

THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES of the Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 7.30pm at  
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

M Stubbings

P Abraham

S Fontenelle

S Murray

C P Pond

K Valentine

B Cohen

W Kauffman

M Owen

K Rainbow

G Wiskin

T Downing

N MacKinnon

C C Pond

J Riley

D Wixley

**Officers:**

M Squire (Town Clerk)

P Bryce (Community Manager)

**Also**

2 x Epping Forest District Youth Councillors.

**Attending:**

This meeting was preceded by a presentation of a cheque for £291.75 to Guide Dogs UK, the Town Mayors chosen charity. The money was raised on the councillors tombola stalls at Jessel Green Fun Day and Loughton Day. Also attending was an Epping Forest District Youth Councillor, who assisted on the Tombola Stall at the Loughton Day event.

**194 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Beales (who is on extended leave), Cllrs Brookes, Davies, Jennings, and Murphy.

**195 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.

**196 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 July 2023 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was reported that on the minutes Cllr Kauffman's surname was misspelt and the Town Clerk apologised for this error.

Cllr Fontenelle then referred back to minute 190 'Loughton High Road – Weekly Food Market' from the Council Meeting of 26 July 2023 stating that the minutes were not expansive enough. The Town Clerk reiterated that he was happy with the minutes and the Town Council AGREED. The Town Clerk requested a further meeting with Cllr Fontenelle outside this meeting.

**197 Public Representations**

None were received.

**198 Questions Without Discussion**

None were received.

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

The Town Clerk reported that there were a number of banking mandates that needed to be completed and asked if Cllrs Stubbings and Wiskin could stay behind after the meeting to add their signatures.

**200 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements**

The Town Mayor reported that since the last Council meeting held on 26 July 2023, he had attended the following events.

- Official opening of the RVRG new playground
- Loughton Horticultural Show and the Town Mayor's Best Allotment Competition Awards Presentation
- Loughton Day
- 3food4u Loughton Hub's 3rd anniversary celebration at Loughton Club
- Visit to Bird & Fairley Opticians in Loughton High Road
- Visit to Loughton Music Academy in Loughton High Road
- Attended RVRG new playground – thank you to the schools who contributed to the public consultation for new playground
- Official opening of the revamped estate agent Fine & Country on the corner of The Drive and High Road

**201 Reports from Committees**

**201.1 Planning and Licensing**

The meetings held on 24 July, 7 and 29 August, 11 and 25 September and 9 October 2023 were NOTED.

**201.2 Recreation**

The meeting held on 6 September 2023 was NOTED. Cllr Murray updated members on Min No 241 and the outstanding success of the new playground and how it is being used by families across the town and beyond.

**201.3 Environment and Heritage**

The meeting held on 2 October 2023 was NOTED. Cllr Murray reported that he had received many positive comments regarding Min No 229.1 and the phenomenal success of Loughton Day.

Cllr C C Pond reported that Min No 219 Cllr Kauffman's name had been misspelt and on Min No 229.1 suggested that the Horticultural Show be considered to be included in Loughton Day going forward.

**201.4 Resources and General Services**

The meeting held on 4 October 2023 was NOTED. Cllr Murray was pleased to report that the Financial Services Scheme was to continue for 2024/25.

The Youth Councillors left during the next Agenda Item.

**202 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**

The following meetings were NOTED.

- I. Essex Association of Local Councils (Epping Forest Branch) Meeting 8.9.23. held at Thornwood – Cllr D Wixley.
- II. Association of Local Councils AGM & Conference 21.9.23. held in Colchester – Cllr D Wixley.
- III. Epping Forest Local Councils' Liaison Committee Meeting 21.9.23. held at the Civic Offices, Epping – Cllr D Wixley.

Cllr C C Pond reported that he had since received an email from the Clerk at Stanford Rivers, Parish Council who has had to give up her role as Secretary of the Essex Association of Local Councils (Epping Forest Branch) due to external commitments. She had also become concerned by what she saw as deterioration in EFDC/local council relations.

- IV. The Broadway Town Centre Partnership – 7 September 2023 – Cllr Rose Brookes. Regarding the antisocial behaviour in the Broadway, it was reported that New City College are providing security at lunchtime to patrol the Broadway. The College are being proactive if the students are causing trouble and are asking the traders to report any antisocial behaviour. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the principal of New City College to find out what percentage of students have an IG10 address. Cllr Murray reported that members need to recognise that Cllr Brookes is the driving force of this partnership and without her it would have folded.
- V. Cllr Neil McKinnon gave an oral report from the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve Consultative Group – 13 September 2023 – paraphrasing from the body of the report below:-

The meeting was well attended and included representatives from LTC, Buckhurst Hill Parish Council, the Essex Riding Trust, EFDC Country Care, special needs and dog walking groups. The meeting was chaired by reserve's ranger, Iona Kay, with Ruth Angrave, also from the Essex Wildlife Trust in attendance. The full minutes for the meeting will be available once issued but the topics discussed included:

An updated on the general health of the reserve, which is doing reasonably well despite several issues with Thames Water including a sewerage leak.

The possibility of cattle returning to the reserve next year following a DEFRA alert in relation to Bovine TB which has prevented them being on site recently.

An update on new fencing and the removal of a gate which has been repeatedly targeted by vandals.

A discussion about new and proposed visitor infrastructure. This has included a new notice board, the removal of some benches due to them being near trees infested with Oak Processionary Moth, and plans for a new boardwalk in high use areas as well as a new disabled access path which is being planned for 2024 after the hay cut.

Anti-social behaviour is an ongoing issue with many disposable BBQs being left along with general rubbish. Motorbikes have also been sighted several times and it was suggested that all incidents are reported to the police via 111.

Commercial dog walkers were discussed as was the issue of dog attacks which appear to be on the rise.

The possibility of more litter bins was raised but it was suggested that these tend to have the opposite effect of attracting more rubbish.

Events on the reserve have been well attended but EWT are looking at options to promote these such as via the Loughton and Buckhurst Hill town magazines. I suggested that they could also approach local schools to arrange class visits which could also help to educate children about the impact of vandalism.

It was a very constructive meeting with lots of exciting events and enhancements planned, I hope that increased communication with local schools and councils enables more local residents to enjoy the reserve responsibly.

It was also reported that the cattle on City of London land are separate from the Cattle grazing on the Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve.

Cllr Wixley reported that he went along to a police meeting held at Loughton Methodist Church, Loughton which was advertised from 11am to 12 noon but actually took place between 10am to 11am. He was able to speak to two Police Constables with regard to a residents request and was happy to report that they had since followed upon this and visited the residents home.

**Signed:** .....  
**Date:** 12 December 2023