

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 March 2018 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall.

Present:

Councillors: D Wixley (in the Chair)
R Brookes B Cohen S Murray
A Omer M Stubbings

Also in attendance:

Officers: E K Walsh (Town Clerk)
P Hoy (Services Manager)

1 member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the final meeting of this municipal year. The Committee asked the Chairman to send a letter of thanks to former councillor Leon Girling and his wife for their work for the community.

RC77 Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

RC78 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Stubbings declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5.6.6, Junior Park Run, as he had held discussions with the public speaker.

Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5.6.6, Junior Park Run, as he lived close to the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

RC79 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 amended from those circulated at Min no RC73.4 to record 4 April 2018, were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Committee AGREED to bring forward Agenda item 5.6.6 Junior Park Run to follow the public representations as a member of the public was interested in this item.

RC80 Public Representations

A member of the public addressed the Committee regarding his proposal to hold Junior Park Run events on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.

RC81 Junior Park Run

Members expressed their support for activities which encouraged children to take more exercise but considered carefully the implications of holding this type of event on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground on Sundays at 9am.

The Committee AGREED that

- i. Junior Park Run events might be held for a four-month trial period. However, should the events not commence until later in the year, the trial period was to be reduced to three months;

- ii. This would be subject to pre-agreement with the Services Manager on the 2 km route with a starting point ideally close to the Highwood Lane end of the Recreation Ground;
- iii. The Committee reserved the right to withdraw this permission.

RC82 Matters for Report

82.1 Playgrounds – Min no RC73.1

82.1.1 Traps Hill Playground

The Committee NOTED that the order for the replacement item of equipment – a double springer seesaw, as preferred by the Loughton Mums Group would shortly be placed.

The Town Clerk provided an update on efforts to secure a significant contribution to the cost of the works to replace the vandalised trampoline.

82.1.2 Safety Inspections

The Committee NOTED that the RoSPA inspections had been carried out at all play areas, outdoor gyms, football pitches and ball courts on 30 and 31 January 2018 at a net cost of £1,133.35. The Services Manager was arranging for some minor works identified in the reports to be carried out.

82.2 Community Events – Min no RC73.2

82.2.1 Annual Town Mayor’s Charity Fun Run

The Committee NOTED that the 2018 Fun Run was to be held at 10.30am on Sunday 29 April on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground with the format as in previous years. As this event was to be part of the 2018 Loughton Festival event it will be held in aid of the Chigwell Riding Trust.

The Chairman encouraged all councillors to attend this community event.

82.2.2 Play in the Park – Min no RC73.2.3

The Committee NOTED the confirmed dates for the Play in the Park activities during the Easter and Summer school holidays and that the Council’s total contribution to the costs of these free events would be £780.

82.2.3 Jessel Green Fun Day – 73.2.4

The Committee NOTED that Epping Forest District Council had granted a licence for this event to be held from 12 noon until 4pm on Sunday 15 July 2018. The Town and Community Development Officer was in discussion with the partner organisations, Epping Forest Community Church, the Red Balloon Foundation and Restore Community Church, to provide a full programme of events.

The Chairman encouraged all councillors to support this event.

82.2.4 “Battle’s Over” – a Hundred Years of Remembrance

The Committee NOTED that, whilst heritage matters usually fell under the remit of the Environment and Heritage Committee, in the absence of a specific budget for the special event to commemorate the

centenary of the end of WWI, this would be funded through the Community Events budget held by this Committee.

Plans were being finalised to light the beacon on Hillyfields at 7pm on Sunday 11 November 2018 as part of the national tribute.

82.3 Willingale Road Playing Field – Min no RC73.3

The Committee NOTED that the removal of the vandalised table tennis table had been delayed by the ground conditions on site which have prevented vehicle access from the Davenant School site.

82.4 Essex Police – Min no RC54.6

The Committee NOTED that the next local community meeting would take place on Wednesday 4 April 2018 from 7pm to 8pm at The Murray Hall, Borders Lane, Loughton.

The Town Clerk gave a brief report on the recent meeting of the Safer Communities Partnership held in the Civic Offices in Epping.

82.5 Defibrillators – Min no RC54.7

The Committee NOTED that the installation of three defibrillators and key code locked all-weather cabinets had been scheduled for 18 April 2018 outside the following premises:

- Housing Office, The Broadway
- Loughton Club, Station Road
- Morrisons, Loughton High Road

In addition, a defibrillator is to be made available by the Park Run group at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground changing rooms for events.

After extensive research with providers, an order had been placed with the Community Heartbeat Trust. As the Trust remained the owner of the equipment the donation to cover the four-year Managed Solution Adoption Agreement amounted to £5,610.

This agreement also included service costs, full insurance and post event trauma counselling. The Town Council would be responsible for weekly visual inspections that must be reported on line, annual electrical safety checks and consumables.

The funding of this joint project was as follows:

	£
Loughton Town Council	1,200
Broadway Town Centre Partnership	500
EFDC grant (BTCP)	1,500
Broadway Traders	500
Loughton 1 st (Loughton TCP)	500
EFDC grant (Loughton 1 st)	1,000
Loughton, Chigwell & Buckhurst Hill Rotary Club	600
	£5,800

Once installation had been completed, a major publicity campaign to highlight both the new and the existing equipment locations and availability would be undertaken. It was also planned to have an 'opening ceremony' at the various locations to publicly thank the supporters.

82.6 Roding Valley Recreation Ground

82.6.1 Improvements Project – Min no RC73.6.2

The Committee NOTED that the working party had met to discuss concerns about the long-term safety of electricity and water supplies to the football changing rooms and whether it would be practical to offer football changing facilities at the Recreation Ground for the 2018/19 season. This was likely to have a potential impact on league matches and adult teams.

As over £4,000 had been spent on repairs this financial year, the Committee agreed it was appropriate to progress the major refurbishment as a key priority rather than to continue to spend money on repairs.

82.6.2 Mobile Refreshment Facility

The Committee NOTED that expressions of interest had been invited from operators prepared to provide hot and cold drinks and snacks from May through September 2018. Advice on licensing had been sought from the District Council. It was NOTED that the Town Clerk would offer a licence to a suitable operator at a maximum cost of £20 per hour.

82.6.3 Dog and Litter Bins

The Committee NOTED that following Epping Town Council's decision to withdraw the management of the dog bin emptying contract for a number of local councils, the Services Manager had arranged a new contract with local contractor, TBS Hygiene. This applied to two dog litter bins on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and one on the Willingale Road Playing Field. All other bins on the Recreation Ground were emptied as part of the grounds maintenance contract.

The Services Manager had arranged for a replacement dog bin to be installed on the river path at a net cost of £328. He was also arranging for the relocation of an underused general litter bin, currently hidden behind a fence near the changing rooms, to the river path to reduce the overflowing problem caused by members of the public placing general litter in the dog bin.

82.6.4 Walking Football – Min no RC73.2.6

The Committee NOTED that thanks to the support of the Health and Wellbeing team at the District Council, this new provision at the Recreation Ground would commence on Saturday 28 April from 10.30am – 11.30am. The costs of 5-a-side pitch marking had been confirmed as £715.09 for the initial summer season with the costs shared by the Health and Wellbeing team.

82.6.5 Tennis Coaching – Min no RC73.2.5

The Committee NOTED that one-hour coaching sessions for children aged 5 – 11 years, arranged for the afternoons of the two Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Easter school holidays at a cost of £120, were almost fully booked.

82.6.6 South Loughton Cricket Club

In response to a request from the Club to install an additional container close to their pavilion, the Committee AGREED to defer this item to

seek clarification on what the existing two containers were used for and what items required such additional storage.

82.7 Murray Hall

The Committee RATIFIED the officer decision taken in discussion with the members of the Community Halls Working Group, to make a full refund of hire fees to a hirer unable to use the hall on 4 March 2018 owing to the winter weather.

82.8 Future Work of the Committee – Min no RC76

The Committee AGREED to defer the awards to recognise the work of the volunteer litter pickers until 2019 but to make the presentation to the Parks Department as soon as this could be arranged with the Town Mayor.

82.9 EPFA Best Kept Playing Fields Competition 2018

The Committee AGREED to submit entries to the 2018 Awards Competition at a nominal fee of £10.

82.10 Open Spaces

82.10.1 Hillyfields

The Committee NOTED that the Flood Investigation Engineers at Essex County Council were considering the installation of a flood alleviation scheme on the lower corner of this site at the junction of Pyrles Lane and Rectory Lane. This was in response to the identification of Pyrles Brook as an area warranting further investigation as surface flooding could affect a significant number of residential properties.

The proposal had been halted for further investigation in response to concerns about the impact on a significant number of large oak trees owned by the City of London.

82.10.2 Memorial Garden

The Committee NOTED that the maintenance contract for 2018/19 had been awarded to Greenhill Gardening Services at a net cost of £1,240.00. Additional mulching and summer geraniums for the containers would also be arranged.

82.10.3 Willingale Road Nature Reserve and Community Orchard

The Committee NOTED that the Services Manager had met with the Epping Forest Countrycare Team to discuss the maintenance for 2018/19 with three visits at £420 a day planned.

RC82 Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the report.

RC83 Future Work of the Committee

No items were raised.

Signed:
Date: 13 June 2018