

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 January 2019 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** D Wixley (in the Chair)  
R Brookes B Cohen J Jogia  
S Murray A Omer M Stubbings

**Also in attendance:**

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

1 member of the public

**RC113 Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

**RC114 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Murray declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5.5, Roding Valley Recreation Ground as he lived in the vicinity.

Cllr Wixley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 5.10, Willingale Road Playing Field, as he had provided details of a potential new tree contractor to the Services Manager.

**RC115 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018, amended from those circulated at Min no RC109 to include the table of ongoing activities, were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RC116 Public Representations**

None were received.

**RC117 Matters for Report**

**117.1 Open Spaces – Min no RC88.9**

**117.1.1 Hillyfields Open Space Flood Alleviation Scheme**

The Committee NOTED that the Town Clerk had been in contact with the City of London to ensure that ongoing management and maintenance responsibilities for the works remained with Essex County Council. This was likely to be handled by way of a licence.

**117.2 Playgrounds – Min no RC88**

**117.2.1 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The Committee RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the next item only under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as it contained confidential information relating to a legal claim.

**117.2.2 Traps Hill Playground**

The Committee NOTED that the claim regarding the damage to the trampoline had now been settled.

**117.2.3 Newman's Lane Playground**

The Committee NOTED that urgent repairs to the safety surfacing under and around the basket swing, following underground subsidence, were to be carried out at a net cost of £3,457.25.

**117.2.4 Safety Inspections**

The Committee NOTED that the next 6-monthly inspections were scheduled for end of January 2019 and would be carried out by RoSPA.

**117.3**

**Community Events – Min no RC88.2**

The Committee NOTED that following the successful 2018 Christmas events, officers were working on plans for events in 2019. For information, the provisional dates for the annual charity fun run were Sunday 12 May 2019 and for Jessel Green, Sunday 30 June 2019.

**117.3.1 Play in the Park 2019**

The Committee CONFIRMED that it wished to continue to support this scheme with 2 sessions at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground during the Easter holidays and 10 sessions (5 each at Jessel Green and the Roding Valley Recreation Ground) during the Summer holidays at a net cost of £1,020.

**117.3.2 Tennis Coaching**

The Committee NOTED that the Town and Community Development Officer was in discussion with the tennis coach regarding arrangements to hold coaching sessions during the Easter Holidays. This would be at a net cost of £240.

**117.4**

**Defibrillators – Min no RC88.5**

The Committee NOTED that the first training session on CPR techniques and using the equipment was to be held at the Loughton Club on Tuesday 29 January 2019. Pre-booking was required through the Town Council. *(Since the meeting it has been confirmed that the training session will commence at 5pm.)*

**117.5**

**Roding Valley Recreation Ground – Min no – Min no RC88.6**

**117.5.1 Improvements Project**

The report of the Working Party was NOTED, and the latest detailed drawings provided for members' consideration.

Arrangements for public consultation prior to the submission of a planning application were to be made.

The Committee also NOTED that, in discussion with the Chairman, the Town Clerk had recently appointed a VAT consultant to carry out an appraisal in connection with this project and that for the Kingsley Hall replacement windows and doors. The cost for this was £1,140.80 net. Should partial exemption calculations also be required the additional charges were £195 per financial year.

**117.6 Wildlife – Min no RC111**

The Committee thanked Cllr Murray for providing examples of posters that could help encourage the most appropriate feeding of wildlife on and by the lake in the Recreation Ground. It was AGREED to display posters on the Town Council's noticeboards and by the feeding platforms on the lake. An article on this was to be included in the next edition of Think Loughton and information circulated to schools.

**117.7 Kingsley Hall – Min nos RC107.6**

The Committee NOTED that the Architect has been asked to provide the drawings and detailed specification for the windows and doors without further delay.

The application to the Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) had been unsuccessful on this occasion but other funding sources would be explored if necessary.

**117.8 Essex Police – Min no RC107.7**

The Chairman reported on his visit to the "Coffee with Cops" event held on 7 January 2019, at St Mary's Church. Cllr Wixley had continued to press for vehicle speed checks in Valley Hill.

**117.9 Skate Park – Min no RC107.9**

The Committee NOTED that there has been no response to date from the Loughton Youth Project to the Council's initial proposals for the sale of the skateboarding equipment and trailer.

**117.10 Willingale Road Playing Field**

The Committee NOTED that further to the tree safety inspection, the Services Manager had sought quotations for priority works to the trees behind properties nos 1 – 31 Willingale Road. As the cost of those works was likely to be around £5,000 and this was likely to be over budget for 2018/19, the Committee AGREED that the £1,000 contingency figure may be used if required.

**117.11 Loughton Athletic Club – Min no RC107.5.4**

The Town Clerk reported that the 12 year lease, commencing on 1 May 2016 for the Club's use of the club house, athletics field and track facilities and the all-weather running track, had been completed on 7 January 2019.

**117.12 South Loughton Cricket Club – Min no RC107.5.5**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council's solicitor was still to provide advice in order for the Council to regularise the use of the Pavilion and storage by others and supply calculations to enable the rent review to be undertaken.

**117.13 Loughton Cricket Club – Min no RC107.3**

The Town Clerk reported that the transfer of the land and the lease for the cricket club were in the hands of the solicitor. She also advised the Committee that she had received official notice of the National Jazz Archive's intention to submit a planning application to install a storage container on the site.

**117.14 River Roding – Planting Project – Min no RC73.6.1**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the plans she had viewed had not included any creation of meanders in The Brook.

**117.15 Essex Fire and Rescue Service – Min no RC107.10**

The Chairman gave a brief report on the meeting held at Loughton Fire Station on 4 December 2018 regarding proposals to reduce the risk of domestic fires particularly in St Mary's ward.

**RC118 Financial Position**

The Committee NOTED the report.

**RC119 Future Work of the Committee**

No items were raised.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** 6 March 2019