

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall.

Present

Councillors: C C Pond (in the Chair)

T Cochrane

C Davies

T Owen

S Pewsey

C P Pond

J Jennings (as substitute for Cllr Beales)

Also in attendance

Councillors: D Wixley

Officers: E K Walsh (Town Clerk)

P Hoy (Services Manager)

2 members of the public

EH99 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Beales. The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Jennings had been nominated as substitute for this meeting.

EH100 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

EH101 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2018 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EH102 Public Representations

None were received.

EH103 Allotments – Min no EH94.1

103.1 Willingale Road Allotments

103.1.1 Status report

The Town Clerk reported that as the Annual plot rents for 2018/19 were currently being received, a detailed report would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

103.1.2 Hens on Allotments

The Council had received a request from an allotment tenant for permission to bring her small brood of chickens onto her plot during the daytime to help clear the weeds. Members raised concerns about the advisability of bringing the chickens to and from site repeatedly. Officers would speak to the tenants in this regard.

The Committee RESOLVED to adopt the policy as presented in the Agenda with one amendment in section xviii changing 'must' to 'may', together with the registration form.

103.2 Loughton Best Allotment Awards and Horticultural Show

The Committee NOTED the report of the inaugural show held on 1 September 2018 in the Murray Hall and thanked all those who had worked to ensure the success of the event. In particular, members thanked the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Murphy for presenting the allotment awards, Pippa Bryce for her endeavours and The Crate for its donation.

A £200 donation had been made to the Epping Forest Foodbank which had also received the fresh produce left over from the show.

103.3 Roding Road Allotments

The Committee CONFIRMED that £6,000 for fencing works at this site might be included in the draft budget figures for 2019/20. This would cover the supply and installation costs of prison mesh fencing along the most vulnerable part, the lower corner by the garages at the rear of properties in Stonards Hill.

103.4 Heritage Plaques – Min no EH94.2

It was reported that the unveiling of the new plaque to commemorate the Oriolet Fruitarian Hospital and its director, Josiah Oldfield, on a property in Staples Road, had been arranged for the morning of Tuesday 25 September 2018. All councillors were invited to attend.

The Committee AGREED to

- i. progress the installation of a plaque to commemorate the former home of Lord Len Murray of Epping Forest at 29 The Crescent; and
- ii. consider marking the site of the Loughton Sewage Works adjacent to the Roding Valley Recreation Ground changing rooms.

103.5 Bus Services – Min no EH94.3

The Chairman provided a general update on changes to local services.

103.6 Bus Shelters – Min no EH94.4

Members NOTED that the Resources and General Services Committee had considered that the cost of insuring Town Council-owned shelters was not warranted.

In response to a request for a new bus shelter in Newmans Lane close to the sheltered housing scheme in Hedgers Close, the Committee AGREED to include a provisional 2019/20 budget figure of £4,000.

103.7 Heritage Open Days – Min no EH94.5

A report of this year's events was presented at the meeting. It was noted that visitor numbers to the Cemetery Chapel were up on previous years, thanks in part to the simultaneous opening of the bell tower at St John's Church and increased publicity. The classic car rally in the Standard Green area of the High Road also attracted a lot of interest and thanks were recorded to Cllr Kauffman for arranging this.

103.8 Loughton Cemetery – Min no EH87

The Committee NOTED that the memorial testing exercise was expected to commence at the end of October 2018.

103.9 Christmas Windows Competition – Min no EH94.6

The Committee thanked Cllrs Cochrane and Jennings for their offer to accompany the Town Mayor in the judging of the 2018 competition.

103.10 Local Highways Panel – Min no EH94.10

The Committee CONFIRMED its support for an improvement scheme request submitted by Epping Forest District Councillor, Debra Roberts. This concerned safety issues resulting from the major highway works associated with the new Epping Forest Shopping Park in Langston Road – the vulnerability of vehicles turning right into the Debden Station Approach and those turning right out of Colson Road.

103.11 Open Gardens – Min no EH98.1

Members NOTED the report and asked officers to commence discussions with St Clare Hospice on the practicalities of joining their scheme in June 2019.

103.12 Festive Lighting

The Services Manager reported that the testing of the Christmas lights on the large tree on Kings Green had shown up a fault and that it might be necessary to replace several of the strings of lights. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

103.13 North Essex Parking Partnership

The Town Clerk reported that NEPP was consulting on proposed parking restrictions in Nursery Road, Connaught Avenue, Shaftesbury, Sparelease Hill and Whitehills Road. Full details would be circulated to all councillors and comments invited by Friday 21 September 2018 to enable a response to be collated.

103.14 Community Toilet Scheme

The Town Clerk advised that the Town and Community Development Officer was currently researching the locations of publicly accessible toilet facilities across the town to enable a report on this proposed scheme to be drafted for consideration by the Committee.

EH104 Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH105 Highways

105.1 Barncroft Road

The Committee had NO OBJECTION to the Department for Transport's proposed stopping up of the highway at Barncroft Road, Loughton provided any boundary fence was no taller than 3' 6" (1.0668m).

105.2 Smarts Lane and Forest Road

The Committee had NO OBJECTION to the proposed changes to parking restrictions but queried the current variation in start times for parking restrictions in nearby streets.

EH106 The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF)

The Committee NOTED the report and that the Recreation Committee had requested an application be submitted for funding towards the new windows and doors at Kingsley Hall.

EH107 Environmental Issues

No issues were raised.

EH108 Future Work of the Committee

No items were raised for future discussion.

Signed:

Date: 14 November 2018