

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26 July 2023 at 7.30pm at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ

Present:

Councillors: M Stubbings
P Abraham R Brookes B Cohen
C Davies S Fontenelle L House
W Kaufmann S Murray C C Pond
C P Pond K Rainbow J Riley
K Valentine D Wixley

Officers: M Squire (Town Clerk)

180 Death of a former Town Councillor

The death of former Town Councillor Alex Copland was NOTED. Several members provided further background information on him.

181 Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Beales (who is on extended leave), Cllrs Downing, Jennings, MacKinnon, Murphy, Owen and WisKin.

182 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

183 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 24 May 2023 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

184 Public Representations

None were received

185 Questions Without Discussion

None were received.

186 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report

Members noted that the Town Mayor's Civic Service has been scheduled for Sunday 11 February 2024 at the Loughton Methodist Church.

The Town Clerk

- mentioned the invitation form, received from the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) for nominations for members for next year's Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2024. Mindful of the strict set criteria, members would approach the Town Clerk to nominate a colleague, should they feel appropriate.
- updated members on the progress on the Recreation Ground playground construction.

- drew members attention to the 'Safer Streets- Crimestoppers' leaflets.
- highlighted the Town Council, Horticultural Show, scheduled for 2 September 2023

187 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

Members NOTED the report.

188 Reports from Committees

188.1 Planning and Licensing

The meetings held on 30 May, 12 and 26 June, and 10 and 24 July 2023 were NOTED.

188.2 Recreation

The meeting held on 31 May 2023 was NOTED.

188.3 Environment and Heritage

The meeting held on 14 June 2023 was NOTED.

188.4 Resources and General Services

The meeting held on 27 June 2023 was NOTED. The following RG minutes were reviewed in accordance with the Committees' s requests

- I. RG 244 -Christmas Card Competition 2023. Members AGREED with the Committees' recommendation.
- II. RG 248 – Loughton Town Council (LTC) email addresses. The Town clerk explained that the advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) legal Department, is that it is best practice for Councillors to have their dedicated 'Government domain' Town Council email addresses, for a number of reasons, most importantly General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) protection, for both individual Councillors and for the Town Council as an entity. The Town Clerk would further investigate the scale of the IT project and associated costs involved.
- III. RG249. Think Loughton -Circulation. The pros and cons of ending a hard copy version were discussed at some length. In principle, the three year plan to phase out the paper version was agreed. In the meantime the Office would investigate other editorial / printing companies to see whether any significant cost savings could be made on the existing format. An interim measure would be to end the Royal Mail delivery option, which has a one year lead time to cancel.

189 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

The following meetings were NOTED.

- I. The Loughton Broadway Town Centre Partnership LBTCP AGM – Thursday 13 July 2023. Cllr Brookes added the following 'The LBTCP held its annual AGM on Thursday, 13 July. Councillors Stephen Murray, Carol Davies, Kevin Rainbow and Rose Brookes attended from Loughton Town Council. Several apologies were received from other Town Councillors who were unable to attend. Lorraine Gibson (EFDC Housing) and Duncan Haslam (EFDC Economic Development) joined our meeting this year. Duncan brought the excellent news from Caroline Wiggins in Safer Communities that Debden Broadway had been identified as an Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Pilot in Essex. Duncan Gould, of Restore Community Church, presented the annual accounts. The financial position of the BTCP is healthy and there is sufficient funds for more community activities .

Rev Chris Davies and Councillor Brookes are hoping to meet with Councillor John Philip to discuss the future of the Broadway and the BTCP. It has been difficult to find a mutually convenient date but it is hoped to do so before our next meeting on Thursday 7 September at Barrington Court at 6.15pm. Therefore, it was resolved to elect Councillor Brookes as acting chair until the next meeting. Councillor Lee Scott has accepted an invitation to speak at our September meeting. Our meetings are open to all who care about the Broadway.

- II. "Coffee with the Cops" St. Mary's Church, Loughton – 25 May 2023 and 14 July 2023.

190 Loughton High Road – Weekly Food Market

The Council AGREED to proceed on the basis submitted and approach the original market operator that has already come forward.

191 Bus Consultation TFL Route 549

Members AGREED to the consultation proposal and Town Clerk should respond accordingly.

192 Coronation Plaques

Members AGREED not to take this forward.

193 Décor – Town Council building stairway

Members AGREED that framed photographs of the past and present 'Town Councils' should be placed on the wall of the Chamber Room. Additionally appropriate photographs / posters of Town Council events should be placed on the stairwell walls to reflect current activities of the Town Council.

Signed:

Date: 18 October 2023