

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 7.45pm at Loughton Library & Town Hall, Traps Hill, Loughton IG10 1HD

Present

Councillors: C P Pond (in the Chair)
T Cochrane C Davies (from Min no.179.1.2)
T Downing (as substitute for Cllr Beales)
J Jennings (as substitute for Cllr C C Pond) S Pewsey

Also in attendance

Councillors: B Cohen S Murray
D Wixley

Officers: Mark Squire (Town Clerk)
Paul Hoy (Services Manager)

EH175 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Beales, Owen and C C Pond (joined the meeting after minute 179.7) The Town Clerk reported that Cllrs Downing and Jennings had been nominated as substitutes for this meeting respectively.

EH176 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

EH177 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2019 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EH178 Public Representations

None were received.

EH179 Matters for Report

179.1 Heritage Plaques – Min no EH 163.2

179.1.1 William Dawson / Loughton Club – Min no EH 163.2.1

The Chairman reported that the Deputy Town Mayor and other Town Council members had attended an official dedication ceremony at the Loughton Club on Tuesday 21 January 2020, for the heritage plaque to commemorate the Reverend William Dawson who gave the Loughton Club to the people of Loughton in 1901.

179.1.2 Rudyard Kipling / Stanley Baldwin / Goldings Hill – Min no EH 163.2.2

The Committee NOTED that consent for the new plaque had been provided by the property owner, and that a date for its installation was being arranged.

Councillor Davies joined the meeting.

179.1.3 Barbara Harmer / Staples Road – Min no EH 163.2.3

The Committee NOTED that consent had been provided for installation of the Concorde pilot plaque (on the same property as an existing plaque) which will now be progressed.

179.1.4 London General Omnibus Company / old Homebase store / Church Hill – Min no EH 163.2.4.

The Committee NOTED that a representative of Lidl had undertaken to collect the replacement blue plaque.

179.1.5 Holmehurst Plaque – Min 163.2.5

The Committee NOTED the recent meeting attended by Cllr C C Pond, the Town Clerk and Planning Clerk to discuss the project in which Epping Forest District Museum wish to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, exploring the stories of Holocaust survivors sent to Holmehurst hostel following the liberation of concentration camps in 1945 with a commemorative plaque. The Chairman and the Town Clerk will update the committee at the next meeting.

179.2 Signage – Min no EH 163.3

The Committee NOTED that no feedback had been received from Essex County Council (ECC) regarding either

- (i) ownership and responsibility for the maintenance of the two Finger Posts in the High Road
- (ii) the replacement of the two missing boundary signs at Rangers Road and Loughton Lane.

The Committee AGREED that one more attempt should be made to secure responses on these issues, and if this proved unsuccessful, LTC would investigate costings with a view to carrying out the work itself, subject to informing ECC and the City of London.

179.3 Highways – Traffic Light phasing at the junction of Rectory Lane with the Broadway and Borders Lane – Min no EH 163.4

The Committee NOTED the response from Cllr Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Essex County Council (ECC). The Committee felt that concerns had not been fully addressed, and it was AGREED that the Chairman would take this matter to the next meeting of the Local Highways Panel.

179.4 Tree Survey – Min no EH 163.5

The Services Manager reported that the findings of the tree survey report was still being evaluated. A detailed report would be provided at the next Committee meeting on 4 March 2020.

179.5 Community Initiative Fund (CIF) – Heritage Trail - Min no EH 163.6

The Town Clerk reported that work would soon begin on the council website to generate QR codes for blue plaques. Furthermore, the development of a heritage leaflet was also planned. An update will be made at the next meeting.

179.6 Loughton Wombles – Min no EH 163.7
The Town Clerk reported that the number of people expressing an interest in this initiative had now reached 28, and a meeting of all interested parties, to finalise details, would soon be organised. Litter pickers, safety gloves and Hi Viz vests would soon be purchased. It was considered that the first litter picking venue should be a high profile site to draw more support in the future. A further update would be presented at the next meeting.

179.7 Loughton Day / Heritage Day – Min no EH 163.8
The Committee NOTED that a list of community group invites had been prepared, and the first community meeting, to explain the parameters and requirements for Loughton Day, would be held in the coming weeks. A 'save the day' notice would appear in the next edition of the newsletter Think Loughton.

The Committee NOTED that the Heritage Open Days Festival would be held between 11 and 20 September 2020. The Chapel at Loughton Cemetery could once again be opened for one day, on the day of Loughton Day itself. It was AGREED that councillors would ensure that the building was supervised on the day, as all available staff would be deployed at the Loughton Day event. Other hall sites could potentially be used on the day.

Councillor C C Pond joined the meeting.

179.8 Loughton Cemetery – Min no EH167
The Committee NOTED that the Services Manager was currently liaising with both parties wanting to install commemorative benches in the cemetery. Site visits would be arranged for the coming weeks.

179.9 Re-greening of Loughton – Min no EH168
The Committee NOTED the report. Members would soon be invited to attend a site visit To the Loughton Recreation Ground with the Land Drainage Engineer from EFDC; date and time to be advised.

179.10 Central Line – Min no EH170
The Committee NOTED that a formal response was awaited from Transport for London (TFL) in respect of members concerns about reductions to the Debden service.

179.11 Environmental Nuisance – Min no EH171
The Committee NOTED the photographic evidence presented and NOTED that Environmental Enforcement Officers at EFDC will monitor the situation.

179.12 Electric Bus Towns – Min no EH172
The Committee NOTED that Loughton had been added to the list of towns wishing to be considered for Electric Bus Town status.

Councillor C C Pond reported that bus route 87 would be withdrawn in Loughton in late March/early April 2020, but it was hoped that Essex County Council would subsequently revive the route.

179.13 Bee Hotels – Min no EH151

The Committee NOTED that six ‘bee hotels’ had been purchased and two differing types were shown to members. The Committee considered appropriate locations that offered suitable bee and insect friendly habitats, and it was AGREED that the following sites should be used: Loughton Cemetery, Murray Hall, Roding Valley Recreation Ground, Willingale Road Playing Field and Willingale Road Allotments.

179.14 Environmental Issues – Min no EH173

The Committee NOTED the report. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would make further enquiries to ascertain who owns the premises of the vacated and unsightly shop.

179.15 Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) – Min no EH154

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH180 Financial Position

Current Financial Position

The Committee NOTED the report.

EH181 Remembrance Service

The Committee NOTED that well attended services were held on both 10 and 11 November 2019.

The suggestion to use poppy arrangements to enhance the event will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

EH182 Light up a life

The Committee NOTED the report on the 2019 Light up a Life service, in aid of St Clare Hospice, and noted that this year’s ‘Light up a life’ service, to be held at Kings Green, Loughton will be on Saturday 28 November 2020.

EH183 Christmas Window Competition 2019

The Committee NOTED the report and thanked Debra Paris, the Planning Committee Clerk, the Town Mayor and the judges for their work in this regard. The Town Clerk provided feedback from some retailers regarding the competition.

EH184 Roding Gardens Development Petition

The Committee NOTED the Town Clerk’s verbal report and AGREED that a copy of the petition, expressing concern about parking in the Hanbury Park Estate area of Loughton, should be forwarded to the North East Essex Parking Partnership for consideration.

EH185 Environmental Issues

No issues were raised.

EH186 Future Work of the Committee

No items were raised for future discussion.

Signed:

Date: 4 March 2020