

THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD.

Present:

Councillors: S Murray (in the chair)

P Abraham	J Angold-Stephens	P Beales
R Brookes	T Cochrane	J Jennings
J Jogia	K Latchford	J Mahoney
S Murphy	A Omer (from Min no 183)	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:

Jasmine James, Zak Smith and Onyeka Okeke, Epping Forest Youth Councillors
Diane Butler, Youth Engagement Officer, Epping Forest District Council
1 member of the public

The Council AGREED to bring forward agenda item 10, a presentation by Epping Forest Youth Council to follow agenda item 3.

180 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cohen, Dalton, Davies and Downing.

181 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 8.1(i) as a Trustee of the Epping Forest District Citizens' Advice and Agenda item 9.3, the Environment and Heritage Committee Min no EH103.4 regarding the Blue Plaque nomination for 29 The Crescent, Loughton.

Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7.2, Highways and any other items relating to Essex County Council as a member of that council.

182 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 18 July and 29 August 2018 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

183 Epping Forest Youth Council

Local representatives from the Epping Forest Youth Council gave a presentation on the work of the Youth Council over the last 10 years since its inception, their role "Making a Difference for Young People" and the current projects. These included a drug awareness campaign and developing a personal safety guide.

The presentation was followed by a short question and answer session. The Council thanked the Youth Councillors for their presentation.

184 Public Representations

None were received.

185 Questions Without Discussion

No questions were received.

186 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements

186.1 Engagements

Cllr Murray reported that since the last Council meeting he had attended the following events:

- A presentation to the Epping Forest District Council Parks Service for their high standard of work on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground.
- Abbeyfield Society AGM and afternoon tea with the Deputy Town Mayor
- The welcome service for the new minister, Sue Creighton, at Loughton Methodist Church
- Presentation of awards at Royal Forest Scout District's AGM
- Re-opening of the Loughton Leisure Centre
- A meeting of the St Michael's Parochial Church Council
- Epping Forest College – meeting the new Principal Janet Smith, with the Town Clerk
- The opening of the Snowdrop Indoor Garden and Beach at the Woodland Grove Dementia Unit
- Blue Heritage Plaque unveiling – Oriolet Fruitarian Hospital & Dr Josiah Oldfield in Staples Road
- Launch of the Eco Church Project at St Mary's Church
- 'Save Jessel Green' campaign photoshoot for The Mail on Sunday newspaper
- The Christian Drama Resource Centre annual coffee morning at Loughton Methodist Church
- Epping Forest Reuse 5th Anniversary event
- Official start of the 1st Junior Park Run on Roding Valley Recreation Ground
- Oakwood Hill Community Consultation event organised by Restore

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Murphy, reported that since the last Council meeting she had attended the following events:

- The Loughton Horticultural Society and Town Mayor's Best Allotment Awards presentation in Murray Hall
- The opening of TeensUnite Charity new office in Loughton High Road

186.2 Announcements

186.2.1 The Town Mayor announced that he had received a letter of resignation from the Town Clerk and that her last day of employment would be 31 January 2019. The Interview Panel had offered the post to Mr Mark Squire, currently Town Clerk at Witham Town Council. Subject to ratification by the Council at its meeting on 12 December 2018, Mr Squire would join the Council on 1 February 2019.

186.2.2 Cllr Murray announced his decision not to hold a Civic Celebration/Service during 2019. The presentations of the annual Citizenship Awards would take place during the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 13 March 2019.

187 Matters for Report

187.1 Policing

The Council NOTED the report on the various options available to respond to residents' concerns about increasing crime levels and the lack of visible policing.

The Council AGREED to refer this matter to the Recreation Committee meeting on 7 November 2018 for further consideration. The Town Clerk was asked to invite the Divisional Commanders from both Essex Police and the British Transport Police to that meeting.

187.2 Highways

The Council NOTED the report on 'Devolution and Public Realm/Highway Services', a joint working proposal by Essex County Council. On behalf of the Town Council, the Town Clerk had expressed an interest in this scheme without commitment and subject to the receipt of more detailed information.

188 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations

188.1 Written reports on the following meetings were NOTED.

- i) **Epping Forest District Citizens' Advice** – 19 July 2018 – Cllr Angold-Stephens. A verbal report was also presented by Cllr Angold-Stephens on the AGM that held on 17 October 2018.
- ii) **Voluntary Action Epping Forest** – 12 September 2018 – Town Clerk
- iii) **Local Councils' Liaison Committee** – 10 September 2018 – Cllrs C C Pond and Wixley and the Town Clerk.
- iv) **EALC 73rd AGM & Conference** – 20 September 2018 in Great Dunmow – Cllr Wixley and Assistant Town Clerk
- v) **Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve Consultative Group** – 12 September 2018 – Cllr Wixley
- vi) **Epping Forest Consultative Committee** – 10 October 2018 – Town Clerk
- vii) **Tree Wardens** – 2 October 2018 – Cllr Wixley

189 Reports from Committees

189.1 Planning and Licensing

The reports from the meetings held on 16 and 30 July, 20 August, 3 and 17 September, 1 October 2018 were NOTED.

189.2 Recreation

The report from the meeting held on 29 August 2018 was NOTED.

189.3 Environment and Heritage

The report from the meeting held on 12 September 2018 was NOTED.

189.4 Resources and General Services

The report from the meeting held on 10 October 2018 was NOTED.

190 Accounts and Audit 2017/18

The Council NOTED the External Auditor's Certificate and that the issue raised had been one of a technical nature referring to the treatment of direct debit payments in the accounts.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit, published on 28 September 2018, was currently displayed on the noticeboards around the town and on the Council’s website together with a copy of the auditor’s apology for errors in his comments.

Signed.....
Date: 12 December 2018