

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

RECREATION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES of the meeting held at Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber,
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ on Tuesday 27 February 2024
at 7.30pm**

Present

Councillors: D Wixley (in the chair)
S Fontenelle L House (from Min no RC316)
S Murray M Stubbings K Valentine

Also in attendance:

Officers: M Squire (Town Clerk)
P Hoy (Services Manager)

RC306 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr MacKinnon, and it was Noted that Cllr House would be arriving late.

RC307 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7, as he is acquainted with the Wintle family. Cllrs Wixley and Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items relating to the work of Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) as both are members of this authority.

RC308 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RC309 Public Representations

None were received.

RC310 Play Facilities on the Oakwood Hill Estate / Newmans Lane - Min no RC291

The Town Clerk reported that unfortunately Mr Fabrizio Ferrari, Public Health Improvement Officer, EFDC, was unable to attend the meeting, to address the Committee regarding Agenda items 6 and 7. The Town Clerk reported that Mr Ferrari was in the process of arranging a meeting for all interested parties, including Town and District Ward Councillors and Officers, to discuss the proposed Newmans Lane Playground renovation, and a full report will be presented at the next meeting of this Committee.

RC311 Skate Ramps – Min no RC292

The Town Clerk reported that the portable skate ramps and trailer had now been fully refurbished and were being stored at North Weald Airfield. The Community Development Team at EFDC are currently seeking funding from Active Essex to fund a series of skate jam events across the district (including Loughton) as part of the events to support Ride London and increase the uptake of wheeled sports generally.

RC312 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

- The Committee NOTED that requests for benches from both the Wintle and Lee families are progressing, and that both are subject to contractor availability and weather conditions on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.
- The Town Clerk reported that Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) signs have been placed by EFDC at the Oakwood Hill entrance to Roding Valley Recreation Ground (RVRG), and at Colebrook Lane Playground. The Committee recommended that Officers should approach EFDC to secure more signs, to be placed strategically around the RVRG.
- The Town Clerk reported that Roding Valley Angling Club had asked for permission to supply and install its own notice board, adjacent to the Town Council notice board, close to the Greensted Road entrance to the RVRG. The Committee agreed to the request and the decision will be ratified at the next Recreation Committee meeting. Officers will liaise with the Angling Club on this matter.
- The Town Clerk reported that a site meeting had been held at Loughton Cricket Club, to resolve issues around the boundary with a neighbouring property, and that the matter remained ongoing.

Roding Valley Recreation Ground (RVRG)

RC313 Roding Valley Cricket Club (RVCC) – Min no RC294

Members NOTED that RVCC had now opted for an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) loan to fund their move, as it is such a large payment. Subsequently, the conclusion of this matter has been delayed.

RC314 RVRG Tree Survey

Members NOTED that a survey of trees across all Town Council sites was carried out by Place Services (ECC) in late 2023, and the resultant report was received by Officers in January 2024. Excluding the RVRG, there is minimal work needed to conform to health and safety recommendations at the other council sites, however, due to the sheer volume of trees at RVRG, there are once again a substantial number of trees in need of attention. It was AGREED that a copy of the full report will be sent by separate e-mail by the Services Manager to all members of the Committee.

RC315 RVRG – Memorial Trees

The Committee NOTED the report and AGREED to allow EFDC tree officers to plant memorial trees at key locations on the RVRG: namely to the rear of River Way and the rear of Greensted Road.

Cllr House joined the meeting during the following item.

RC316 RVRG Changing Rooms

The Committee Noted the report highlighting concerns over health and safety concerns at the two changing room buildings. It was AGREED that Officers would seek professional advice for resolving issues relating to all aspects of site security, and that EFDC would be approached with a view to discussing the feasibility of demolishing the buildings, as they are no longer fit for use.

Other Agenda Items

RC317 Town Council Community Halls

317.1 Murray Hall – Min no RC301.1

I. Electric Charging Point

Members NOTED that the electric charging point had been installed and is servicing the Town Council van without any problems. Cllr CC Pond, in his capacity as an Essex County Councillor, was able to source additional funding from the Locality Fund to a new total of £2,022.00, which has covered the majority of the net costs of £2,478.67 for the wall box and installation.

RC318 Inappropriate planting of trees on Hillyfields Open Space and Jessel Green by Essex County Council (ECC) / Epping Forest District Council (EFDC)

This development will have already been raised at the Town Council meeting on 21 February 2024.

- **Hillyfields Open Space** – The Committee Noted the report.
- **Jessel Green** – The Committee Noted the report and AGREED that on further reflection the newly planted trees that had been set within the green space should not now be re-located to closer to the Jessel Drive side of the green. The Town Clerk will liaise with officers at EFDC in this regard.

RC319 Jessel Green Fun Day – Sunday 23 June 2024

Members NOTED that good progress had already been made on the organisation of this summer's event.

RC320 Financial Position

The Committee Noted the report.

RC321 Future Work of the Committee

The Chairman mentioned that 'Pinnacle' should be thanked for their work towards our gold certificate from the Essex Playing Fields Association.

Signed:

Date: 29 May 2024