

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES of the Meeting held on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 7pm at
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ**

Present:

Councillors: M Stubbings
R Brookes B Cohen C Davies
T Downing (From Min No 220) S Fontenelle S Murray
M Owen C C Pond (from Min No 224) K Rainbow
J Riley K Valentine G Wiskin
D Wixley

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

214 Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Beales, Murphy, and C P Pond. Cllr CC Pond had informed the Town Clerk that he may be late for the meeting.

215 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

216 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 December 2023 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

217 Public Representations

None were received.

218 Questions Without Discussion

None were received.

219 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

Cllr Downing arrived during the following Agenda Item.

220 Council Precept for 2024/25

Members received and noted all the reports relevant to this agenda item.

The Council AGREED

- I. the budget for 2024/25
- II. the amount to be taken from and adjustments to Earmarked Reserves; and
- III. the level of the Precept for 2024/25.

The Council NOTED that the tax base for 2023/24 had been confirmed as £12,667.90 and the Estimates and financial forecast reports presented.

Members AGREED the recommendation of the Resources and General Services Committee at its meeting held on the 17 January 2024. Members NOTED that the Town Council have worked intensively to keep this increase as low as possible, whilst maintaining service standards and the capability to fulfil a few key future projects.

The Council unanimously AGREED to set the precept for 2024/25 at £993,909. This will set the Loughton proportion of the annual council tax for a band D property as £76.35, an increase of £4.96 (£0.09p weekly) from the current year of £71.39.

221 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

The Town Mayor reported that since the last Council meeting held on 20 December 2023, he had attended the following events.

- Nine Lessons and Carols, St John's Church Loughton
- LADS 'A Murder is Announced' Lopping Hall
- Alderton Hall Infants School end of term assembly
- Official Opening of New City College Epping Forest Wellness Centre
- Holocaust Memorial Day at Loughton Library, Traps Hill
- The Loughton Pantomime at Lopping Hall

The Town Mayor reported that he could not attend the World of Work Conference with the YES Partnership and thanked Cllr S Murphy for attending in his absence.

222 Reports from Committees

222.1 Planning and Licensing

The meetings held on 18 December 2023, and 8 and 22 January 2024 were NOTED.

222.2 Recreation

The report held on 17 January 2024 was NOTED.

222.3 Resources and General Services

The report held on 17 January 2024 was NOTED.

223 D-Day 80 - The 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings

Members AGREED that the Town Council should mark the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 2024 and to take part in the Nationwide Beacon Lighting, on Hillyfields at 9.45pm.

Cllr C C Pond arrived during the following Agenda Item. He declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter as he was an Essex County Councillor.

224 Removal of seven Loughton salt bins by Essex County Council (ECC)

Members NOTED that ECC had now undertaken to replace three of the seven missing salt bins but were seeking historic evidence of purchase, from the Town Council for the remaining four bins. Members AGREED that the Town Clerk should continue to press ECC to replace the remaining bins and to request ECC to keep refilling them on an annual basis.

The Town Clerk was asked to request ECC to inform the Town Council beforehand if ECC are to make any further inspections/ removals in the future. He was also asked to contact the Essex Safe Road Partnership for their support.

225 Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) – Funding for Dementia Action Officer /Dementia Projects

Members AGREED to support the funding application that Buckhurst Hill Parish Council is making for EFDC to continue their Dementia Action Officer, post / projects from May 2024.

Signed:

Date: 21 February 2024