

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES of the Meeting held by ZOOM (digital meeting platform)
on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 7.15pm**

Present:

Councillors:	S Murphy (In the Chair)		
	P Abraham	J Angold-Stephens	P Beales (from min No. 356)
	R Brookes	T Cochrane	B Cohen
	M Dalton	T Downing	J Jennings
	J Jogia	K Latchford	J Mahoney (from Min No. 362)
	S Murray	A Omer	T Owen
	S Pewsey	C C Pond	C P Pond
	M Stubbings	D Wixley	

Officers: Mark Squire (Town Clerk)
P Bryce (Assistant Town Clerk – Civic)

Press: David Jackman (Everything Epping Forest)

350 Apologies for Absence

An apology had been received from Cllr C Davies.

351 Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

352 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

353 Public Representations

No Public Representations.

354 Questions Without Discussion

No questions without discussion.

355 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported that Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) is to apply a zero level of Council Tax increase. It was further noted that there could be an increase once the Essex Police contribution is taken into account.

Cllr Beales joined the meeting during the next item.

356 Murray Hall – Use as an NHS Vaccination Centre

The Town Clerk reported that the 'license to occupy' had been signed off with the NHS on 5 February 2021 and the handover now complete. Wording in the document has been inserted to ensure that the hall is returned in the same state as it was left and that a deep clean would also be conducted at the end of the tenure. It is anticipated that the Murray Hall will be operational for Covid-19 vaccinations as from 3 March 2021. The Town Clerk confirmed that the opening hours will be from 8am to 8pm. Discussions had taken place with Transport for London (TfL) to extend the bus service on Borders Lane during this period, but unfortunately TfL are unable to do this, citing that they

have so many similar requests for other NHS vaccination centres, that they do not have the capacity and resources to extend their services any further.

Members stressed that they were pleased able to assist the NHS during this ongoing covid pandemic.

357 Town Council Election - 6 May 2021

The Council NOTED that the Government has confirmed that this election will now take place. EFDC They are seeking an alternative venue to Murray Hall to act as a polling station. In lieu of the cancellation of Town/Parish Council elections last year, the incumbency of the newly elected Council in May will be for a shorter period of three years as opposed to the normal four years.

358 Loughton Town Council (LTC) - Timetable of Meetings 2021/2022

The Council NOTED that EFDC are yet to confirm their timetable of meetings, which means our own schedule of meetings cannot be confirmed as yet. The Town Clerk reported that a draft Timetable of Meetings will be provided, to be ratified at the next Resources & General Services Committee meeting to be held on 7 April 2021.

359 Loughton Library / Loughton Town Hall

The Town Clerk had received no further update on the plans for the Library. Cllr CC Pond suggested that a 'decamp' to one of the vacant larger units in Centric Parade in the High Road could be a possibility if the Town Council is to seek temporary premises if the Loughton Library is demolished.

360 EFDC Extraordinary Council meeting - 8 February 2021

Councillor CC Pond provided the Council with an oral update on the EFDC Extraordinary meeting held on 8 February regarding all aspects relating to the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and potential pollution levies. A majority decision had been taken at this meeting to carry the proposal forward. Arguments to the contrary including a proposal for a one-mile exclusion zone, adjoining the forest for new property development were overruled. The Town Council thanked Cllr Pond for his efforts, expertise and knowledge and agreed to wait and see what the outcome will be from the Local Planning Inspector's advice and pursue best interests for local residents on an ongoing basis.

361 Reports from Committees

361.1 Planning and Licensing

The reports held on 14 December, 4 and 18 January and 1 February 2021 were NOTED.

361.2 Recreation

The report held on 6 January 2021 was NOTED.

361.3 Environment and Heritage

The report held on 26 January 2021 was NOTED.

361.4 Resources and General Services

The report held on 10 February 2021 was NOTED .Following an item referred to this Council meeting, it was AGREED that the Annual Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 March 2021 via Zoom. An Agenda will be prepared accordingly.

Cllr Mahoney joined the meeting during the next item.

362 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

362.1 The following report was NOTED

- (i) Extraordinary meeting - Local Councils Liaison Committee - 28 January 2021 - Cllr Wixley.

The importance of transparency from 'Qualis' to keep local residents informed of their activities and good governance from EFDC in monitoring their functions and operations was stressed.

Signed:

Date: 14 April 2021