

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25 April 2023 at 7.30pm at Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber, 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

B Cohen	R Brookes	T Downing
P Abraham	W Kauffman	N MacKinnon
S Fontenelle	S Murray	C C Pond
S Murphy	M Stubbings	K Valentine
C P Pond	D Wixley	
G Wiskin		

**Officers:**

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

**156 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Beales, Davies, House, Jennings, Rainbow and Riley.

**157 Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

**158 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2023 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**159 Public Representations**

None were received.

**160 Questions Without Discussion**

None were received.

**161 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk reported on the following matters.

- The Town Council accounts had been completed for financial year end March 2023 on the RBS Omega financial software system. As anticipated, there was a large fall in General Reserves and Earmarked Reserves. A fuller report will be provided for the Annual Council meeting on 24 May 2023, following the sign off of the accounts from the internal auditor.
- The Town Council has been approached from a market provider, to potentially set up a weekly food market in Loughton High Road. The Town Clerk is entering discussions and following due diligence. He will update members at the next appropriate Committee meeting.
- The relocation and refurbishment of the playground on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground has been delayed for a couple of weeks because of the saturated ground conditions. The work is expected to start as soon as the ground dries out.
- The Town Council meetings timetable for 2023/24 has now been agreed and distributed to members.

- The NHS attended Buckingham Court on Saturday 22 April for their 'first walk-in centre' for the next round of Covid booster vaccination, for the over 75's and vulnerable. The NHS employees were very happy with the set up and the room, but attendance was minimal and they will be working on further publicity.
- Loughton Library, Traps Hill will be hosting a Heritage Blue Plaque walk on Saturday 27 May starting at 11am. Residents will be invited to attend this free event and can register their interest directly with the library to reserve their space.

## **162 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements**

Cllr Cohen reported that since the last Council meeting, she had attended the following events:

- Town Mayor's Civic Celebration held at the Loughton Synagogue
- YES Partnership Conference
- National Jazz Archive – Celebrating Billie Holiday at Loughton Methodist Church
- Opening of a new building at Roding Valley High School
- Rotary Club of Roding – Youth Makes Music, New Hall, Chigwell School
- Epping Town Council Town Mayor's Charity Dinner (proceeds to the Earthquake Appeal)
- Local Angels Lunch in Aid of Jewish Care held at the Kings Oak Hotel, High Beach
- Community Security Trust (CST) Annual Dinner
- LADS production of The Father at Lopping Hall
- YES Partnership Conference
- Woodland Grove Care Home, World Earth Day
- Town Mayor's Treasure Hunt, Lopping Hall

## **163 Additional Bank Signatories**

Members NOTED the report and Cllrs M Stubbings and G Wiskin agreed to become additional bank signatories.

## **164 Reports from Committees**

### **164.1 Planning and Licensing**

Held on 6, 20 March, 3 and 17 April 2023 were noted.

### **164.2 Recreation**

Held on 8 March 2023 was noted. Cllr Wixley reported that further to Min No 196.2 regarding the tree planting, they were in fact 'tree whips' that were donated by a friend of Cllr MacKinnon. On 31 March 2023, Cllr Wixley, Cllr MacKinnon and the friend planted the whips on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground. Cllr Wixley was also very pleased to report that finally the trees had been planted by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) as part of the flood alleviation scheme outlined by the Environment Agency some years ago.

### **164.3 Environment and Heritage**

Held on 28 March 2023 was noted. Cllr C Pond drew members attention to Min No EH192 regarding the ineffective bus route. On the following day of the Town Council Committee meeting, the Essex County Council (ECC), Parish Passenger Transport meeting took place, and unfortunately, they are still not taking seriously the importance and negative effects of the missing bus route.

### **164.4 Resources and General Services**

Held on 12 April 2023 was noted.

**165 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**

Reports from the following meetings were noted.

- (i) Minutes of Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership 12.1.23
- (ii) Report from Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve Consultative Group Meeting 1.3.23. – Cllr D Wixley
- (iii) Report from Epping Forest Local Councils' Liaison Meeting 28.3.23 – Cllr D Wixley.

**166 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**

**166.1 Electoral Review of Epping Forest District Council – Final Recommendations**

Members noted that the final recommendations are now in place subject to parliamentary approval and will be effective in Epping Forest at the time of the local elections in 2024. The recommendations from Loughton Town Council were not taken on board.

**166.2 Consultation on division boundaries for Essex County Council**

Members noted the consultation and requested that the Town Clerk make representations on the unsatisfactory existing groupings of Buckhurst Hill / Loughton Roding Wards and also ECC divisions, the Broadway and Chigwell grouping was particularly inapposite.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** 24 May 2023