

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022 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	J Jennings
W Kauffman	N MacKinnon	S Murphy
S Murray	C C Pond	C P Pond
K Rainbow	J Riley	M Stubbings
K Valentine	D Wixley	

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

56 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Beales, C Davies, M Owen and G Wiskin.

57 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr Murray joined the meeting during the following item.

58 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2022 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

59 Public Representations

None were received.

60 Questions Without Discussion

None were received.

61 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported the following:

In relation to 'Storm Eunice' (on the preceding Friday) two trees came down at the Memorial Rose Garden on Roding Road. The Trees were cleared and the area taped off and made safe. Officers are seeking advice from the Council's Insurers and contractors to replace or repair both the fence and bench that were damaged. A large branch fell in the Town Council Cemetery, causing minor damage to a memorial stone. On an unrelated incident a member of staff had been hit by a flying roof tile but is making a good recovery. Best wishes were sent.

At the request of the City of London Corporation, it was reported (as part of the ongoing Community Safety Partnership work) that the benches will not be reinstated at the top of York Hill for the time being. It would be beneficial for the Town Clerk to join the Community Safety Partnership.

Members were reminded that a number of short councillor profiles were still required for the Town Council website.

62 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

Loughton Town Mayor, Cllr Rose Brookes, reported that since the last Council meeting held on 25 January 2022, she had attended the following events; Upstage Theatre Company The Loughton Pantomime, Ricardo Curbelo Latin American Harpist – Lopping Hall and Waltham Abbey Civic Service.

Cllr Murray thanked the Town Mayor for inviting him as her guest to the Loughton Pantomime and expressed what a good show it was. Cllr House reported that 'Upstage' were extremely happy with the 'sold out' performances, and that they were now able to continue as a theatre company.

63 RideLondon

The Town Clerk reported that he had attended a 'Teams' meeting with Mr Robert Mitchell, RideLondon Engagement Manager, who explained that Sunday 29 May 2022 would be the mass, all day event, with the ride starting at 6am and ending around 5.30pm. Loughton would be 'an island in the middle' of the circuit of the A104 going out of London and into Essex and the returning cyclists travelling back on A113. The route will not affect Loughton directly but there will be problems getting in and out of Loughton on that particular day. The Town Council should point out to local residents, nearer the time the problems that may occur, as well as publicising the event itself. Roads along the route will have their potholes repaired.

Members NOTED the report.

64 Town Centre Regeneration

Members discussed the request in some depth and were of the opinion that Loughton Town Council (LTC) already does a lot for the Broadway and High Street e.g. planted baskets, Christmas Lights, Christmas Window Competition, as well as an annual Fun Day on Jessel Green and other community events etc. LTC members attend the Town Centre Broadway Partnership meetings.

Additionally the 2022/2023 budget has already been set. Therefore members opted to decline this request from Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) to contribute to the Town Centre Manager's salary. Consideration may be given for the following year, if requested.

The Town Clerk would convey this decision to EFDC.

65 Thames Water

The Town Clerk reported that following the last meeting a letter had been sent to Thames Water (TW), requesting an ex gratia payment to be paid as a way of compensation for the disruption and misery caused before and after Christmas 2021 in the Roding Road / Valley Hill vicinity. This could potentially be a contribution towards the Roding Valley Recreation Ground playground project. TW are considering the request.

The Town Clerk is also awaiting a further response from TW on the flooding issues in and around Fieldings Court, Loughton Cricket Club and The Uplands.

66 Reports from Committees

66.1 Planning and Licensing

The report of the meetings held on 24 January and 7 February 2022 were NOTED.

66.2 Environment and Heritage

The report of the meeting held on 25 January was NOTED.

66.3 Resources and General Services

The reports of the meetings held on 9 February 2022 were NOTED. Cllr Murray reported on RG81 that the working party was impressed with the quality of the applications for this year's Financial Assistance Grants.

67 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

None were received.

68 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 they contained confidential information relating to contractual and / or staffing matters.

69 Buckingham Court

Town Council members NOTED the Report.

Signed:
Date: 26 April 2022