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**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 7.45 p.m. at 1 Buckingham Court.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** D J Wixley (in the Chair)  
 M R M Chalk            R Law (until Min no RC 132.4.3)    S W Murray  
 K Nicholson            R Thomson  
 R E Brookes (as substitute for S M Harper, from Min no RC132)  
 S Pewsey (as substitute for Cllr J W Angold-Stephens)

**Also in attendance:**

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

**RC128 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Angold-Stephens and Harper. The Clerk reported that Cllr R E Brookes had been nominated as Cllr Harper's substitute and that Cllr S Pewsey had been nominated as Cllr Angold-Stephens' substitute for this meeting.

**RC129 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RC130 Public Representations**

No public representations had been received.

**RC131 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Murray and Wixley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5.2, Loughton Athletic Club, as both were acquainted with members of the club.

Cllr Brookes joined the meeting.

**RC132 Matters for Report**

**132.1 Roding Valley Lake Project – Min no RC77.1**

The Town Clerk reported on the topics discussed at the project meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 also attended by the Services Manager. Issues raised included bank erosion works to the lake and river, reed planting to improve water quality and ecosystems, a fish survey on the river and the installation of an additional fishing platform, and future management issues concerning the wider Recreation Ground. Enquiries were ongoing to secure an angling society to take an interest in the lake.

**132.2 Loughton Athletic Club – Min no RC88.2.2**

The Committee NOTED that legal fees amounting to £2,733 net of VAT, resulting from lengthy negotiations on the Lease and Licence to Underlet, had been paid. It was AGREED to write to the Club expressing the Council's concern about these costs which, in the Committee's opinion, could have been better spent on recreation facilities and to invite its

representatives to meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee to find a way forward.

**132.3 Park Rangers Events – Min no RC110.3.4**

It was NOTED that four sessions of “Play in the Park” events at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground had been booked with Epping Forest District Council for Wednesdays in August 2010 at a cost of £50 each.

**132.4 Playgrounds**

**132.4.1 Safety Inspection – Min no RC120.1**

It was reported that, following the play inspector’s recommendations, repairs to the value of £1,390 had been carried out at the Felstead Road, Hillyfields, Newmans Lane, Roding Valley Recreation Ground and Traps Hill playgrounds.

**132.4.2 Westall Road Play Area Refurbishment Project – RC120.5**

Details of the opening ceremony held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were NOTED. It was reported that due to the popularity of the play area the grass surface appeared unlikely to withstand such constant use and that a report on alternative options would be made to a future meeting.

**132.4.3 General**

Cllr Murray declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as discussions included mention of the Roding Valley High School where he is a teacher.

The Committee NOTED that requests for a new playground in the south Loughton area had been received and AGREED that if suitable land became available, it would take a pragmatic view at that time.

Cllr Law left the meeting.

**132.5 Murray Hall – Min no RC120.2**

**132.5.1 Essex on Tour**

The report of the jazz evening held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010 was NOTED and officers were thanked for their work in making the event such a success. The Committee AGREED that a fourth Essex on Tour event should be arranged for early October 2010 and expressed a preference for a musical comedy performance.

**132.5.2 Loughton Film Society**

It was confirmed that the first screening would take place at the Murray Hall on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and that tickets for the Oscar nominated British film “An Education” would be on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 from the Town Council offices at a cost of £3.50 per person.

**132.6 Town Mayor’s Fun Run – Min no RC120.7.2**

It was reported that the inaugural event in April 2010 had raised £642 in support of The Dream Factory Charity. Councillors commented on how successful this event had been and thanked officers and staff for their work on this new project.

**132.7 Staffing Report – Min no RC127**

The appointment of Mrs Heffernan as temporary part-time Assistant Park Warden with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 was NOTED and that the post of Assistant/Relief Caretaker would re-advertised in late June.

**132.8 Skateboard Park – Min no RC120.6**

The Clerk reported that no update had been received from the skateboard user group prior to this meeting.

**132.9 Outdoor Gym – Min no RC120.7.1**

Plans for the outdoor gym were being finalised to enable the grant funding applications to be submitted. Planning Services at Epping Forest District Council had confirmed that planning permission was not required for this installation.

**RC133 Current Financial Position**

The Committee NOTED the report of the end of the financial year 2009/10. The Town Clerk reported that urgent maintenance work at Kingsley Hall had been carried out since the start of the new financial year and that the Council van had required extensive works in excess of £1,000.

**RC134 Roding Valley Recreation Ground**

The Committee AGREED to allow free use of the Recreation Ground by a registered personal trainer for a buggy fitness group for post-natal ladies and their babies on Mondays and Thursdays for a trial period of two months. It was NOTED that the necessary public liability insurance and risk assessment documentation had been received.

**RC135 Future Work of the Committee**

No items were raised.

Signed.....

Date 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

*THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED*

**LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 7.45 p.m. at 1 Buckingham Court.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** D J Wixley (in the Chair)  
 J W Angold-Stephens (from Min no RC140) M R M Chalk  
 R Law S W Murray K Nicholson  
 R Thomson R E Brookes (as substitute for S M Harper)

**Also in attendance:**

**Councillors:** A Copland

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

Inspector Tom Simons, Essex Police  
 2 members of the public

**RC136 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Harper and the Town Clerk reported that Cllr Brookes had been nominated as Cllr Harper's substitute for this meeting.

**RC137 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were CONFIRMED as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RC138 Public Representations**

No public representations had been received.

**RC139 Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

Cllr J Angold-Stephens joined the meeting.

The Committee agreed to bring forward agenda items 5.5.2 and 6 as these were of interest to Inspector Simons.

**RC140 Roding Valley Recreation Ground Play Area**

The Committee NOTED the report on the recent incidents of arson and vandalism at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and play area, and that repair costs to date, excluding the fencing at Highwood Lane, had amounted to £2,472.

**RC141 Essex Police**

Inspector Tom Simons was welcomed to the meeting and gave his report on local policing issues. He confirmed that in his current role of Acting District Commander he had treated the recent vandalism incidents on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground as a major issue and provided increased police resources to address the problems. He was pleased to report that general levels of crime including burglaries had seen a twenty percent reduction across the district.

Inspector Simons reiterated his strong stance on licensed premises in the town and also talked about his plans for a second programme of diversionary activities for the Halloween period in October 2010 which he hoped the Town Council would support. He confirmed that funding had been secured for four Neighbourhood Police Officers, two each for Debden and Loughton areas, and that increased levels of officers would continue to be available for duty on Friday and Saturday evenings up until Christmas 2010. Funding for this had been provided by Epping Forest District Council.

The members were invited to ask questions and accepted the opportunity. The Committee thanked Inspector Simons for his report.

## **RC142 Matters for Report**

### **142.1 Loughton Film Society – Min no RC120.2.2**

The Committee NOTED the report of the performance on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and that a further meeting of interested residents would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010. It was confirmed that the Town Council's direct involvement in this Film Society would cease after that meeting.

### **140.2 Willingale Road Open Space/Nature Reserve – Min no RC120.4**

The Management Guidance Statement for this site prepared by Epping Forest Countrycare was received. It was NOTED that further survey work would be undertaken to inform the size of the reptile population, the extent of the habitat being used and whether works connected with the proposed skateboard park could go ahead without mitigation to reduce the potential disturbance.

### **142.3 Skateboard Park – Min no RC120.6**

The Town Clerk reported that the skateboard user group had not submitted a progress report at that time.

The Committee AGREED to support the Positive Introductions police event to be held at the end of October 2010 by organising a BMX/skateboard event on the tennis courts on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground and APPROVED expenditure from the Skateboard Facility budget of up to £1,000 to allow this to be progressed.

### **142.4 Essex on Tour – Min no RC132.5.1**

The Committee NOTED that the next performance at the Murray Hall under the Essex on Tour regional touring scheme sponsored by Essex County Council, would take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 7.30pm by the Drop Dead Divas who would present "A Night on Broadway", an evening of entertainment and songs from a wide range of musicals.

### **142.5 Roding Valley Recreation Ground Fitness Classes – Min no RC134**

The Committee AGREED to allow the continued free use of the recreation ground by a registered personal trainer for a buggy fitness group for post-natal ladies and their babies on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings for a further period of three months pending a review at the next meeting of the Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

### **142.6 Staffing Report – Min no RC127**

The Committee NOTED that a report on the future of the temporary post of Assistant Park Warden would be made to the next meeting of the Strategy and Staff Group to enable recommendations to be considered by the

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Resources and General Services Committee at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

**142.7 Outdoor Gym – Min no RC132.9**

It was reported that grant funding would need to be secured before this project could proceed.

**142.8 Loughton Athletic Club – Min no RC132.2**

Cllrs J Angold-Stephens, Murray and Wixley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in this item as they were acquainted with members of the Club.

The Town Clerk reported that the representatives from the Loughton Athletic Club had declined the invitation to a meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee as they felt this would not provide a resolution to the current impasse with wording of the lease. The Town Clerk confirmed that no further legal costs had been incurred in connection with this lease since the report made to the Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010. It was hoped that an order for the resurfacing and fencing works on the tennis courts would be placed without further delay.

**RC143 Essex County Council Children's Services**

Members were advised that the presentation from Kerry Green, Integrated Youth Services Manager for Epping Forest Schools, Children and Families had been postponed until the September meeting of the Committee as the changes to service provision at the Borders Lane Centre had not yet taken place.

**RC144 Current Financial Position**

The Committee NOTED the report.

**RC145 Future Work of the Committee**

The Committee AGREED to consider the following:

- (1) Solar energy installations for Kingsley and Murray Halls – Cllr Wixley to prepare a report.

Signed.....  
Date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010