

THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 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	C Davies
S Fontenelle	L House	J Jennings
W Kauffman	N MacKinnon	S Murray
M Owen	C C Pond	C P Pond
K Rainbow	J Riley	M Stubbings
K Valentine	G Wiskin	D Wixley

Officers: M Squire (Town Clerk)
P Bryce (Community Manager)

The meeting was preceded by the presentation of the Citizenship Award 2021 to Pesh Kapasiawala followed by a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the recent tragic death of Sir David Amess

30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Beales, T Downing and S Murphy.

31 Declarations of Interest

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 S Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 14 as he volunteers at both the 3Food4U Loughton Hub, and is the officially appointed ambassador of the Epping Forest Foodbank.

Cllr D Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8.1 as he is a member of the EFDC Highways Panel and Agenda item 11 as he is a member of the Epping Forest Heritage Trust.

Cllr M Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8.1 as he has been in discussions with those issues.

Cllr C Davies declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8.1 as she had attended the Debden Town Centre Partnership meetings.

32 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2021 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33 Public Representations

None were received.

34 Questions Without Discussion

None were received.

35 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

The Town Mayor reported that since the last Council meeting held on 13 July 2021 she had attended the following engagements:

The GROW Community Garden 5th Anniversary Celebration and Volunteer Appreciation; The Abbeyfield AGM and Afternoon Tea; EFDC invitation to the unveiling of the Holmehurst Blue Plaque; 1st year anniversary of the 3Food4U Loughton pop up; official opening of estate agents Durden & Hunt flagship office in Loughton; and the Inauguration of Rabbi Yanky & Rebbetzin Rochel Abrams at the Loughton Synagogue. Cllr Stella Murphy as Past Town Mayor had attended the Lopping Hall Open Day and the 3Food4U 1st year Anniversary Dinner at the Loughton RBL.

Members thanked the Town Mayor for organizing such a successful and rewarding visit to the Loughton Boys Holocaust Survivors Exhibition at the Epping Forest District Museum in August 2021.

36 Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported that there is a shortage of volunteers to assist with the Remembrance Day Parade and that any assistance from members who had not already offered help would be appreciated.

37 Requests from Epping Forest District Council's (EFDC) Town Centre Manager.

37.1 The Broadway, Loughton (Debden)

Cllr Wixley reported that there seemed to be some confusion, as this agenda item is also on the Epping Forest Local Highways programme, has been validated for consideration and is awaiting funding.

Members also raised a number of concerns regarding the proposed scheme and AGREED that

- the Town Clerk would raise these points with the Town Centre Manager and seek further clarification regarding the involvement of the Highways Panel.
- this item should be passed on to the Environment & Heritage Committee for further discussion.

37.2 Christmas Window Campaign

The Council NOTED the report.

38 Youth Work in Loughton

The Council AGREED that the Town Clerk should formally ask Essex County Council (ECC) to incorporate a Youth Project space in their future plans following the proposed development of Loughton Library.

39 Thames Water (TW)

The Town Council NOTED the report. The Town Clerk reported that although the recent Zoom meeting held with TW had been productive, a site meeting had not yet been forthcoming. He has now heard that TW are to carry out some investigative work on 30 October 2021, whereby CCTV cameras are to be put down in several drains to ascertain whether there are any blockages. Following this procedure, a site meeting with all interested parties will be convened.

40 Signage to Epping Forest from Loughton Station

Councillor C C Pond and the Town Clerk provided further background information. Members AGREED that

- the Town Council should contribute available funding and grant funding towards the signage costs, and that
- Transport for London (TFL) should be approached to request that 'Alight here for Epping Forest' or words to that affect should be announced over the tannoy system in the carriages as the underground trains approach Loughton Station.

41 Reports from Committees

41.1 Planning and Licensing

The report of the meetings held on 19 July, 2 and 16 August, 6 and 21 September and 4 October 2021 were NOTED.

41.2 Recreation

The report of the meeting held on 7 September 2021 was NOTED.

41.3 Environment and Heritage

The report of the meeting held on 22 September 2021 was NOTED.

41.4 Resources and General Services

The report of the meeting held on 5 October 2021 was NOTED.

42 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

Written reports on the following meetings were NOTED;

- (i) The report from the meetings of the Broadway Town Centre Partnership held on 29 July and 23 September 2021 – Deborah Taylor, Community and Services Officer.

The Town Council AGREED that the Town Clerk should ask the Chairman of the Broadway Town Centre Partnership to invite Essex County Ward Councillor, Cllr Lee Scott to these meetings in future.

- (ii) Essex Association of Local Councils 77th AGM Zoom meeting Thursday 23 September 2021 - Cllr D Wixley.
- (iii) Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve Consultative Committee – Cllr D Wixley – Cancelled - Wednesday 6 October 2021.

43 Motion to Town Council regarding Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit

Councillor Murray proposed the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Davies:-

- (1) The Government has, as from 6th October 2021, cut universal credit and working tax credit by £20 a week;
- (2) This weekly cut is equivalent to £1,040 a year and;
- (3) Epping Forest Food-bank estimates that here in Epping Forest this decision is likely to have a serious impact on more than 9,000 people and will adversely affect many individuals and families here in Loughton.

Loughton Town Council resolves to ask our local MP to actively seek the reinstatement of this £20 cut as soon as possible.

After some discussion and following a vote it was AGREED that the Town Clerk should write to the local MP to actively seek the reinstatement of this £20 cut as soon as possible.

Signed:
Date: 15 December 2021