

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 March 2017 at 7.45pm at 1 Buckingham Court.

Present

Councillors: C C Pond (in the Chair)
P Beales T Cochrane T Owen
S Pewsey C P Pond

Also present:

Councillors: D Wixley (from Min no EH48.2.3)

Officers:

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

The meeting was preceded by a minute's silence as a mark of respect to those who had lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Central London.

EH44 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Davies.

EH45 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.

EH46 Confirmation of Minutes

46.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2017 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46.2 The Committee AGREED that the attendance list on the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2016 would be amended to confirm Cllr C P Pond's presence at the meeting.

EH47 Public Representations

None were received.

EH48 Matters for Report

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

The Committee NOTED that the 2017 ceremony to be held in partnership with St Clare Hospice had been arranged for Saturday 2 December 2017.

48.2 Allotments – Min no EH196.2

48.2.1 Pyrles Lane – GROW Community Project

The Committee NOTED the report and that work was progressing on the next stage of the project to install a waterless composting toilet and large polytunnel on site.

48.2.2 Willingale Road

48.2.2.1 Former Debden Horticulture and Allotments Society

The Committee NOTED the report that the remaining funds from the former Society amounting to £7,925.19 had been transferred to a trust account held by the National Allotments Society.

48.2.2.2 CCTV Request – Min no EH26.2.2.2

The Committee reviewed the second request from an allotment tenant following thefts from his plot. As members did not feel CCTV would necessarily be effective, it was AGREED to keep the matter under review.

48.2.2.3 Water Leak

The Services Manager reported that, as it would be almost impossible to identify the source of the leak from the supply pipe, a quotation was being obtained to install a separate water supply for the tea room and toilets. This would enable the supply to the water tanks to be isolated and only switched on to refill the tanks, thereby minimising the cost of the leak.

Cllr Wixley joined the meeting.

48.2.3 Best Allotment

The Committee NOTED the arrangements for the 2017 competition.

48.3 Heritage Plaques – Min no EH16.4.2

The Committee NOTED that the new blue plaque to commemorate the London General Omnibus Company garage on the Homebase building in Church Hill would be installed shortly together with an interpretation panel to be provided by the store manager.

48.4 Bus Service 167 – Min no EH16.6.1

Members discussed the problems associated with the curtailing of this bus service at Loughton Station and the resulting impact on residents and school children.

Noting that Cllr C C Pond would be meeting with the head of Passenger Transport at Essex County Council, the Committee AGREED to support his attempt to reinstate a service on the route via Pyrles Lane towards The Broadway.

48.5 Heritage Open Days

The Committee NOTED that the next events to celebrate the heritage open days would be held in Loughton in September 2018.

48.6 Village Greens

The Committee NOTED the information received from Essex Legal Services and AGREED to defer any further action pending the appeal judgement in the case of the NHS Property Services Ltd, R (on the

application of) v Surrey County Council and Anor [2016] EWHC 1715 (Admin).

48.7 Public Rights of Way – Min no EH26.7

The Committee NOTED that an informal approach had been made to Epping Forest District Council regarding its voluntary registration of a number of paths under its ownership as PROWs.

With regard to the registration of Jacksons Alley and Luctons Path, officers were asked to seek advice from Essex County Council on whether it was possible to apply for PROW designation for a path on highway land.

In the next edition of Think Loughton, residents would be invited to submit evidence confirming the use of the route across Luctons Field diagonally, Ladyfields to Luctons Path, for 20 year period prior to 2014 and the alley adjacent to 18 Longfield to Lowery Path to date.

48.8 Bus Shelters – Min no EH39.8

The Services Manager reported that the revised cost to install a new shelter in Traps Hill amounted to £4,591. However, other options were being considered to reduce the cost.

48.9 Local Highways Panel

48.9.1 Salt/grit Bins – Min no EH39.9.1

The report on a proposal to install a new bin at the junction of Shaftesbury with Staples Road was NOTED and further information awaited.

48.10 Community Tree Strategy for Loughton – Min no EH26.1

The Committee AGREED to become a Charter Branch and join a growing network of people passionate about trees, who were helping to develop and promote the new Tree Charter.

48.11 Loughton Cemetery

48.11.1 Complaint

The Committee NOTED that the Council's Complaints Panel was endeavouring to meet with the complainant to address his concerns.

Officers were undertaking a review of the cemetery regulations for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.

48.11.2 Tree Safety Inspection

As previously reported to the Recreation Committee the Services Manager had arranged for a full inventory of the Council's tree stock and a detailed report with health and safety recommendations, to be undertaken at all the main Town Council sites. The work would be carried out by Place Services, a traded service of Essex County Council.

The cost of the full site survey, mapping and report writing amounted to £2,580 net of VAT. This expenditure was to be

met from within existing budgets and split across the relevant cost centres, including that for the Loughton Cemetery.

48.12 Community Speedwatch

The Committee expressed an interest in the Speedwatch scheme and AGREED to seek volunteers to form groups to carry out roadside activities in order to improve road safety.

48.13 Parking Reviews

The Committee AGREED to bring forward Agenda item 7.2 to be included in the discussions on this item.

The Committee supported the schemes included in Phase 1 of the Broadway parking review but raised the following concerns:

Drawing no TRO5419-	Comments
035	The short section of grass verge and roadside directly outside the Clinic in the Rectory Lane Service Road has not been included in these new parking restrictions. Whilst there was insufficient room for pay and display bays here, it should be included in the 'No waiting at any time' provisions to prevent vehicle obstruction to the entrances of the Ambulance Station and Lady Mary's Path.
040B	The Committee would like to ensure the residents of the properties in the area of housing in Borders Lane at the top of Ladyfields were eligible for residents parking.
042	The locations shown on the plan for the blue parking bays in The Broadway did not seem to be accurately drawn. The south east side of the road includes a green pavement area but the north west side is all in the mustard yellow colour, which appeared to relate to 'No Waiting At Any Time (No loading At Any Time)'. If the black line shown in the centre of the Broadway referred to the central reservation, the position of the blue parking bays on this order needed to be adjusted.

Members expressed concerns regarding the potential displacement parking problems that could result from these changes and also sought clarification from NEPP of the anticipated timetable for Phase 2.

48.14 Christmas Window Competition – Min no EH43

The Committee considered Cllr Wixley's proposal and AGREED that the Town Mayor may, in future, at his or her discretion make a special award for a display on a non-business property.

48.15 Training and Conferences

The attendance of Cllrs Cohen and Omer at the Essex Police Hate Crime Ambassador training sessions to be held on 28 March and 25 April 2017 in Hemnall Street, Epping, was authorised for the purposes of paying travel expenses.

EH49 Financial Position
The Committee NOTED the report.

EH50 Highways
50.1 Parking Restrictions
The Committee expressed its support for the scheme to introduce new parking restrictions in the Kings Green, Forest Road/Smarts Lane area and made the following comments:

Drawing no TRO5419-	Comments
064	A clear pathway was required outside the properties to maintain access for pedestrians and of at least a double pushchair width as this was a well-used school route.
066B(1)	The Committee asked for the scheme to be extended to include the whole of Shaftesbury with a longer 'No waiting at any time' section and 'Resident Permit Holders only' by the properties.

50.2 Broadway Central Reservation
The Committee supported the concerns of the Broadway Town Centre Partnership to secure an improvement scheme for a section of this local shopping centre.

It was AGREED to submit a request to the Local Highways Panel for:

- i. the length of the central reservation close to the junction of The Broadway with Torrington Drive to be reduced. This would allow buses to turn right out of Torrington Drive along the Broadway without the need to mount the raised area; and
- ii. the installation of permeable resin stone paving along the centre reservation interspersed with smaller planting pockets.

EH51 Environmental Issues
No issues were raised.

EH52 Future Work of the Committee
Cllr Pewsey provided a report on environmental issues in Shaftesbury for consideration at the next meeting.

Signed:
Date: 21 June 2017