THESE MINUTES NOT YET CONFIRMED

LOUGHTON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Wednesday 13 October 2026 at 7.30pm at 1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ

Present

Councillors:	S Harriman	W Dodd	M Fontenelle
	S Fontenelle	A Fricker	L House
	N MacKinnon	S Murray	M Owen
	J Riley	M Stubbings	R Sylvan
	C Ubah	K Valentine	D Wixley

Officers: Liz Petyt Start (Town Clerk)
D Paris (Planning and Licensing Clerk)

Also Present: Cllr James Small District Council (EFDC), Buckhurst Hill & Whitebridge Ward

208 Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brookes, Davies, Lee, Minhas, Murphy and Pond.

209 Declarations of Interest
Cllrs Murray and Owen declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to EFDC as they were members.

210 Confirmation of Minutes
The minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 July 2026, following minor amendments, were confirmed.

211 Public Representations
None.

212 Questions Without Discussion
To answer any questions which have been submitted in accordance with Standing Order No 4.
None Received.

213 Town Mayor's / Town Clerk's Report
There was nothing to report for this meeting in addition to the agenda items.

214 Town Mayor's Engagements and Announcements
The Town Mayor reported on the following events that he had attended. Cllr Murray commended the Town Mayor for his speeches at the four events he'd been in attendance.

215 Reports from Committees

215.1 Planning and Licensing
The reports from the meetings held on 20 July 2026, 2 and 17 August, 7 and 21 September and 5 October were NOTED.

DRAFT

Cllr Murray thanked the Planning Committee members, noting the frequency with which they meet. He noted he was pleased the Ladyfields Garage Site and Travelodge license had been advised upon, further noting PL549 – the New Barns Data Centre pre application, that the committee will consider this in due course.

215.2 Environment & Heritage
The report from the meeting held on 22 September 2026 was NOTED.

Cllr Murray thanked the Planning and Licensing Clerk for her outstanding work in updating the Heritage Plaque information on the website. He encouraged all members to read and review it.
Loughton Day was another very successful event; he supported the points made in EH240.5 to improve and enhance the day.

215.3 Recreation
The report from the meeting held on 9 September 2026 was NOTED.

Referencing RC261.2 Cllr Murray updated members that the ground works for the new Doris Binks bench was almost completed, advising how welcome the siting of this bench would be for elderly users of the RVRG, providing a resting point on arrival at the Rec.

215.4 Resources and General Services
It was NOTED that the report from the meeting held on 7 October 2026 was now ready to be circulated.

Cllr Owen noted members had agreed the Citizens Award would continue in 2027, the Town Clerk had secured savings for the Council van hire arrangement, improvement works have been agreed for Murray Hall and Kingsley Hall. There has been an early discussion on EMRs for 2027/28 with members indicating the proposed Skatepark as an EMR project.

Cllr Murray noted he would like the RGS to consider other options too and perhaps a new PWLB loan. Considering the sums available, paths on the RVRG from Oakwood Hill to Green Walk, along with an updated playground in the north of the town, in addition to a skatepark could be potential options.

216 Reports from Members on Outside Organisations
The following reports were received and NOTED.

216.1 Roding Valley Meadows Nature Reserve
Received from Cllr Murray

216.2 Tree Wardens/EFDALC/EALC/Roding Valley Stakeholders/LCLC
Received from Cllr Wixley.
Members were encouraged to view the webcast of LCLC for Planning updates as presented by the Head of Planning at EFDC.

216.3 East 15 University of Essex
Received from Cllr Sebastian Fontenelle. Although this is not an official Outside Organisation, due to the close ties E15 has with the Town and being a regular hirer of the Murray Hall, the visit provided an opportunity to gauge the University's future plans and funding position. The University

confirmed it had no intention of developing the Loughton site into accommodation and would remain within the Town.

217 Reports from District and County Councillor

District Cllr Small provided an update on his work regarding improving safety features for the Great Eastern Path.

218 Fields in Trust – Jessel Green

The Town Clerk provided an update and summary on the application for Fields in Trust status and the motion request to EFDC to support this through a minute of agreement. The Town Clerk advised the request for an agenda item to consider the Fields in Trust protection for Jessel Green had not yet been listed by EFDC.

Cllr Owen advised that the District Council may not favour Fields in Trust status but prefer to offer a long lease (approx. 100-150 years) by way of Asset Transfer, which would allow LTC to try and prevent any building on Jessel Green.

219 Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership – Op/Dial Report

The Essex Police Performance Summary reports on pages 5 – 13 were received and NOTED.

Members commented the graphs were hard to decipher for Epping Forest in places and requested this to be feedback to the CSP.

Perhaps it may be useful to request the CSP Manager to attend a future Council meeting, alternatively members may wish to attend the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee meeting at EFDC.

Cllr Wixley suggested the E & H Committee may wish to consider diverting the EMR Speed Indicator Device to the provision of safety measures at Great Eastern Path.

220 Epping Forest District, The Broadway, Debden Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) extension consultation

The consultation was received and it was unanimously AGREED to support the extension of the PSPO for the Broadway.

221 EALC Announcement – Buckingham Palace Garden Party Award 2027

Members AGREED to nominate a long-standing Town Councillor to attend a garden party in 2027 subject to his agreement.

222 Loughton Town Partnership

A community meeting to be held at Lopping Hall on Thursday 22 October 2026 at 7pm was NOTED.

223 Membership of EALC/NALC

Following a detailed discussion, it was unanimously AGREED not to reaffiliate to the EALC/NALC for 2026/27, noting over half a year had already lapsed, and to reconsider the membership annually at the RGS January meeting.

Signed ……
15 December 2026