

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 7.45pm at 1 Buckingham Court.

Present

Councillors: C C Pond (in the Chair)
P Beales C Davies T Owen
C P Pond J Jennings (as substitute for Cllr Cochrane)
D Wixley (as substitute for Cllr Pewsey)

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

EH35 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cochrane and Pewsey. The Town Clerk reported that Cllrs Jennings and Wixley had been nominated as their substitutes for this meeting.

EH36 Declarations of Interest

Cllr C C Pond declared a non-pecuniary and non-prejudicial interest in agenda items relating to the work of Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council, as a member of those councils.

EH37 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EH38 Public Representations

None were received.

EH39 Matters for Report

39.1 Light up a Life – Min no EH208.6 (2015/16)

The Committee NOTED that the Light up a Life ceremony held on Kings Green on 3 December 2016 had raised £178 for the St Clare Hospice.

Cllr Jennings commented that she would like to see higher attendance by members at this important annual event.

39.2 Allotments – Min no EH196.2

39.2.1 Pyrles Lane – GROW project

The Committee NOTED that the new boundary fencing had been installed at this site at a net cost of £5,783. This cost of this work was to be met by the GROW Project from their successful grant application to the Town Council in 2016.

The Above and Beyond Charity with responsibility for the project had also been successful in its application to the Community Initiatives Fund with an award of £11,000.

39.2.2 Willingale Road

The Committee NOTED that the meeting room at this site would not be used as a polling station in May 2017.

The Town Clerk reported that she would be meeting with the former chairman of the Debden Horticulture and Allotments Society and the two other cheque signatories to assist in progressing the transfer of the remaining society funds to a trust account held by the National Allotments Society.

39.3 Heritage Plaques – Min no EH16.4.2

The Committee NOTED that officers were still waiting for written confirmation from the property owner that the blue plaque to commemorate the London General Omnibus Company garage on the Homebase building in Church Hill may be installed. Once this had been received, the plaque would be ordered at a net cost of £365 and arrangements for an opening ceremony finalised.

39.4 Bus Service 167 – Min no EH16.6.1

The Committee NOTED that Passenger Transport at Essex County Council has advised that, from 11 March 2017, Transport for London would no longer run the 167 bus service between Loughton Station and Debden Station.

ECC would assess the impact and decide what, if any, action it needed to take in response. It has promised to inform the stakeholders once a decision has been made.

39.5 Street Furniture

The Committee NOTED that investigations into the possible reuse of the brackets originally installed in 2012 to house the Olympics lamp column banners in both the High Road and The Broadway had been completed.

Members considered they could not justify the expenditure in this regard.

39.6 Christmas Window Competition 2016 – Min no EH16.9

The Committee NOTED the report and AGREED to continue the practice of providing certificates to all participants. Officers were, however, asked to reduce costs in this regard.

39.7 Public Rights of Way – Min no EH26.7

Members considered a request from the Maple Gate Company to remove highway rights from the estate roads.

Noting that the route through the estate had been well used by local residents since 1988 as a cut through to Church Hill, the Committee OBJECTED to the removal of pedestrian rights that would result from the granting of this request.

39.8 Bus Shelters – Min no 16.5.3

The Services Manager reported on progress to install a new shelter in Traps Hill adjacent to the Loughton Cricket Club.

39.9 Local Highways Panel

39.9.1 Salt/grit Bins

The Committee NOTED that the Local Highways Panel had agreed to install a new bin at the junction of Shaftesbury with Staples Road.

As this location abutted a conservation area, the Highways Officer had been requested to investigate whether it would be possible to have a green or black bin in preference to the standard yellow and advise of any additional costs.

The Committee would then be asked if it would be willing to fund any additional costs from its earmarked reserve currently standing at £850.

39.9.2 New requests

The Committee AGREED to submit the following project to the Local Highways Panel for consideration:

Public Bridleway no 14 from Forest Way to Woodbury Hill - resurface with hoggins or similar to City of London requirements, to facilitate pedestrian and equestrian access, and install posts to prevent vehicle encroachment and avoid obstruction.

39.10 War Memorials

The Committee NOTED that the WWII memorial from St Mary's Church had been given to the Town Council for safe keeping. This joined the WWI memorials from Lincoln Hall and St Mary's already in storage. Consideration would be given to displaying these in Loughton Library.

39.11 Replacement Waste Local Plan

The Committee NOTED the proposed modifications to the Plan and drew Essex County Council's attention to an amendment required to the plan in Appendix 23 on page 85, to re-label this correctly as Langston Road and Oakwood Hill.

EH40 Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH41 Air Quality

Members NOTED the report and expressed concern regarding the poor air quality in the locality.

In line with the Council's existing Environmental Policy, the Committee AGREED to take action in this regard and supported the following proposals:

- Replace the Council's diesel vehicle with petrol, electric, or hybrid alternatives, already under consideration by the Recreation Committee;
- Exert pressure on
 - Epping Forest District Council to monitor and publicise vehicle pollution levels in the District; and
 - Essex County Council to include a requirement in their bus contracts for companies to incorporate anti-pollution measures on their vehicles;
- Cease (after a reasonable period) to pay mileage to councillors and if possible council staff for any diesel vehicle journeys;
- Require as a contractual condition its contractors to install particulate filters on any equipment they use (e.g. in grass cutting, site maintenance, etc), and the

Planning and Licensing Committee, where relevant, to request similar conditions in planning consents;

- Join with relevant bodies such as the Conservators and local GPs to reduce the levels of pollution;
- Lobby relevant committees; and
- Encourage residents, when changing vehicles, to choose the smallest and least polluting non-diesel cars for their replacements.
- Encourage the provision of charging points for electric vehicles in Loughton.
- Promote these concerns at the forthcoming meeting of the Epping Forest Branch of the Association of Local Councils and with the Essex Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils.

Cllr C C Pond was thanked for his report.

EH42 Environmental Issues

No issues were raised.

EH43 Future Work of the Committee

The Committee AGREED to consider the following items at a future meeting:

- i. Renaming of the service road at the rear of the Pyrles Lane shops – Cllr Wixley to prepare a short report.
- ii. Christmas window competition – making a special award to residents and/or businesses not included in the existing scheme, who had provided attractive festive decorations – Cllr Wixley to prepare a short report.

Signed:

Date: 22 March 2017