

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 7.45pm

Present

Councillors:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----------|
| C C Pond (in the Chair) | | |
| P Beales | T Cochrane | |
| C Davies | T Owen | S Pewsey |
| C P Pond | | |

Also in attendance

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|----------|
| P Abraham | J Angold-Stephens | B Cohen |
| J Jennings | K Latchford | S Murphy |
| S Murray | M Stubbings | D Wixley |

Officers:

Mark Squire (Town Clerk)
Paul Hoy (Services Manager)
Pippa Bryce (Assistant Town Clerk – Civic)

EH259 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

EH260 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Items 5 and 9 as a member of Epping Forest District Council (EFDC). Cllr Pewsey declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5 as he is a life-long member of Epping Forest Heritage Trust. For the sake of good practice, Cllrs Murray and Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 as they were all members of Epping Forest Heritage Trust.

EH261 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

EH262 Public Representations

No Public Representations.

EH263 Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) - Interim Air Pollution Mitigation Strategy

Members noted that EFDC's recent adoption of the new "Air Quality Mitigation Strategy" would enable the District Council to grant/release planning consents which could adversely affect the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) within Epping Forest.

The Chairman provided background information of recent developments and the social media campaign led by local residents to oppose the EFDC proposal for their Clear Air Zone (CAZ) which would not in practice improve the welfare of the forest.

The opposition to the EFDC proposal received a sympathetic hearing from Loughton Town Councillors and it was NOTED that EFDC would be holding an Extraordinary meeting on 8 February 2021 to discuss further.

The majority of councillors who are not members of this Committee opted to leave the meeting at this juncture.

EH264 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

There was nothing to report.

EH265 Allotments

265.1 Willingale Road Allotments

The Town Clerk updated members that current covid guidelines prohibited both plot inspections and plot allocations.

265.2 Roding Road Allotments – Request to re-position gate and fence

The Committee NOTED that an on-site meeting between the Town Clerk, Services Manager, representatives of the Allotments Committee and the local resident concerned will take place shortly and a report will be provided at the next Environment & Heritage (E&H) Committee meeting.

EH266 Loughton Cemetery

The Town Clerk updated members that current covid guidelines prohibited funeral services of more than thirty people and interments of more than six individuals.

266.1 Holm Oak

The Committee NOTED that an on-site meeting between the Town Clerk, Services Manager, EFDC Planning Officer and the local resident concerned would be taking place on Thursday 28 January 2021 and that a report would be provided at the next E&H Committee meeting.

266.2 Contingency plan for back up Gravedigger

The Committee NOTED that as a precautionary measure, a second 'gravedigger' would be sourced as back-up in case our current contractors are indisposed, particularly relevant during the ongoing covid pandemic.

266.3 Extra capacity for cremated remains interments

The Town Clerk provided an oral update and read out advice provided by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM). It would appear that there is indeed scope and options to use parts of the cemetery grounds for further interments and to extend the operational life of the cemetery.

The Town Clerk will evaluate further and provide further ongoing reports as this project progresses.

EH267 Bus Service

The Committee NOTED the trial demand responsive bus service has replaced the current bus route 87.

EH268 Heritage Plaques

The Committee NOTED the report and were informed that the replacement blue plaque to commemorate Loughton's bus garage would be installed at a higher point on the Lidl supermarket wall.

EH269 Christmas Window Competition 2020

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH270 Noticeboards

The Committee NOTED that the repositioning of the EFDC Housing Office noticeboard along Debden Broadway is likely to be placed on the wall of the retail outlet 'Superdrug'.

EH271 Financial Position

Current Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the current financial position together with details of the funds available from earmarked reserves.

EH272 Environmental Issues

None reported.

EH273 Future Work of the Committee

None requested.

Signed:

Date: 23 March 2021