

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26 April 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	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	K Valentine	G Wiskin
D Wixley		

**Officers:** P Bryce (Community Manager)

**70 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Beales and T Downing and from the Town Clerk.

**71 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.

M Owen joined the meeting during the following item.

**72 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2022 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**73 Public Representations**

None were received.

**74 Questions Without Discussion**

None were received.

**75 Town Clerk's Report**

The Council noted that the Town Clerk was absent from this meeting, any follow up on Agenda Items 10.1.2 and 10.1.3 will be reported at the next council meeting.

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

Loughton Town Mayor, Cllr Rose Brookes, reported that since the last council meeting held on 22 February 2022, she had attended the following events; Yes Partnership Motivation Conference, Annual Town Meeting at Murray Hall, Woodland Grove Care home Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting, Talk at the Girls Group Loughton Methodist Church, The Queen's Jubilee Tree Planting at the Memorial Rose Garden on Roding Road, Yes Partnership Motivation Conference, New City College Performing Arts Production of Orwellian Event, LADS production of 'Frost/Nixon' by Peter Morgan,

Raffle in aid of the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis and Woodland Grove Care home – Invest in our Planet “Earth Day”.

The Council noted the amendment of the Tree Planting took place at the Memorial Rose Garden on Roding Road and not at the original proposed location of Murray Hall as stated on the Agenda.

Cllr Murray reported how lucky Loughton is to have the Loughton Amateur Dramatic Society based at Lopping Hall and the quality of their performances.

**77 Thames Water**

The Council commented on the correspondence received from Thames Water, their main areas of concern were the amount of debris and rubbish that was left after each repair work was undertaken.

Cllr S Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Avondale Drive. The Council asked the Town Clerk to make a formal response to TW’s correspondence and ask that they clear up the rubbish that has been left at the Pumping Station in Avondale Drive junction with Roding Road.

**78 Reports from Committees**

**78.1 Planning and Licensing**

The report of the meetings held on 21 February, 7 March and 4 April 2022 were NOTED.

**78.2 Recreation**

The report of the meeting held on 9 March 2022 was NOTED.

**78.3 Environment and Heritage**

The report of the meeting held on 29 March 2022 was NOTED.

**78.4 Resources and General Services**

The report of the meetings held on 13 April 2022 was NOTED. In the absence of the Town Clerk, Cllr C P Pond moved a motion which was seconded by Cllr J Jennings and members Agreed that the 2022/23 meetings will start at 19:30 for a trial period, to be further reviewed in 2023.

Cllr Fontenelle joined the meeting during the following item.

**79 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**

Written reports from the following meetings were NOTED;

**79.1** The Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC), Larger Local Councils Forum held on 3 March 2022 – Cllr David Wixley

**79.2** The Minutes from The Broadway Town Centre Partnership held on 10 March 2022 will be noted at the next Council meeting. Cllr Brookes reported that a significant piece of news was that the current Chair Judy Lovell is moving away from Loughton and will be resigning from her position. This will leave a huge gap and a new Chair will need to be appointed.

**79.3** Local Council Liaison Committee Meeting held on 14 March 2022, the notes from this meeting will be reported at the next Council meeting.

**80 Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Market Policy on Q1 Footfall**

The Council reported that the report from Huq Industries distributed by Paul Messenger, Town Centres Manager, EFDC was most depressing reading. They noted the fall in footfall both in the High Road and the Broadway with some sadness.

After lengthy discussion regarding the ongoing parking issues and tiredness of the buildings Members suggested that the flats and shops on the Broadway deserved better, the flats and shops look very tired and shabby and could do with some ‘tender

loving care' (TLC) and a 'lick of paint'. EFDC should carry out an extensive spruce up. Better maintenance would make the area less oppressive, and more inviting to residents, visitors and shoppers.

Members agreed that the neglected blank frontages of the shops in the High Road were viewed negatively.

**81 Loughton Market Policy**

Following the recommendation of this policy from the Environment and Heritage Committee dated 29 March 2022 members AGREED to adopt the remit from EFDC and take over the Broadway market as quickly as possible and that an outside organisation would be appointed to run the High Road Sunday Farmers Market.

**82 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.

**83 Buckingham Court**

It was Agreed that the Council should accept the notice to quit issued by Lambert Smith Hampton on behalf of Essex County Council (ECC) and that the Town Council organise a plan to move to 1 Buckingham Court as soon as practicable. ECC should be informed that the Town Council would be prepared to discuss a return to the Library at Essex County Council's expense, should the plans to demolish the building fall through.

**Signed:** .....  
**Date:** 24 May 2022