



COUNCIL MEETING

Members are summoned to attend a Meeting

of the Town Council to be held at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 22 April 2025

**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**

15 April 2025

**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 26 February 2025.
- 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.

The Town Clerk will highlight some administration issues.
- 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 Weekly Sunday Market**
The Town Clerk has applied for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the closure of the lay by in Loughton High Street, to facilitate the loading and unloading of vans on the Sunday market days. Any further updates will be provided at the meeting.

To receive and note
- 9 Government Survey on the proposed Devolution of Greater Essex - Min 81 refers**
The Town Clerk has completed the survey on behalf of the Town Council. An oral update will be provided at the meeting.

To receive and note
- 10 Reports from Committees**
 - 10.1 Planning and Licensing**
Held on 3, 17 and 31 March, and 14 April 2025.
 - 10.2 Recreation**
Held on 11 March 2025.
 - 10.3 Environment & Heritage**
Held on 26 March 2025.

10.4 Resources and General Services

Held on 9 April 2025.

Members to discuss specifically, two items raised under minute R7GS minute 101.3 Recommendations from the Strategy & Staff Group (SSG) meeting of 4 April 2025. The Town Clerk will provide further background information. Members to recommend a way forward.

- Members NOTED the difficulty in resourcing the two major events, namely 'Jessel Green Fun Day' and Loughton Day (especially the former) and AGREED both should continue in the existing format, but that greater support should be sought for the Jessel Green event. This matter would be raised at the next Town Council meeting.
- Members NOTED that there was a case for the Town Council taking over the landlord role, of the area that Loughton Town Council is responsible for on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground (RVRG). This matter would be raised at the next Town Council meeting.

11 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.

- I. "Let's Talk & Fraud Awareness" - Loughton Library, Wednesday 12th March 2025 – Cllr David Wixley – Page 4.
- II. Local Councils' Liaison Committee Meeting, Civic Offices, Epping Thursday 20th March 2025 – Cllr David Wixley – Page 4.
- III. Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting Grange Farm EWT Offices Wednesday 26th March 2025 – Cllr David Wixley – Page 5.
- IV. Tree Wardens' Meeting Civic Offices, Epping Wednesday 2nd April 2025 – Cllr David Wixley – Page 6.

Mark Squire
Town Clerk
15 April 2025

Agenda item 7
Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

- 14 March Opening of the new Newmans Lane Playground
- 21 March Mock Council Meeting with Staples Road Primary School Council
- 26 March YES Partnership Conference attended by Cllr Carol Davies
- 29 March LADS production of "The Ladykillers" by Graham Linehan at Lopping Hall

Agenda Item 11
Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

“Let’s Talk & Fraud Awareness” Loughton Library Wednesday 12th March 2025

This was the first “Let’s Talk” (previously called “Coffee with the Cops”) meeting to be held in Loughton for some time and was combined with a Fraud Awareness stall manned by PCSO Norma Harrison.

I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of PCSO Harrison and our discussion led to the possibility of her having a Fraud Awareness slot at the Oakwood Hill Community Hub.

I have acted as a link between PCSO Harrison and the relevant officers at EFDC. At the time of writing this report communications between PCSO Harrison and District officers are taking place which is encouraging and especially so as I have learnt that PCSO Harrison has worked with EFDC before.

David Wixley

Local Councils’ Liaison Committee Meeting, Civic Offices, Epping Thursday 20th March 2025

This meeting was attended by the Town Clerk, Cllr C Davies and myself.

The meeting wasn’t very well attended but I have subsequently learnt that a number of potential attendees were possibly missing because of a clash of engagements on that evening.

At the time of writing this report I have, as Vice Chairman for the meeting, just received a copy of the Draft Minutes of the meeting for me to comment on. I only have a few minor comments to make, and I would expect the Draft Minutes to appear on the EFDC website shortly after the 23.4.25.

The Draft Minutes are very detailed and contain a lot of information particularly on Planning matters e.g. a revised NPPF, planning training courses and the possibility that councillors on Planning Committees may have to be tested on their planning knowledge.

I will end my report here but strongly recommend members to first read the agenda for the LCLC meeting on the EFDC website in order to see the questions raised by the by the Local Councils under item 4 of the agenda and then the Draft Minutes to read the answers to those questions. A recording of the meeting can be watched via the EFDC website.

Date of the next meeting Thursday 18TH September 2025.

David Wixley

Agenda Item 11
Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve Consultative Committee Meeting Grange Farm EWT Offices Wednesday 26th March 2025

This meeting was attended by Iona Kay (Reserve Ranger), Louise Dennis, from the Essex Wildlife Trust and Tom Simon from EFDC's Countrycare team with three other attendees representing horse riding and dog walking groups, and myself.

Among the topics covered was the newly constructed all access path which is on the right of the green lane and just before the M11 bridge, when approached from the Loughton side. It links to the concrete banjo and thus to other routes, many dating from the site's history as a RAF Barrage Balloon station during the Second World War.

An update on visitor infrastructure was provided as well as cattle (Long Horns) grazing and a high-tech system whereby the location of cattle can be found via a mobile phone.

No talks, with EFDC, had taken place regarding the impact on the Reserve that could result from EFDC's Local Plan designating the Roding Valley Recreation Ground as a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) in order to protect the visitor pressure impact on Epping Forest.

Iona Kay reported that discussions would be taking place with groups who use the Reserve for their activities, in order to check on things like risk assessments and public liability cover, and mentioned the Loughton Athletic Club and the North East London RSPB group as two organisations which would be contacted.

Louise Dennis gave an interesting presentation on the damaging consequences that the predatory non-native American Mink is having on native wildlife and in particular the Water Vole.

She referred to the Waterlife Recovery Trust (www.waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk) and its project to eradicate the American Mink and demonstrated how mink can be trapped and dispatched. The traps are designed to send a text or an email when they are triggered. Volunteers are sought to assist with this work.

An interesting revelation was that funding for the eradication project is provided from money coming from the Lower Thames Crossing project as its construction is likely to destroy Water Vole habitats.

If anyone wants more information I can provide details.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 17th September 2025.

David Wixley

Agenda Item 11
Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Tree Wardens' Meeting Civic Offices, Epping Wednesday 2nd April 2025

This meeting was attended by Countrycare/Tree Officers Tom Simon, Lisa Hyde and Robin Hellier and 9 Tree Wardens including Cllr Fricker, myself and a non-LTC appointed TW from Loughton.

Among the topics covered:

50 Favourite Trees project – This initiative was undertaken several years ago, and a new 50 Favourite trees selection is to be launched. TW's were asked to check on the health of trees from the original project which haven't yet been surveyed. A list of these trees was provided.

A presentation included slides showing all the Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife sites that the Countrycare Team has responsibility for and included LTC's Willingale Road Nature Reserve.

I asked about street trees as responsibility for them has been taken back from EFDC and returned to ECC. The current situation is confusing, and I will need to make further enquiries.

RH gave details of a recent prosecution case resulting from the illegal felling of a tree in Waltham Abbey.

He also referred to a body called the Ancient Tree Forum and a local event in Epping Forest that they are holding on Saturday 26th April 2025. When I checked the ATF website the event was fully booked but I will check for future events.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 15th July 2025.

David Wixley