

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 7.45pm at 1 Buckingham Court**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** P Abraham (in the chair)

R Brookes	T Cochrane	B Cohen
M Dalton	C Davies	T Downing
J Jennings	K Latchford	J Mahoney
S Murphy	S Murray	A Omer
T Owen	S Pewsey	C C Pond
C P Pond	M Stubbings	D Wixley

**Officers:** E K Walsh (Town Clerk)  
P Bryce (Administrative Assistant)

**Also present:**

Martin Newnham, Head Forest Keeper for Epping Forest at the City of London  
1 member of the public

The meeting was preceded by a minute's silence in memory of Stan Goodwin, a former district and county councillor, whose funeral had taken place earlier in the day. Cllr Murray paid tribute to Mr Goodwin's outstanding record of community work.

**89 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Angold-Stephens, Beales and Girling.

**90 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary and non-prejudicial interest in Agenda items 7.1 (Communities Initiatives Fund), 12 (Local Plan) and 13 (Office Accommodation) and any other matters concerning Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council as a member of those councils.

**91 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2017 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**92 Public Representations**

None were received

The Council AGREED to bring forward agenda item 10.

**93 Epping Forest**

The Chairman invited Mr Martin Newnham, Head Forest Keeper for Epping Forest at the City of London, to address the Council to speak about his role and the current issues and forward plans for the forest.

As there were continuing concerns regarding unauthorised encampments on the Forest and local public open space, Mr Newnham asked the Council to consider in

partnership with the City of London and Epping Forest District Council applying for an exclusion zone order.

Mr Newnham also asked the Town Council for assistance in promoting the Forest to residents and encouraging them to report problems promptly.

At the end of his presentation, members were offered and accepted the opportunity to ask questions on local issues.

On behalf of the Council, Cllr Abraham thanked Mr Newnham for his excellent presentation.

**94 Questions Without Discussion**

No questions were received.

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

The Town Mayor, Cllr Philip Abrahams, reported that since his appointment in May 2017 he had attended the following events:

Inauguration of the Mayor of Waltham Abbey, Loughton Festival – Howzat Loughton Cricket Club, Indian Orthodox Church, Senior Forum Brockley, St Clare Hospice launch of the Children's Bereavement Service, Forest Creative Writers, Epping Forest College Awards Evening, 2324 (Chigwell) Squadron Awards Evening, Rotary Club of Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell Presidential Handover Dinner, GROW Community Garden, First Year Anniversary Community Picnic and Open Day, Oak View School Music Festival and the Jessel Green Fun Day.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Stephen Murray, reported that since his appointment in May 2017, on behalf of the Town Mayor, he had attended the LADS production of "Dial M for Murder" at the Lopping Hall and OHERA's Big Lunch on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

Cllr Abraham announced that he was to host the annual Onam Festival celebration in The Murray Hall on Sunday 3 September 2017 and that all councillors were invited.

**96 Matters for Report**

To report any further significant information on matters which have been previously discussed, in addition to those which may already be included on the Agenda.

**96.1 Community Initiatives Fund – Min nos RC46.5 and EH57.11**

The Council NOTED that, once costings were available, officers would discuss with the committee chairmen which was the most suitable project for an application to this fund.

**96.2 Petition**

The Council NOTED receipt of a petition regarding the level of business rates and their concerns about the future of local shopping centres including those in Buckhurst Hill. With the written permission of the petition organiser, this had been forwarded to Epping Forest District Council as being the more appropriate authority to respond to such concerns. EFDC had clarified that they did not set the business rates (the responsibility of the District Valuation Services) and were simply the collection authority and as such, there was little they can do to address the petitioners' concerns.

Signatories to the petition, who were mainly from local businesses, have been encouraged to support the two town centre partnerships in their work to promote the town and its businesses.

**97 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations**

**97.1** Written reports on the following meetings were NOTED.

- i) Epping Forest Centenary Trust – 28 June 2017 – Cllr Pewsey
- ii) The Lopping Endowment – 4 July 2017 – Cllr Pewsey
- iii) Debden Tenants Panel – 20 June 2017 – Cllr Wixley
- iv) Larger Local Council Forum – 14 June 2017 – Cllr Wixley
- v) EALC – Police and Crime Commissioner Conference – 7 June 2017 – Cllr Wixley
- vi) ECC Parish Passenger Transport Meeting – 26 June 2017 – Cllr C C Pond

97.2 Cllr Latchford, supported by Cllrs Davies and Owen, presented an oral report on the recent Broadway Town Centre Partnership AGM meeting.

**98 Reports from Committees**

**98.1 Planning and Licensing**

The reports from the meetings held on 24 April, 8 and 22 May, 5 and 19 June, 3 July 2017 were NOTED.

**98.2 Recreation**

The report from the meeting held on 14 June 2017 was NOTED.

**98.3 Environment and Heritage**

The report from the meeting held on 21 June 2017 was NOTED.

**98.4 Resources and General Services**

The report from the meeting held on 5 July 2017 was NOTED.

**99 Essex Association of Local Councils**

In line with the Council's recent decision to take action regarding poor air quality (see Min no EH41) and with the support of the Epping Forest Branch of the Association of Local Councils, the Council CONFIRMED that the following motion was to be submitted to the EALC for consideration at the AGM on 19 September 2017:

*As medical and other evidence suggests a growing link between air quality, notably diesel vehicle emissions, and poor respiratory health, the EALC and its member councils are urged to:*

- i. to apply pressure on the County Council and the principal councils to more carefully monitor and publish air quality data; and*
- ii. reduce their use of diesel powered vehicles and apparatus.*

**100 Local Plan**

Members noted the information received from Epping Forest District Council regarding the Infrastructure Delivery Plan workshop held on Saturday 8 July 2017.

The Council AGREED that suggestions on new local infrastructure requirements which would be required to support growth being planned as part of the emerging Local Plan should be submitted to the Town Clerk for collation to meet the deadline of 18 August 2017.

**101 Office Accommodation**

Further to the report made to the Resources and General Services Committee at its meeting on 5 July 2017 the Town Clerk reported that the moving date, for transfer to new office space at Loughton Library, had been confirmed as Monday 24 July 2017.

Cllr C C Pond confirmed that the new name for the library building was to be "Loughton Library and Town Hall". Cllr Pond also commented that the relocation should ensure better recognition for the work the Town Council undertakes in the town.

Members commended the officers on the way that they had handled the move.

Cllr Abraham reminded everyone that this had been the last meeting in the Council Chamber at Buckingham Court and looked forward to welcoming everyone to Loughton Library.

**Signed.....**

**Date: 18 October 2017**