

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

RECREATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 7.45pm at 1 Buckingham Court

Present:

Councillors: D Wixley (in the Chair)
R Brookes S Murray A Omer
M Stubbings
P Beales (as substitute for Cllr Cohen)

Also in attendance:

Councillors: S Pewsey

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

RC26 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cohen and Girling. The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Beales had been nominated as Cllr Cohen's substitute for this meeting.

RC27 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

RC28 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2016 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RC29 Public Representations

None were received.

RC30 Matters for Report

30.1 Playgrounds – Min no RC21.3

The Committee NOTED that the trampoline surface at the Traps Hill play area had been replaced just before Christmas at a net cost of £1,750. An order for a new bolt for the Traps Hill play area entrance gate and various other minor repairs at several play areas in the town had been placed.

30.2 Community Events – Min no RC5.5

30.2.1 Park Run

The Committee NOTED that a trial event had been held on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground on Saturday 7 January 2017 with regular weekly sessions to commence from Saturday 14 January at 9am.

The Service Manager will continue to monitor the impact of this new activity.

30.2.2 Christmas Events

The Committee NOTED that the Town Council, in partnership with the Broadway Town Centre Partnership, held a successful and well

attended “Countdown to Christmas” event on Friday 25 November 2016 in the Broadway.

In addition to performances by local school choirs and students from the Epping Forest College, the children’s entertainer and two children’s funfair rides had proved popular with local families.

30.2.3 General

The Committee NOTED that the total net expenditure to date on community events amounted to £8,229 with an income of £1,287 from donations.

The 2017 community event on Jessel Green was proposed for Sunday 16 July 2017 subject to a licence from Epping Forest District Council being granted. Arrangements would be similar to those in 2016 and discussions were in hand with several local groups to finalise plans.

30.2.4 New Year’s Eve

The Committee welcomed the suggestion by a local resident for additional community events. Members considered that New Year’s Eve was already sufficiently well provided for by commercial operators and it would be inappropriate for the Town Council to compete. It was, however, open to the resident to hire a local venue and make arrangements himself.

30.3 Community Halls – Min no RC21.5

30.3.1 Murray Hall

For information, the control unit for the cooling/heating system failed in December 2016. As the part was now virtually obsolete and a replacement unit only offered with a six-month warranty, quotations were being sought for an alternative redesign of this part of the system to enable the controls to be accessed from the ground floor of the building.

30.4 Open Spaces – Min no RC21.7

30.4.1 Hillyfields Open Space

The Committee NOTED that the response from the public consultation held last November, regarding the proposed installation of a ditch and bund along the boundary of Hillyfields with Pyrles Lane and Rectory Lane to prevent vehicle incursions, had been very positive.

Details of the works to be carried out by the City of London would be finalised in discussion with town and district officers. The cost of these works was to be shared by the Town Council with the City of London which would carry out the improvements in-house; a maximum budget of £1,000 had been allowed.

30.5 Community Initiatives Fund – Min no RC21.8

As previously reported at the meeting on 14 December 2016, the Council had been successful in its application for a £3,000 grant from Essex County Council towards the cost of two new outdoor table tennis tables. A detailed report on the options available and suitable locations on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and the Willingale Road Playing Field would be presented to the next meeting.

30.6 Essex Police

The Committee NOTED that the next Local Community Meeting for the Brentwood and Epping Forest District was to be held on Wednesday 25 January 2017.

As this clashed with the Town Council meeting at which the budget for 2017/18 would be finalised, members were invited to submit any items they wished to be raised at the police meeting to the Town Council as an officer was available to attend in their place. Issues referred to at the meeting included speeding in Oakwood Hill/Valley Hill/Roding Road; vehicle number plate theft; and pavement parking.

30.7 Council Vehicle

The Committee NOTED that the Council van was suffering from recurring problems resulting from problems with the vehicle only making short journeys. Repairs to date in this regard amounted to £264 + VAT.

Officers are investigating the options and costs for replacing the current van with a leased petrol or electric vehicle. A report will be made to a forthcoming meeting.

30.8 Defibrillators

The Committee CONFIRMED that the Town Council should work in partnership with the Rotary Club, the town centre partnerships and any other interested local groups to identify suitable locations and progress this initiative.

30.9 Roding Valley Recreation Ground – Min no RC138.5 (2015)

The Committee NOTED that additional hedge planting had been undertaken in the Recreation Ground near the boundary at the rear of the garages in Broomfield Road, to help disguise the graffiti.

The work had been undertaken on 11 January 2017 by Countrycare and its volunteers.

30.10 Children's Centres in Essex – Min no RC21.1

Cllr Girling had sent a brief report confirming he would be taking a group of councillors from Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council on a tour of all the local children's centres on 19 January 2017.

The Children's Centre Advisory Board, of which Cllr Girling was Vice Chairman, hopes to influence 0-19 year old contract delivery in this district at the start of the new procurement contract.

RC31 Loughton Youth Centre

The Committee NOTED that Louisa Stirling, District Youth and Community Commissioner (West Epping Forest), who had been invited to address the Committee, had sent her apologies.

Louisa was now planning to attend the next meeting on 8 March 2017, to provide an update on the activities at the Centre. A copy of the current diary for the Youth Centre was tabled.

The Chairman of this Committee provided a report on the celebration event held at the Youth Centre on 23 November 2016.

RC32 Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the current financial report.

RC33 Future Work of the Committee

No items were raised.

Signed:

Date: 8 March 2017