



COUNCIL MEETING

Members are summoned to attend a Meeting

of the Town Council to be held at **7.45pm** on

Wednesday 12 December 2018

**at Loughton Library & Town Hall
Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1HD**

to transact the business as shown in the agenda.

**Enid K Walsh
Town Clerk**

6 December 2018

**Councillor S Murray (Town Mayor)
Councillor S Murphy (Deputy Town Mayor)**

P Abraham
T Cochrane
T Downing
J Mahoney
C C Pond

J Angold-Stephens
B Cohen
J Jennings
A Omer
C P Pond

P Beales
M Dalton
J Jogia
T Owen
M Stubbings

R Brookes
C Davies
K Latchford
S Pewsey
D Wixley

Note to Councillors:
If you are unable to attend the meeting,
please phone your apologies
to the office on 020 8508 4200

This meeting will be preceded at 7.45pm by the presentation of the awards to the winners of the 2018 Christmas card competition.

A display of the winning entries and a selection of the other cards will be on view in the Library.

AGENDA

A minute's silence will be held at the beginning of the meeting in memory of **former councillor Montague William Juniper (Monty)** who passed away on 14 October 2018.

Members are invited to pay tribute to his service to the community.

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 meeting held on 17 October 2018.

3.1 Attendance records

The Council is asked to CONFIRM that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 may be amended to record Cllr Jogia's presence at the meeting.

4 Public Representations

To hear any representations from members of the public who have registered a request to address the Council in accordance with Standing Order no 1(h).

5 Questions Without Discussion

To answer any questions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order no 8.

6 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

The Town Mayor will report on any events he has attended to represent the Town Council.

7 Matters for Report

To report any further significant information on matters which have been previously discussed, in addition to those which may already be included on the Agenda.

7.1 Local Plan - Independent Examination

The hearing sessions of the Examination of the Epping Forest Local Plan (2011 – 2033) will commence at 10am on 12 February 2019 in the Civic Offices in Epping.

The Council is asked to consider and confirm whether it wishes to engage professional assistance in this regard.

7.2 Policing – Min no 187.1

At its meeting on 7 November 2018 the Recreation Committee discussed the various options available and the appropriate response to be made to the public's

concerns about increasing crime levels and the lack of visible policing (Min no RC106).

Members agreed that it was important to consider the impact of the new police officers already promised for this District and the effectiveness of the additional officers currently funded directly by Epping Forest District Council before reaching any conclusion.

The Council is asked to support the proposals of the Committee to:

- i. include a £10,000 community safety budget provision to give a flexibility of solution; and
- ii. to investigate whether the Neighbourhood Action Panels could be reconvened to ensure a faster response to local problems.

7.3 Council Representatives on Outside Organisations

The Council is asked to appoint a representative to the Lopping Endowment following the resignation of Cllr Pewsey from this role.

8 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

8.1 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 that they have attended. A verbal report can be made on meetings attended within ten days of the Council meeting.

- i) Larger Local Council Forum – 25 October 2018 – Cllr Wixley and the Town Clerk
- ii) Broadway Town Centre Partnership – 8 November 2018 – Cllr Latchford
- iii) Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex Conference – 20 November 2018 – Cllr Wixley

* See pages 4 – 7 for the reports.

9 Reports from Committees

9.1 Planning and Licensing

Held on 15 and 29 October, 12 and 26 November 2018.

9.2 Recreation

Held on 7 November 2018.

9.3 Environment and Heritage

Held on 14 November 2018.

9.4 Resources and General Services

Held on 5 December 2018.

9.4.1 Parish Basic Allowance – Min no RG149

The Council is asked to consider the RECOMMENDATION of the Resources and General Services Committee, that the level of the Parish Basic Allowance for 2019/20, which has stood at £108 since April 2009, is raised to £120 per annum.

10 Appointment of Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Following the Town Mayor's announcement made at the meeting on 17 October 2018, Min no 186.2.1, the Council is asked to RESOLVE that Mr Mark Squire be appointed Town Clerk with effect from 1 February 2019, to act as the Proper Officer of the Council and Responsible Financial Officer under the terms and conditions previously agreed by the Council.

11 Essex Libraries

Essex County Council is undertaking a major consultation on the future strategy for the county's libraries. Launched on 29 November 2018, this will last 12 weeks through to 20 February 2019. See <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation> for more information and to fill in the consultation questionnaire.

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide library services but with falling demand and limited resources it reports that it cannot continue to operate at the current level. The existing 74 libraries are to be assessed on the following 5 criteria:

Location, Usage; Population; Deprivation; Social isolation.

Essex libraries have also been ranked into 4 tiers

- Tier 1** The 'hub' libraries – this includes Loughton as the main one for this District. However there is a suggestion that its hours may reduce from the current 48 to 40 per week;
- Tier 2** Provision to continue in existing buildings as part of the statutory responsibility but with partnership working required. Epping, Ongar and Waltham Abbey are included here.
- Tier 3** ECC may support the provision in these areas if an alternative location can be provided by a partner organisation(s). There are none in this District.
- Tier 4** Libraries will close unless communities wish to provide something entirely at their expense. Those under threat include Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Debden and North Weald.

The Council is asked how it wishes to prepare a response to this consultation.

12 Local Council Tax Support scheme for 2019/20

The District Council has carried out the annual review of the Local Council Tax Support scheme for working age applicants in its area. As there have been no major changes to other welfare benefits, no amendments are proposed. However, as the Government grant to fund the scheme is reducing year on year, EFDC is seeking the views of local residents on how to cover the shortfall. The options are:

- increasing the Council Tax for all Council Tax payers;
- reducing funding to other Council services; or
- using the Council's savings to make the Local Council Tax Support scheme more generous

The consultation is open until 21 December 2018 and available at <https://tinyurl.com/yb2dukb4>

The Council is asked to prepare a response to this consultation.

**Enid K Walsh
TOWN CLERK
6 December 2018**

Agenda item 8

Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

i) Larger Local Council Forum

The meeting held on 25 October 2018 hosted by South Woodham Ferrers Town Council was attended by Cllr Wixley and the Town Clerk.

- **John Frankland, a local historian**, gave a short presentation on how housing in the town had developed since the advent of the railway in 1889.
- **Joy Darby, Essex Association of Local Councils CEO**, provided an update on the work of the Association. She encouraged members to respond to the consultation on the 5-year strategic review that aimed to ensure the EALC continued to deliver a professional and effective service.

Mrs Darby also informed members about ECC's Highway Devolution Project; over 90 local councils had expressed an interest in this. She issued an invitation to the forthcoming Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's event at Great Dunmow. There was also to be a Crime Prevention Strategy event at Channels, near Chelmsford.

The EALC had been shortlisted for a NALC County Association Project of the Year award for the Local Communities Fund.

- **Peter Davey, Essex NALC representative**, spoke about the concerns raised by many local councils about the standard of this year's external audit and that NALC and the SLCC were working together to address this. He reported that NALC had made a profit in the last financial year after 3 years of losses. NALC was also undertaking a review of their estate and staffing structure to ensure the Association met the needs of parish and town councils.

Mr Davey saw Brexit as an opportunity for local councils to take a lead; with their existing links with the voluntary sector they were ideally placed to bring communities together.

- **Mark Squire, Town Clerk of Witham Town Council**, gave a presentation about the 2018 Puppet Festival. This had cost around £25,000 with £9,000 of sponsorship secured. He asked whether at a cost of 50p per head of population it was offering value for money – it increased footfall in the town with 10-15,000 people attending and the shopping centres reported a ten-fold increase in takings during the event. It offered live entertainment to residents and visitors and 'put Witham on the map'. It could be considered good for the wellbeing of the town. However, with the Town Council's falling reserves, its future was to be reviewed.
- **Adam Pipe head of Essex Roads Policing and Kate Brimley from the Safer Essex Road Partnership** spoke about their work to reduce the KSI figures for the county (killed and seriously injured). There had been 928 in 2017, a fall from the peak of 1,025 in 2016.

The highest at risk categories were elderly pedestrians and car drivers, young drivers, motorcyclists, cyclists under 25, middle aged van drivers, and those distracted by mobile devices in their vehicles. The concern about elderly drivers related to failing eyesight and an inability to judge speed at junctions.

Drug-driving offences had increased but this may be as a result of easier detection methods. Drunk-driving figures remained the same but there were concerns that both

of these offences were the 'tip of the iceberg' with people of the opinion that the lack of policing warranted them taking the risk particularly in rural areas.

9% of road collisions involved drugs and over fifty per cent of those arrested had been involved in previous criminal activity.

Community speed watch was now administered by Essex Fire and Rescue Service. There were 85 active groups in the county and over 15,000 warning letters had been sent out to motorists. Speed enforcement in the county led to 10,500 drivers per month being prosecuted. Static speed cameras were effective but average speed cameras were more so. The Partnership were using evidence to better target their resources. Safety cameras also provided data to identify organised crime groups and pursuing traffic offences helped to disrupt their activities.

Adam Pipe confirmed he was aware of the speeding issue in Oakwood Hill / Valley Hill and responded positively to Cllr Wixley's concerns that this problem was occurring during the late evening and night times.

The police support the use of 'dash cams' and residents are encouraged to upload their footage of incidents at <https://saferessexroads.org/extraeyes/> where more information can be found.

Town Clerk

ii) Broadway Town Centre Partnership

Cllrs Jogia, Murphy, Owen and I attended the meeting held on 8 November 2018. Also present were district councillors and 7 traders and residents.

Once again the main topics for discussion were parking, rent increases and lack of general footfall.

Members will be aware of the impact the Epping Forest Shopping Centre in Langston Road has had on the Broadway and the large rent increase. There are six units empty with rumours of more to follow in the New Year. The Green Owl café has closed after only six months of trading.

Free one hour parking in Burton Road has been promised but has still to be implemented.

The Broadway is still waiting for filling in the rest of the central reservation, along with extra signage at the junction with the Broadway and Torrington Drive to prevent driving the wrong way down a one way street.

The defibrillator has now been installed outside the EFDC housing office.

Next meeting scheduled for January 2019.

Cllr Latchford

iii) Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex Conference

Roger Hirst, PFCC, advised that this was the first annual conference since the Fire & Rescue Service had been combined with the role of Police & Crime Commissioner.

Essex had been the first county in the country to do this, but Staffordshire and North Yorkshire and 5 or 6 other counties would soon be following the lead taken by Essex.

Separate budgets for the police and fire services would be retained. The police precept had been raised by £12 which had contributed towards the recruitment of 150 new police constables, who are currently being trained. They will be ready to be deployed in communities in February 2019. These new recruits will bring the numbers of frontline officers up to 3,000.

Other key speakers:

Ben Julian Harrington – Chief Constable of Essex

"BJ" had been appointed Chief Constable on 4 October 2018 having previously served as Deputy Chief Constable. He reported that there had been "an epidemic of violence" but that injuries from violence were fewer than those in Devon and Cornwall.

Drug gangs and "county lines" were a problem and Essex had 6,000 cocaine and heroin users. Young people were at risk of recruitment into these drug gangs.

The police also had to deal with an average of 9 people a day going missing.

Burglaries are being reduced but cash point crime was increasing in Essex and across a wider region.

Reductions in police funding since 2010 means that support for police services from town and parish councils is welcome. Although police numbers are increasing to 3,000 more officers are still required. Increases in pay and pensions have to be absorbed.

Les Hawkins – Communities Special Lead Officer

Les spoke about the benefits of the Special Police Constables. Essex has 500 which is the second highest county number in the country. He gave details on recruitment, training, costs and deployment should Town and Parish councils be interested in funding Specials to work in their areas. Councils have responsibility for recruitment and initial training is for 15 days spread over 7 weekends but post foundation training can last for 18 months before a recruit can undertake independent patrol duties. A Special is expected to work a minimum of 16 hours per month. Based on an assumption that a Special would work for 500 hours per year costs to a council would be £1,000 (duty allowance £800+mileage allowance £200). In an emergency a Special could be deployed outside of a council's area but the recruiting council would not have to pay for that.

ESP – Employer Support Scheme is a national scheme designed to encourage companies to support their staff to become Special Constables:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/join-the-police/special-constabulary/employer-supported-policing/>

Adam Pipe – Head of Roads Policing reported that there had been 45 fatalities on Essex roads this year. Young drivers (17-25) and older drivers and motor cyclists were high risk groups.

Community Speed Watch groups now number 94 with 821 volunteers and 15,000 warning letters had been issued.

Driving while under the influence of drugs was an increasing problem.

Paul Pemberton – Essex County Fire & Rescue Impairment & Disability Officer spoke on a scheme to target areas of towns identified as being at risk of domestic fires where residents may also need help and advice with other issues. The scheme involved partnership working with other agencies. Two pilot schemes had taken place in Saffron Walden and Thaxted and properties visited had had smoke alarms fitted with referrals made to other agencies where it was felt a resident was vulnerable and in need of support.

Jo Turton – Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer had recently been appointed having previously been the Chief Executive at Lancashire County Council. Her aim was to make Essex a safe place to live, work and travel.

Various initiatives could help achieve those aims including home visits, smoke alarms in every home and special attention to high rise buildings (i.e.4 floors or more). There are training courses available for motor cyclists, and young car enthusiasts have opportunities to use the Ford Driving Simulator. The safer driving initiative was supported by Audi of Chelmsford.

The conference continued with a question and answer session and delegates were encouraged to visit The Essex Fire Museum at Grays and were advised of the Fire Cadet scheme for people aged 13-17 and through it the opportunity to achieve Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

NB: The PowerPoint presentations from the conference have been emailed to members for their information.

Cllr Wixley