

Annual Award Presentations then followed:

Foundation awards: Received by 4 councils.

Gold Award: Saffron Walden T.C.

Buckingham Palace: Cllr John Archer - Manuden P.C.

Young Councillor: Cllr Adam Gladwin - Elmstead P.C.

Councillor: Cllr Harry Stone – West Bergholt P.C.

The inaugural award of: Letchwood Clerk of the Year (In memory of Mike Letch 07.09.57 – 12.02.24.)

Claire Waters – Saffron Walden T.C.

Council of the Year: - Saffron Walden T.C.

Conclusion of the day's proceedings.

David Wixley

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