

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD on Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 7.45pm

Present

Councillors: C Pond (in the Chair)
B Cohen S Fontenelle
C P Pond K Valentine
G Wiskin D Wixley (as substitute for P Beales)

Also in attendance

Officers: Mark Squire (Town Clerk)
Paul Hoy (Services Manager)

EH1 Apologies

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Wixley had been nominated as substitute for Cllr Beales for this meeting.

EH2 Leave of absence

Members Agreed to an extended leave of absence from all Town Council and Committee meetings for Cllr P Beales until 30 September 2021 owing to his exceptional prevailing circumstances.

EH3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda items 7.2 and 18 as he is an Epping Forest (EFDC) Councillor for Loughton, Fairmead Ward. Cllr Cohen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8 as she lives close to the Loughton Town Council Cemetery.

EH4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2021 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and was signed by the Chairman.

EH5 Public Representations

None were received.

EH6 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed members to the first sitting of the Committee and reiterated that any matter to be added as an agenda item, or as a Future Works of the Committee, should be submitted to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Town Clerk in advance of the meeting.

EH7 Allotments

7.1 Willingale Road Allotments - Min no EH 280.1

The Committee NOTED the report. The Chairman informed the Committee that the Willingale Road Community Garden Project had now folded, and that the grant-funding previously awarded, as yet unclaimed, would be returned to the Town Council grants budget.

7.2 Allotment Provision for Pyrles Lane

The Committee NOTED the report and the Chairman relayed the history of the site back to 1947. On 6 January 1947, the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries issued a Compulsory Purchase Order on the Pyrles Lane land, specifying it was to be used for the purposes of the Allotments Acts 1908 to 25. To change the use of such land, a Certificate is needed from the Secretary of State. There is no evidence that this has been done and if not, it is most likely unlawful to build on it. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to EFDC to query this aspect

Cllr Wixley reported that he had recently spoken to an official from Qualis, the company who will be overseeing the development of the site, and was assured that a water supply to the adjacent Grow Community Garden would be maintained throughout the development.

EH8 Loughton Cemetery

8.1 Water leak - Min no EH281.1

The Town Clerk reported that progress had been slower than originally anticipated due to unfavourable and unforeseen conditions underground and that further costs were likely to be incurred. The Committee NOTED the report.

8.2 Extra capacity for cremated remains interments - Min no EH 281.2

The Committee NOTED the report and AGREED to defer making decisions on the recommendations contained within it until nearer such a time that the planned area (L) was anticipated to be needed for use.

8.3 Holm Oak - Min no EH 281.3

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH9 Heritage Plaques - Min no EH 282

9.1 Arthur Bacot – 19 York Hill

The Committee NOTED that this plaque has now been installed.

9.2 Sir Leonard Hill & Austin Bradford Hill – Nafferton Rise

The Committee NOTED that this plaque has now been received and that installation is imminent.

9.3 Millican Dalton – 18 Stony Path

The Committee NOTED that the draft plaque has been approved and should be received within the next month.

9.4 Bridge plate Charlie Moules

The Town Clerk brought to the attention of the Committee a recent request from a family member of Mr Moules, regarding signage to the bridge named in his honour at Roding Valley Recreation Ground. It was AGREED that Officers would visit the site and refer this item to the Recreation Committee.

EH10 Noticeboard - Min no EH284

The Services Manager reported that dialogue with Officers of EFDC to gain permission to site a notice board outside the 'Superdrug' store on The Broadway remained ongoing.

EH11 Christmas Lights - Min no EH285

The Committee NOTED the report.

- EH12 Signage to the Forest from Loughton Station / Town Centre - Min no 286**
The Town Clerk reported that he was in discussion with the Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT) and was hopeful that funding for the signage would be secured shortly. It was further reported that some further funding via the Town Councils' Street Furniture budget might be made available for this project. There could also be potential funding from the chairman's Locality Fund which could be allocated for such a project on the North side of the proposed route. The Town Clerk AGREED to forward to members a progress report, just received from the Chairman of the EFHT, detailing that organisations position on this project.
- EH13 Street Signage - Min no EH287**
The Services Manager reported that there had been no further developments on the formulation of the proposed wayleave agreement for 'Dragons Path' by the City of London Corporation. Officers would continue to follow up this matter.
- EH14 Salt Bin Request - Min no 289**
The Committee NOTED the report.
- EH15 Claybury Hospital Roll of Honour | Redbridge and the First World War (redbridgefirstworldwar.org.uk)**
The Committee were shown the Roll of Honour which was recently secured from the Loughton branch of the Royal British Legion, and AGREED with the recommendation to offer it as a gift to the Redbridge Museum when it reopens in 2022.
- EH16 Queen's Platinum Celebrations - Green Canopy**
The Committee NOTED the report and AGREED that this matter should be referred to the Recreation Committee, and that suggestions for suitable locations should be submitted to officers for consideration.
- EH17 Lippetts Hill**
The Committee reviewed the letter sent by EFDC to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and AGREED that the Town Clerk should write to the Leader of EFDC stating that this Committee AGREED with the sentiments contained within the letter.
- EH18 EFDC District Regeneration**
The Committee NOTED the report and AGREED that the Town Clerk should write to the Leader of EFDC stating that the Town Council is pleased that the regeneration of Loughton High Road and The Broadway is being considered, and state that the Town Council may be able to make some modest contributions towards those of these projects with which it agreed.
- EH19 Highways Rangers**
The Committee NOTED the report and the Town Clerk further reported that the Highway Rangers had now agreed to renovate the High Road finger posts. Officers would follow this up to ensure that the work was carried out.
- EH20 Knitted Poppies Display**
The Town Clerk reported that the Woodland Branch Essex Handicrafts Association had once more approached Officers with a view to staging a poppy display at Kings Green for the November 2021 Remembrance event. The Committee AGREED to the request and the Town Clerk would liaise with the Groups to ascertain design suggestions for the new display.

- EH21 Financial Position**
Current Financial Position
The Committee NOTED the report.
- EH22 Environmental Issues**
No issues were raised.
- EH23 Future Work of the Committee**
No items were raised for future discussion.
- EH24 Exclusion of the Press and Public**
The Committee RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as it contained confidential information relating to contractual matters.
- EH25 Roding Road Allotments**
Request to Re-position Gate and Fence – Min no EH 280.2.1
The Committee noted the correspondence received from the Chairman of the Roding Road Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association (RRALGA) which had unanimously declined the request from a local resident. It was noted that the RRALGA are appointed as managers of the allotments. After review, it was AGREED that the Town Clerk should write to the local resident to decline the request.

Signed:
Date: 22 September 2021