

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD on Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7.45pm**

**Present**

**Councillors:** D Wixley (in the Chair)  
K S Fontenelle L House N Mackinnon  
S Murray M Stubbings K Valentine

**Also in attendance**

**Councillors:** R Brookes

**Officers:**

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

**RC20 Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**RC21 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Wixley and Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 South Loughton Cricket Club (SLCC) and Loughton Athletic Club (LAC) as they were acquainted with members of both Clubs.

Cllr Mackinnon declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 as he was acquainted with the groundsman.

**RC22 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Town Clerk reported that Min No RC2 should read Cllr Mackinnon's wife's 'uncle' and not 'father' and the minutes had been amended accordingly. The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2021 were then CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RC23 Public Representations**

None were received.

**RC24 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave a brief background on the scope of the Recreation Committee's powers and responsibilities. He reminded members to read the Standing Orders, page 32, which gives the overall purpose of this Committee in particular points 5 and 6 in relation to general matters relating to the community and welfare of the town, e.g. youth services, health, crime and disorder.

Cllr Wixley reported that in respect of this he had visited the Community Safety event held in The Broadway on 21.7.21. Cllr House reported that he had also attended the event and encouraged them to hold a future event.

The Chairman reported that the previous Recreation Committee had formed a working group for the Roding Valley Recreation Ground (RVRC), namely the Roding Valley Recreation Ground Improvements Projects Working Group (RVRGIPWG), initially for the football changing rooms project. Although this project has now been deferred, it is beneficial to keep an active working group for other ongoing matters. It would be useful to add another member to the

RVRGIPWG and the Committee agreed that Cllr Mick Stubbings should join the group.

The Chairman said that he would be contacting members shortly to arrange a date for a walk to show members some of the things that the Committee is responsible for. The possible dates would be on a Sunday meeting at 10am.

**RC25 RVRG Planting Scheme and Footpaths – Min no RC7**

The Committee NOTED that Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) is working towards completion of two additional path diversions and tree planting during this autumn.

**RC26 RVRG Drainage Works – Min no RC8**

The Committee NOTED that EFDC is working towards an autumn completion.

**RC27 RVRG Car Park Gates – Min no RC9**

The Chairman could not support the expenditure for the closure and opening of the gate on the current basis, although a further quote was awaited. The Committee agreed to defer this matter until further information and investigations had been made by the Town Clerk, who would report back to members when new information was forthcoming.

**RC28 RVRG Playground – Min no RC10**

The Committee members NOTED the report. The Town Clerk updated members and explained there are two elements to the project: the groundworks and the construction of a new playground. The groundworks are being looked at first and contact has been made with a number of District Councils for their advice and expertise. Ideally a project manager should be found to deal with both elements.

**RC29 South Loughton Cricket Club (SLCC) / Loughton Athletic Club (LAC) – Min no RC11**

The Committee were supportive of the request in principle and noted the proposed location, mindful that this proposal would require the usual planning application procedure, which would ultimately be governed by the landlord EFDC.

**RC30 Memorial Tree – Min no 12.1**

The Committee NOTED that the Town Clerk and the Services Manager have agreed to meet with Harley Watson's mother later this month to select a suitable location for the planting of the memorial tree on the RVRG.

**RC31 Plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Min no 12.4**

The Committee agreed that a single commemorative tree was a good way forward and that the tree should be visible to the public. It was delegated to the officers to proceed as they think best.

**RC32 Request for use of RVRG tennis courts from – New City College**

The Committee noted and AGREED to the request from the Sport Development Department at New City College (NCC) for students to be allowed to use the ball court at the recreation ground on Wednesdays, during term times, 9.30am to 11.30am at the proposed level of fees.

An ancillary request had been made by a local resident to arrange a Charity football match on the RVRG football pitches in aid of the Sepsis Trust. Members agreed to this request.

**RC33 Hillyfields Open Space – Litter bins**  
The Committee NOTED the report provided regarding the litter bins on Hillyfields Open Space.

**RC34 Murray Hall Update**  
The Committee NOTED the report.

**RC35 Kingsley Hall**  
The Committee NOTED the report.

**RC36 Skateboard Park Equipment**  
The Committee noted these tentative developments and if possible the skate ramps and equipment should be lent out at minimal cost to the Youth Service.

**Community Events**

The Committee noted and accepted that the large number of community events needed to be streamlined given the limited staffing resources and that this would enable a greater level of focus to the two major events of the year ‘Jessel Green Day’ and ‘Loughton Day’ which both need a very long period of forward planning.

**RC37 Countdown to Christmas**  
On balance, the Committee unanimously AGREED (following the recent Strategy & Staff Group meeting) that this event would not be staged. Cllr Brookes was disappointed that this event will not take place.

**RC38 Fun Run**  
On balance, the Committee AGREED (following the recent Strategy & Staff Group meeting) that this event would not be staged.

**RC39 Financial Position**  
The Committee NOTED the report.

**RC40 Future Work of the Committee**  
None were raised.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** 10 November 2021