

THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13 July 2021 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD.

Present:

Councillors: R Brookes (in the chair)

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| P Abraham | B Cohen | T Downing |
| S Fontenelle | L House | W Kauffman |
| N MacKinnon | S Murphy | S Murray |
| M Owen | C C Pond | C P Pond |
| K Rainbow | M Stubbings | K Valentine |
| G Wiskin | D Wixley | |

Officers: M Squire (Town Clerk)
P Bryce (Assistant Town Clerk - Civic)

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Beales, C Davies, J Jennings and J Riley.

16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Valentine declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11 NEPP Sunday Restrictions – The Drive as a local resident.

Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda items relating to Essex County Council and EFDC as he is a member of both councils.

Cllr W Kauffman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6 Thames Water as his family's property was affected by flooding.

17 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18 Public Representations

None were received.

19 Questions Without Discussion

None were received.

20 Thames Water

The Town Clerk reported that the representative that was due to attend, was unable to do so, as his company's Covid-19 policy currently forbade him to attend 'face to face' meetings. However the representative did produce a written report on the Loughton Water Network Issues, which was distributed to members. However the report did not cover all the questions raised by members. Members agreed to take up Thames Water's representative offer of a further Zoom meeting to be held outside the formal committee meetings.

Members nominated a small number of ward councillors, and the Town Clerk would approach a few local residents (interested parties) to attend the Zoom meeting with the

Thames Water representative and a number of questions were agreed to be put forward. Cllrs R Brookes, B Cohen, S Murray, C C Pond, J Jennings, N MacKinnon and W Kauffman were nominated to take part in the Zoom meeting.

21 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported that the work being carried out at the Cemetery to lay new water pipes throughout had been completed. A full report will be provided at the next Environment & Heritage Committee meeting.

The Town Mayor reported that the Deputy Town Mayor had attended the official opening of the window showroom in Loughton High Road and the official opening of the new mobility path and entrance and open day at GROW Community Garden. The Town Mayor also reported that she had attended the Loughton Masonic Centre to recognise the invaluable work of the NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day during the pandemic.

22 Climate Change Motion

The Council AGREED to a motion to support measures to combat climate change tabled by Cllrs Murray and C C Pond as follows:

1. To acknowledge national and international opinion in declaring a climate emergency.
2. To record the urgent need for local and global reductions in carbon emissions.
3. To recognise the influence the Town Council has and resolve to do everything within its power to reduce unsustainability.
4. To follow the County and District Councils and work alongside them so as to become carbon neutral by 2030.
5. In principle to oppose unsustainable initiatives in Loughton of whatever kind.
6. To encourage and support the wider community to oppose unsustainability.

The Town Clerk reported that the Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Climate Change Officer had contacted him with a view to setting up a knowledge forum for Parish and Town councils to support each other with the development of climate change strategies. The Town Council AGREED with this way forward.

23 NALC – Remote Meetings

Members NOTED that NALC are urging the Government to make remote meetings a permanent option.

24 Christmas Window Competition 2021

Members reviewed the existing rules and agreed that the RGS Committee should make the competition less formal and confirmed that it is to be advertised in the next autumn issue of the 'Think Loughton' newsletter.

25 North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) – Sunday Restrictions – The Drive - Loughton

Members AGREED to support evidence from residents and resolved that parking restrictions should extend to cover the shopping opening hours on a Sunday. The Council asked the Town Clerk to fill out an application form and request the North

Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) to change the restrictions. The NEPP officer would be asked for advice to implement the best possible option in the circumstances.

26 Murray Hall - Use as a vaccination centre

The Council NOTED that the NHS have informed us that the Murray Hall will be returned to the Town Council as from 26 July 2021 and that the Hall will be returned to normal use for regular and casual hirers.

27 Reports from Committees

27.1 Planning and Licensing

The report of the meetings held on 24 May, 7 and 21 June, and 5 July 2021 were NOTED.

27.2 Recreation

The report of the meeting held on 2 June 2021 was NOTED.

27.3 Environment and Heritage

The report of the meeting held on 23 June 2021 was NOTED.

27.4 Resources and General Services

The report of the meeting held on 30 June 2021 was NOTED.

28 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

28.1 Written report on the following meeting was NOTED

- (i) Report from the Zoom meeting of the Broadway Town Centre Partnership held on Thursday 17 June 2021 – Deborah Taylor, Services Officer.

28.2 An oral report on the Local Councils' Liaison Committee, held on 8 July 2021 was provided by Cllr D Wixley and the following reports were NOTED

- (ii) a) Local Plan - Briefing session on Main Modifications Consultation & b) Qualis Community Interest Company (CIC) presentation.

29 Loughton Library / Town Hall

An additional private session on the implications to the Town Council regarding the future of the Town Hall was not deemed necessary as the ensuing discussion was general in nature and did not focus specifically on contractual or staffing matters.

The Library consultation had attracted much opposition; many questions remain unanswered

- The plans do not meet the needs of the library users and community groups.
- Existing floorplan space reduced by 20%.
- Damage to the environment caused by the large scale of the development.
- Multi storey 5 tier building not in keeping with surroundings.
- Information lacking on storage space.
- Information lacking on parking facilities for Library staff, Jazz Archive staff, Town Council staff.
- Information lacking on the temporary rehousing of current library occupants, including Town Council staff.

Specifically, concern was raised that the new location of the Town Council office would become the reception desk for the Library, for all matters unconnected to Town Council work.

AGREED to oppose through future ECC and EFDC meetings and via Town Council, Planning and Licencing Committee meetings the damage that would inevitably be

caused to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Town Council members collectively agreed to await further developments.

NOTED that a special Town Council meeting may be required when further developments were forthcoming.

Signed:
Date: 20 October 2021