

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 7pm at The Murray Hall, 106 Borders Lane, Loughton IG10 1SB.**

**Present:**

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

|                   |           |                             |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| J Angold-Stephens | P Beales  | R Brookes (from Min no 127) |
| T Cochrane        | B Cohen   | M Dalton                    |
| C Davies          | T Downing | J Jennings                  |
| K Latchford       | S Murphy  | S Murray                    |
| A Omer            | T Owen    | C C Pond                    |
| C P Pond          | D Wixley  |                             |

**Officers:** E K Walsh (Town Clerk)  
P Hoy (Services Manager)  
P Bryce (Administrative Assistant)  
D Taylor (Assistant to the Services Manager)

**Also present:**

28 members of the public  
2 members of the press

**125 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Girling, Pewsey and Stubbings. The members sent their best wishes to Cllr Stubbings for a speedy recovery.

**126 Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 32, to agree to suspend Standing Order 2 h(i)(iv) for this meeting only, as the meeting is a special one with only two main agenda items.

Cllrs Brooks joined the meeting during the next item.

**127 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Brooks, Jennings, Murray, C C Pond and Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6 as members of Epping Forest District Council and as they had attended a publicity photoshoot for the Save the Jessel Green campaign. Cllr Murray also reported he was a supporter of their social media page and had expressed his views in the local press.

Cllrs Abraham, Davies, Latchford and Owen declared a personal interest which was non-pecuniary in Agenda item 6, as they attended a publicity photoshoot for the Save the Jessel Green campaign.

Cllr Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6 as a member of Epping Forest District Council and also as a member of the Essex Playing Fields Association which had commented in the local press on the development proposals.

**128 Public Representations**

None were received.

**129 Council Precept for 2018/19**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Angold-Stephens, Vice Chairman of the Resources and General Services Committee, presented the recommendations of this Committee from its meeting on 10 January 2018.

It was NOTED that the tax base for 2018/19 had been confirmed as 12,408.9, a slight increase on that for 2017/18.

It was further NOTED that the District Council had confirmed that the LCTS grant to be paid to the Town Council with the first instalment of the Precept, the sum of £13,508, had been treated as income in the Estimates.

It was AGREED to use £78,000 from the forecast general reserves, which reduced them to £242,458 equivalent to 60.11 per cent of the budgeted net core running costs meeting the Council's Reserves Policy.

The Estimates for 2018/19 were AGREED as follows:

| Committee                        | Income  |                | Expenditure including re-charges |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------|----------------------------------|
|                                  | £       | £              |                                  |
| Resources and General Services   | 32,850  |                | 191,945                          |
| Environment and Heritage         | 25,470  |                | 211,655                          |
| Recreation                       | 109,880 |                | 679,990                          |
| Planning and Licensing           | 0       |                | 75,700                           |
|                                  |         | <b>168,200</b> | <b>1,159,290</b>                 |
| Interest                         |         | <b>5,000</b>   |                                  |
| Use from earmarked reserves      |         |                |                                  |
| Resources & General Services     | 6,500   |                |                                  |
| Environment & Heritage           | 39,500  |                |                                  |
| Recreation                       | 148,700 |                |                                  |
| Planning and Licensing           | 35,000  |                |                                  |
|                                  |         | <b>229,700</b> |                                  |
| Local Council Tax Support Grant  |         | <b>13,508</b>  |                                  |
|                                  |         |                |                                  |
| Total income                     |         | <b>416,408</b> |                                  |
|                                  |         |                |                                  |
| Less money from general reserves |         | <b>78,000</b>  |                                  |
|                                  |         |                |                                  |
| <b>Net requirement</b>           |         | <b>664,882</b> |                                  |
| <b>Rounding</b>                  |         | <b>665,000</b> |                                  |

The Council unanimously RESOLVED to set the precept for 2018/19 at £665,000.

This would give the Loughton proportion of the annual council tax for a band D property as £53.59.

Members thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Resources and General Services Committee and the Town Clerk for their work in preparing this budget.

### **130 Local Plan (Submission Version 2017)**

Following the publication of the Local Plan and its supporting documents by Epping Forest District Council on 18 December 2017, an informal meeting of the Strategy and Staff Group had been held on 2 January 2018 to assist with the drafting of the representation. All councillors had been invited to this meeting.

Subsequently, the Town Clerk had sought advice from the Council's barrister and held further discussions with the Strategy and Staff Group before taking further action.

#### **130.1 Professional Planning Advice**

The Council RATIFIED the action taken by the Town Clerk to appoint a planning consultancy firm, Ann Skippers, with a net budget figure of £3,000.

Their instructions were to review the Local Plan and supporting documents and the town council's representations at this stage to ensure that:

1. all the suitable and applicable points have been picked up;
2. the Council's representations were written so that they presented a clear planning case and addressed the soundness of the Plan for the benefit of a Planning Inspector, noting that representations must be submitted by 5pm on 29 January 2018.

#### **130.2 Representations**

A letter from a member of the public regarding the designation of site LOU.R2 at Debden Underground Station was brought to the attention of the Council.

Members then considered the draft representations provided in the Agenda and AGREED to include the following comments:

- i. LOU.R2 is referred to only as a station car park. The site currently provides employment land for a long established vehicle hire firm, the only one in or near Loughton, which is a valuable community facility.

The site might be acceptable if a proper bus/rail/taxi interchange was provided together with an undertaking to relocate the existing vehicle hire business.

- ii. Although Site LOU.R5 had been identified in 2008 as a potential housing development site, it was not included in the main "Issues and Options" consultation in 2013 and so residents had been denied the opportunity to comment at that early stage.
- iii. Where multi-occupancy developments such as flats/apartments failed to provide sufficient on-site parking, residents should be excluded from any existing residents parking scheme in the locality.

- iv. Where developments include proposals for underground car parking, the Council has concerns regarding public safety and construction methods must ensure air quality for those residents above is not impacted.

The Council RESOLVED unanimously that:

- i. the report on pages 4 – 9 of the Agenda would form the Council's submission to the Planning Inspector subject to the amendments agreed above and the advice of the Council's legal and planning consultants; and
- ii. that the Town Clerk was to be responsible for the submission of the representations.

Members thanked Cllr C C Pond for his work to provide the representations.

**Signed**.....

**Date:**           **7 March 2018**