

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND GENERAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 7.00pm at Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber, 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ.

Present:

Councillors: M Owen (in the Chair from the latter part of RG75)
I Allgood S Murray
R Brookes (in the Chair until RG74) M Stubbings
S Fontenelle D Wixley (as substitute for N MacKinnon)

Also present: Epping Forest District (EFDC) Cllr Chidi Nweke joined the meeting at 7.20pm. Cllr Fricker joined the meeting at 7.25pm

Officers: M Squire (Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer - RFO)
K Pendlebury (RFO pending)

The Town Clerk noted that a member was recording the meeting.

RG70 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr MacKinnon. The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Wixley substituted Cllr MacKinnon for this meeting.

RG71 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Murray and Cllr Allgood declared pecuniary interests as 'tentative' 'trustees of the Mens Shed initiative and Cllr Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest as he knows Cllr Nweke. Cllr Fontenelle declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Mens Shed initiative as a member of the Loughton Residents Association (LRA).

RG72 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2024 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and were signed by the Vice Chairman.

RG73 Public Representations

There were no public representations.

RG74 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report

The Town Clerks reported the following: -

- the announcement by both Essex County Council (ECC) and EFDC for formative plans for the devolution of Local Government from County level and the requirement to reduce the number of District Councils within Essex.

Cllr Michael Owen joined the meeting and took the Chair.

- That Loughton Town Council (LTC) had just received a 'clean' interim internal audit, which would be reported fully at the next Resources and General Services Committee meeting.
- That the tender process would now commence for the next internal auditor as LTC is in the last year of the current five-year agreement.
- that the tender processes had begun for the insurance contract as LTC is in the final year of its current three-year agreement.

These items were NOTED and a five-year comparison quote for the insurance contract was requested (in addition to the three 3-year quote) as part of the process, as there could be potential cost savings advantages.

The Chairman had nothing to report.

RG75 Internal Financial Check

Members NOTED the completion of the Internal Financial Check.

RG76 Financial Assistance Grants

Members NOTED that the Financial Assistance Working Group would meet on Wednesday 29 January 2025 to review the grant applications received.

RG77 Banking

Members NOTED the report and AGREED to move forward to open a Unity Bank deposit account and in due course to close the current Santander banking facility.

RG78 Budgets/Estimates 2025/26

The Town Clerk highlighted certain salient areas of the budget figures. The Committee CONFIRMED the estimates of income and expenditure and levels of earmarked funds for 2025-26 on the bass submitted which would increase the precept request by approximately 6.75%. The Committee AGREED the budget and Precept request for 2025 /2026.

Members NOTED the request from District Cllr Nweke for LTC to pay for a structural survey of the dilapidated changing rooms on the Roding Valley Recreation Gound at an estimated a cost of circa £1,000. After reviewing it was NOTED that there was room under existing budget allocations within this financial year for LTC to pay for the survey, without amending the budget that had just been agreed. A final decision would be made by the Recreation Committee that followed, immediately after this meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed:
Date: 12 February 2025