

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD on Tuesday 25 January at 8.00pm

Present

Councillors: C C Pond (in the Chair)
B Cohen
J Jennings (as substitute for P Beales)
G Wiskin
S Fontenelle
C P Pond
D Wixley (as substitute for K Valentine)

Also, in attendance

Councillors: R Brookes C Davies M Owen J Riley

Officers: Mark Squire (Town Clerk)
Kim Lumb (Deputy Town Clerk)
Paul Hoy (Services Manager)

Three members of the public.

EH68 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Beales and Valentine. The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Jennings had been nominated as substitute for Cllr Beales and Cllr Wixley as substitute for Cllr Valentine for this meeting.

EH69 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda items 8.1 as he is a member of the Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT). Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items relating to the work of Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) and Essex County Council (ECC), as a member of these authorities, and Cllrs Jennings and Owen both declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5 as both live nearby to the location where the benches were previously situated.

EH70 Public Representations

Three members of the public presented arguments against the reinstatement of the two York Hill benches. The Town Clerk read out letters that had been submitted to the Council by members of the public, both for and against the reinstatement of the benches.

The Committee AGREED to bring forward agenda items 5 and 11.4.

EH71 York Hill Benches

For the convenience of those who attended, the Chairman promoted this item up the agenda.

All members of the Committee and the other councillors present debated this issue at length and, it being clear there was no unanimity, the Committee voted four to one (with two abstentions) in favour of the benches being returned to their former position.

The Committee consequently AGREED that the benches should be reinstated subject to continual review and the necessary authorisation of the City of London Corporation (COLC), as landowner. The Town Clerk would contact the City of London in this regard. A Public Spaces Protection Order for the area was mooted as a possible way forward if the anti-social behaviour resumed.

EH72 Town Mayor - Cycle Event

The Committee NOTED the report submitted by the Town Mayor. The Town Clerk provided a verbal report and outlined concerns over safety issues, as well as the lack of time available for officers to arrange such a potentially large event by May 2022. Although Members considered the concept to be very worthy, it was AGREED that it would not be possible to stage an event of this scale this year in the available time frame.

It was also AGREED that staging an event of this nature could be considered in subsequent years, depending on capacity within the events calendar for officers to organise and execute it in line with the Council's health and safety framework. Any such event should be named after Cllr Brookes as she originated the concept of the event.

EH73 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EH74 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

The Committee NOTED that both the deep cleaning of the war memorial and the replacement of the cemetery boundary wall projects are being progressed.

EH75 Allotments

75.1 Willingale Allotments Report

The Committee NOTED the report on recent maintenance works and the current status of the waiting list for vacant plots.

75.2 Best Allotment Awards

The Committee AGREED that the Best Allotment Competition should go ahead this year, with judging to be carried out in July and award presentations to follow in September, dependant on the prevailing covid climate.

75.3 Horticultural Show

The Committee AGREED that the Horticultural Show should go ahead this year, with a date 'pencilled in' for 3 September 2022.

EH76 Signage

76.1 Signage to the Forest from Loughton Station / Town Centre Min no EH53.1

The Committee NOTED meetings attended by the Chairman and the Town Clerk with representatives of Transport for London (TFL), Epping Forest Heritage Trust (EFHT) and COLC, on 8 and 15 December 2021, to discuss appropriate routes and signage between Loughton Station and Epping Forest.

The Town Clerk reported that he and the Services Manager had since re-trod the agreed route, noting the various tasks to be completed. The Chairman informed the Committee that the deadline for the Locality Funding had been extended to 31 March 2022. The Committee NOTED that purchase orders would soon be placed in advance of the 31 March deadline.

76.2 Broadway Noticeboard – Min no EH 53.2

The Committee NOTED the report from the Services Manager that this matter was now in the hands of the respective legal departments of Superdrug and EFDC (acting on behalf of the Town Council).

76.3 Finger posts – Min no EH 53.3

The Committee NOTED that the restoration of the two sets of fingerposts in Loughton High Road had been completed by the Highway Rangers. It was AGREED that the restoration had been carried out to a high standard and thanks would be extended to the Highway Ranger Team by the Town Clerk on behalf of this Committee.

EH77 Requests from Epping Forest District Council's (EFDC's) Town Centre Manager - The Broadway Loughton (Debden)

The Committee NOTED the report from Paul Messenger, Town Centre Manager (EFDC), requesting assistance from the Town Council with the planting, general maintenance, and watering of proposed planters in The Broadway and Loughton High Road. In the first instance it was AGREED that quotes for the required maintenance tasks should be sought from specialist contractors by the Services Manager. A report would then be provided at the next meeting.

EH78 Salt Bin- Request –Min no EH 42

The Committee NOTED that the request for a salt bin in Smarts Lane is still under review with the Highways Panel.

EH79 Community Events

79.1 Light up a Life

It was AGREED that this event would be held this year (dependant on the prevailing covid climate).

79.2 Christmas Window Competition 2021

The Committee NOTED the report, and the Judges for the 2021 competition were thanked for their efforts. It was AGREED that the format employed in previous years, pre-Covid, would once again be adopted going forward.

79.3 Loughton Day 17.9.22

The Town Clerk reported that together with the Community Manager, an initial meeting would be hosted with the numerous Loughton Community Groups in the coming weeks.

79.4 Loughton Wombles

The Committee NOTED that another successful Wombles litter pick had been conducted on roads immediately parallel to the Broadway on Saturday 18 December 2021, and that a further event had been arranged for 12 February 2022, with the location(s) to be confirmed.

The Chairman extended his thanks to the Town Clerk for his work in setting up and delivering this worthy and popular community initiative.

EH80 Financial Position

Current Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH81 Environmental Issues
No issues were raised.

EH82 Future Work of the Committee
It was AGREED that Cllr Davies would address the next meeting regarding waste re-cycling issues.

Signed:
Date: 29 March 2022