

THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber,
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ on Tuesday 28 March at
7.30pm**

Present

Councillors: C C Pond (in the Chair)

B Cohen

C P Pond

K Valentine

T Downing (as substitute for P Beales)

S Fontenelle

G Wiskin

Officers: Mark Squire (Town Clerk)

Paul Hoy (Services Manager)

EH180 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Beales. The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Downing had been nominated as substitute for Cllr Beales for this meeting.

EH181 Declarations of Interest

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.

EH182 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EH183 Public Representations

None were received.

EH184 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

The Town Clerk Reported that the schedule for the Town Councils' meetings for 2023/24 had not yet been finalised but would be set after 4 April 2023 following the release of EFDC meetings for the same period.

It was reported by the Town Clerk that the new 'all electric' council van was due to be collected on 29 March 2023. Furthermore, a charging point would soon be installed at Murray Hall, all being well. It is hoped in the longer term that charging points will be installed within the car park area at Buckingham Court.

The Chairman Reported that Cllr Wixley was currently at a meeting of EFDC's Local Councils' Liaison Committee, where item 13 of this Agenda, was to be discussed.

EH185 Heritage Plaques – Min EH147

The Chairman provided an oral update in respect of a plaque for Charles Frederick Clark (1876 – 1945), Industrialist and Philanthropist. Following further research, it was NOTED that Mr Clark had not actually resided at 49 Church Lane, and therefore, in accordance with the guidelines, the preferred location of the plaque would be the known address of 8 Connaught Avenue.

It was AGREED that the Office would write and update all parties. The necessary arrangements for the erection of the plaque at the Connaught Avenue address would be confirmed in due course.

EH186 Allotments

186.1 Willingale Road Allotment Site

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH187 Signage

187.1 Signage to the Forest from Loughton Station / Town Centre – Min no EH169.1

The Town Clerk reported that the Epping Forest Heritage Trust remained in close dialogue with ECC over the remaining interpretation boards and way markers, but no further details were available for this meeting.

187.2 Broadway Noticeboard – Min no EH169.2

The Committee NOTED that in the absence of any further response from either EFDC's or Superdrug's respective legal teams, a new noticeboard will be ordered in April 2023 to be placed along the wall adjacent to the Sainsbury's store entrance in Torrington Drive, following permission from the Manager at Sainsbury's.

187.3 Oakwood Hill Noticeboard – Min no EH169.2

Committee NOTED that similarly, a new noticeboard will be ordered in April 2023 to replace the current dilapidated board outside the general store in Longcroft Rise.

187.4 Alleyway Project – Min no EH169.3

The Town Clerk Reported that an order had been placed for eight initial alleyways (2 signs per alley way) totalling £1,916.00, namely, Ash Green Path, Polefield Path, Rayhouse Path, Ryegrass Path, Tee Path, Driftway Path, Stanmore Path, and Bayliss Path. The Committee NOTED that the ensuing installation work will total £3,150, totalling £5,066.00 overall. Loughton Town Council will make up the residual amount of £66.00. £5000 would be reimbursed through the ECC Locality Fund in early April 2023.

EH188 Salt Grit provision

Request for salt grit bin at the top of Smarts Lane, Loughton – Min no EH171.1

The Committee NOTED that the next Local Highways Panel meeting is scheduled for 3 April 2023. Essex County Councillor Marshall Vance has confirmed to the Town Clerk that this application is in the Local Highways Panel system and is awaiting funding. A further reminder has been made to Cllr Vance in this respect.

It was also NOTED that a request for two new salt bins, one at the top of Ollards Grove and the second at Roding Gardens, has also been made on behalf of local residents.

The Committee AGREED that a future edition of the Think Loughton newsletter should include the costs of new grit bins, as quoted by ECC. These prices were very high. A practical recommendation would also be made for residents to purchase their own salt bags to store for future contingencies.

EH189 Loughton Day – Min no EH173

The Committee NOTED that organisation of the event is progressing well, and a variety of potential sponsors have been identified, to be approached by the Community Manager and Town Clerk. An initial community meeting will be held in April/ May to attract participants.

EH190 Chigwell Lane Bench – Min no EH156

The Town Clerk reported that following a further site visit with the Services Manager on Thursday 23 March, site investigation work will be necessary due to the presence of underground telecommunications infrastructure, as well as perceived electrical cabling as a result of the proximity of three streetlamp columns and the traffic lights at the junction with Langston Road.

On receipt of the necessary utilities' investigation reports, the local business adjacent to the proposed site will be approached to ascertain whether they agree to the proposed installation and as a potential sponsor.

EH191 Kings Charles III Coronation bunting

The Committee NOTED that quality 50 x 20m PVC, double sided Triangular Union bunting has been purchased to enhance the Broadway and High Street for the Coronation, Bank Holiday weekend. It will be put up week commencing 17 April 2023 and taken down towards the end of May 2023.

The Committee NOTED that ECC Highways have prohibited the hanging of bunting across the highways from one side of the road to the other, meaning that the new bunting will therefore be placed on lamp columns and will sit parallel to the highways.

It was AGREED that all publicity relating to the Coronation should state that the Town Council have been prohibited from displaying bunting across the public highway at the behest of ECC Highways, as it anticipated that sections of the general public might be unhappy at the 'enforced' end result.

It was NOTED that the total cost of the bunting and installation is net £3,213.50, for its purchase and installation. The Earmarked Funds for Street Furniture of £3,000 would be used in its entirety for this purpose.

EH192 Bus 542

The Committee NOTED that there have been continual complaints from Broadway, Alderton, and Roding Wards for some months regarding route 542 (which is an ECC contracted service). The Chairman reported that the service had been run sporadically on Saturdays, but not at all on Mondays – Fridays, as advertised.

AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to ECC, asking that this contract be removed from the transportation company in question, Central Connect/Galleon Travel. The operations should be awarded to an alternative contractor who would be able to deliver the service.

**EH193 Financial Position
Current Financial Position**

The Committee NOTED the current financial position as of 31 January 2023.

EH194 Financial savings

The Committee considered that no substantial savings could be made from this Committee.

However, it was AGREED that representations should be made to the Recreation Committee as meaningful savings should be considered from within the Recreation Committee budget, with specific reference to the grounds maintenance contract at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, which absorbs a significant proportion of the annual precept.

EH195 Environmental Issues

No issues were raised.

EH196 Future Work of the Committee

The Chairman reported that further details were awaited from County Councillor Vance, in respect of a proposed new 'Greensted Road' bus shelter, junction of Valley Hill and Greensted Road. A report will be included in the next Agenda.

Signed:
Date: 2023