

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD.

Present:

Councillors: S Murray (in the chair)

P Abraham	P Beales	T Cochrane
B Cohen	C Davies	T Downing
J Jennings	K Latchford	S Murphy
S Murphy	T Owen	S Pewsey
C C Pond	C P Pond	M Stubbings
D Wixley		

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

163 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Angold-Stephens, Brooks, Dalton, Omer and Mahoney.

164 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary and non-prejudicial interest in any matters concerning Essex County Council as a member of that council.

165 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2018 amended from those circulated at Min no 155 to record Cllr C C Pond's tribute to Cllr Abraham, were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

166 Public Representations

None were received.

167 Questions Without Discussion

No questions were received.

168 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

The Town Mayor, Cllr Stephen Murray, reported that since his appointment in May 2018 he had attended the following events:

- The Open Door at St Michael's Church, Roding Road;
- The Girls Talk at the Loughton Methodist Church;
- The YES Motivation Conference and presentations of certificates;
- A LADS performance of "California Suite" at Lopping Hall'
- National Empathy Day at Loughton Library;
- Epping Forest College's Creative Summer Festival;
- Forest Creative Writers' Launch Party and presentation of "Anthology of Short Stories and Poems" at Loughton Club;
- A cupcake making competition at Roding Valley High School;
- The official opening of the warehouse unit for Epping Forest Foodbank;
- Epping Forest College's Learner Awards evening;

- The Celebration of the Restore Community Centre;
- A visit to the new Hindu Centre in Chigwell with Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Murphy;
- Spark breakfast meeting;
- A meeting with Richard Stevens, CEO of the Crate, Oakwood Hill Industrial Estate;
- The 40th anniversary of Revitalise at Jubilee Lodge, Chigwell;
- Roding Valley High School's Business Breakfast for Year 12;
- Love Loughton at St Mary's Church;
- Oak View School's Music Festival;
- The Jessel Green Community Fun Day;
- Judging at the Roding Valley High School Showcase Enrichment evening; and
- The Memorial Service for Peter Adams, Epping Forest Verderer, held at St John's Church, Epping.

Referring to the successful Jessel Green event, the Town Mayor thanked the Council Staff for their hard work in this regard.

169 Matters for Report

No matters were reported.

170 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

170.1 Written reports on the following meetings were NOTED.

- i) Larger Local Councils Forum – 28 June 2018 – Cllr Wixley and the Town Clerk
- ii) Epping Forest Branch of the Association of Local Councils – 3 July 2018 – Cllrs Pond and Wixley and the Town Clerk

170.2 Cllr Wixley tabled a report on the Tree Wardens Meeting held on 16 May 2018.

171 Reports from Committees

171.1 Planning and Licensing

The reports from the meetings held on 14 May, 4 and 18 June, 2 July 2018 were NOTED.

171.2 Recreation

The report from the meeting held on 13 June 2018 was NOTED.

171.3 Environment and Heritage

The report from the meeting held on 20 June 2018 was NOTED.

Cllr C C Pond updated members on changes to local bus services and provided information regarding the 6-week closure of Alderton Hall Lane for bridge works. He also reported on his work with County Councillor Metcalfe to ensure TfL bus services were re-routed for the duration of these works.

Members thanked Cllr C C Pond for his endeavours in this regard.

171.4 Resources and General Services

The report from the meeting held on 4 July 2018 was NOTED.

172 Standing Orders

The Council considered the recommendations and AGREED to the amendments and additions as detailed in the Agenda.

173 Consultation

The Council considered the District Council's "Draft Homelessness Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21" and AGREED to submit the following response:

- i. The Town Council thanks the District Council for the opportunity to make a submission to this Consultation. However, there is concern that page 47 of the document implies that the 'consultation has already been undertaken' and 'the Strategy already approved by the Portfolio Holder'.
- ii. The importance of this strategy is acknowledged as it deals with the key issue of homelessness, which is a growing problem in our town.
- iii. We are pleased that the District Council reviews this strategy every three years rather than the legal requirement of once every five years (as explained on page 4 in section 1.1).
- iv. We note the new duties under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 as outlined in Section 3 on pages 4 and 5.
- v. We welcome and support all the initiatives to assist those who are experiencing housing difficulties and may be faced with losing their home, as outlined on pages 6 – 7 in section 10.2 through to and including section 16 of the document.
- vi. The contents of pages 26 and 27 are noted and we congratulate the homelessness service on this achievement (namely over the three years 2015 – 18, the housing prevention service has dealt with 1,765 cases of potential homelessness of which around 89% have been prevented).
- vii. We endorse and support the Action Plans outlined in Appendix 1, on pages 48, 49 and 50.
- viii. We particularly welcome the planned action of finalising the arrangements for 'CHESS' to provide advice, support and assistance to rough sleepers in the District (page 49).
- ix. We draw the District Council's attention to the now common practice of London boroughs migrating their homeless persons to Epping Forest and other districts on short term tenancies. When these expire, the London boroughs abandon their duties which then fall to the receiving local authorities. As this has happened in Loughton, the Town Council considers this practice needs scrutiny and action at a national level and suggests the support of the three local members of parliament should be enlisted.

Signed.....

Date: 17 October 2018