

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 7.00pm 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 Murphy
S Murray	M Owen	C C Pond
C P Pond	K Rainbow	J Riley
M Stubbings	G Wiskin	D Wixley

**Officers:** M Squire (Town Clerk)  
K Lumb (Deputy Town Clerk)  
P Bryce (Community Manager)

A minute's silence was held at the beginning of the meeting in memory of former Town Councillors Lucette Howe (elected 2008/12) and Chris Harper (elected 2011/12)

**44 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Beales, T Downing and K Valentine.

**45 Declarations of Interest**

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

**46 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**47 Public Representations**

None were received.

**48 Questions Without Discussion**

None were received.

**49 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that this was now the first time for approximately two years ( due to covid restrictions), that a full ensemble of staff was now back in the office, which is now impacting positively on running the Town Council's operations. It was also noted that working from home in some instances was appropriate.

**50 Council Precept for 2022/23**

The Council NOTED that the tax base for 2022/23 had been confirmed as £12,732.8. and the Estimates and financial forecast reports presented.

The Council AGREED

- i. the budget for 2022/23
- ii. the amount to be taken from and adjustments to Earmarked Reserves ; and
- iii. the level of the Precept for 2022/23

The Council unanimously RESOLVED to set the precept for 2022/23 at £829,663. This will set the Loughton proportion of the annual council tax for a band D property as £65.16, an increase of £2.72 from the current year of £62.44.

**51 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements**

Loughton Town Mayor, Cllr Rose Brookes, reported that since the last Council meeting held on 20 October 2021, she had attended the following events.

LADS Production of a Fine Bright Day Today at Lopping Hall, Remembrance Service and Parade on Kings Green, the Loughton Methodist Church Bazaar, EFDSC Swimming Gala at Loughton Leisure Centre, Junior Peaced Together Graduation at Restore Community, Norma Green's Memorial in Waltham Abbey, the Light up a Life at Loughton Methodist Church and Kings Green, Christmas Carols outside St Mary's Church, St John's Church Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and the LADS Production of Gaslight at the Lopping Hall.

**52 Thames Water (TW) – Flooding issues**

The issues in the Albion Hill / Smarts Lane and Roding Valley / Valley Hill areas of Loughton were reiterated. A Zoom meeting involving TW, a number of Town Councillors and the Town Clerk was called on 23 December 2021, specifically regarding the ongoing situation at Roding Valley / Valley Hill and the disruption caused to local residents in the vicinity. The lack of general communication from TW and particularly with local residents was highlighted. TW gave an undertaking towards an end to the disruption by 19 January 2022 and eventually the four way traffic lights system at the Roding Valley crossroads was restored by 24 January 2022. The Town Clerk reported that he had also contacted Mr Richard Hollis at Essex County Council Highways to progress the repair works

Cllr Murray drew attention to

- the general unpleasantness of the whole situation,
- the eight weeks of misery that local residents had endured,
- the absence of absence of the 167 bus service since 23 November 2021
- the angst caused by the disruption to traffic flow, ensuing bottlenecks caused in local streets and in some cases resulting in damage to householders' vehicles,

The various oral reports were NOTED. It was AGREED that some form of an ex-gratia payment should be sought from TW. A contribution towards the new Roding Valley Children's Playground was one suggestion.

The Town Clerk also informed members that he would be seeking an update from TW on another ongoing issue in and around Fieldings Court by the Loughton Cricket Ground.

**53 Local Plan - Issues raised by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) in their letter to the inspector dated 21-12- 21**

Members NOTED and AGREED the wording of the Town Council's response.

**54 Reports from Committees**

**54.1 Planning and Licensing**

The report of the meetings held on 18 October, 1, 15 and 29 November, 13 December 2021 and 10 January 2022 were NOTED.

**54.2 Recreation**

The reports of the meetings held on 10 November 2021 and 12 January 2022 were NOTED. Cllr Murray thanked Loughton Resident Association members for 'calling in' an Epping Forest District Council agenda item for the proposed tree planting plans for the open spaces of Jessel Green and Rochford Green where the proposals showed an overabundance of trees. He also thanked them for their ensuing work on this item.

**54.3 Environment and Heritage**

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

**54.4 Resources and General Services**

The reports of the meetings held on 8 December 2021 and 12 January 2022 were NOTED.

**55 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**

Written reports on the following meeting were NOTED.

- i. Report from the Tree Wardens' Meeting held on 2 November 2021 – Cllr D Wixley

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** 22 February 2022