

MINUTES of the ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING held by Zoom on Thursday 11th February 2021 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr G Scruton	(Town Mayor & Chair)	
Cllr M Wright	(Deputy Town Mayor)	
Cllr N Avey	Cllr C Burgess	Cllr J Duffell
Cllr R Griffiths	Cllr C McCredie	Cllr H Pegrum
Cllr B Scruton	Cllr M-L Whitbread	Cllr J Whitehouse

OFFICER: Beverley Rumsey (Town Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public, 1 member of the press

393 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr I Black.

394 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest (non pecuniary) were received from Cllr G Scruton and Cllr B Scruton regarding agenda item 19 (Townperson of the Year), as they are related to one of the nominees. Agenda items 19 and 20 were swapped, so agenda item 19 was discussed last. Cllr G Scruton and Cllr B Scruton both left the meeting for agenda item 19 and Cllr M Wright, as Vice Chairman (Deputy Mayor) chaired the end of the meeting (agenda item 19).

395 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

396 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTION TIME

There were public questions and comments in relation to agenda item 7(i) Blue plaque request and agenda item 7(ii) Skate park Stonards Hill recreation ground. Members of the public spoke on both items under the relevant agenda section.

397 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14th January 2021 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council. **(Attachment A & A1-4).**

398 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the signed Minutes of the following Committee meetings be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

Planning & General Purposes Committee	12 th January 2021 (Attachment B)
Planning & General Purposes Committee	26 th January 2021 (Attachment C)

399 COMMUNICATIONS TO NOTE/REQUIRING DECISION

(i) Blue plaque request

Council discussed the request for a blue plaque for Jill Barklem, as per **Attachment E**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s144;
- (ii) Council would like to provide a blue plaque for Brambly Hedge author Jill Barklem, ideally in Church Hill, subject to the homeowner's permission.

(iii) Stonards Hill recreation ground skate park

Council discussed Stonards Hill recreation skate park, as per **Attachment F**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s19;
- (ii) A skate park refurbishment/replacement would be pursued with the skate park gentlemen who had requested one;
- (iii) The Town Clerk would work with the skate park user gentlemen to try and progress this.

Cllr N Avey left the meeting at this point.

(iv) S137 spending limit: 2021-2022

Council **NOTED** the S137 spending limit for 2021-2022 of £8.41 per elector. This means the maximum spend under this power is £80,357.55 (No of electors: 9555 x £8.41).

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s137 (4)(a).

(v) Epping Forest Heritage Trust project

Council **NOTED** the Epping Forest Heritage Trust project, as per **Attachment G**.

(vi) Remote Council meetings

Council **NOTED** that at the current time, the government had published no plans extending the ability to hold remote Council meetings beyond 7th May 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020;

- (ii) The Town Clerk would monitor the situation and liaise with Council as more legislative information becomes available.

(vii) City of London car parking charges

Council considered the information regarding City of London car parking charges, as per **Attachment H**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s111;
- (ii) The Town Clerk would return comments regarding displacement of parking elsewhere and the potentially high level of charging;
- (iii) Members would return their own individual comments if they wished, via the electronic system.

(viii) Clean Air Zone Epping Forest and the Local Plan

Council considered the information regarding the Clean Air Zone in Epping Forest and the Local Plan from Epping Forest District Council, as per **Attachment I**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s111;
- (ii) The Town Clerk would request Epping Forest District Council keep the Town Council informed about this item's progress, so the Town Council can input if and when appropriate;
- (iii) No further comment would be made at the current time.

(iv) Epping Weather Station

Council **NOTED** the information regarding Epping Weather Station as per **Attachment J**.

400 TOWN MAYOR & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S DUTIES

The duties undertaken by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor since the Ordinary Council meeting on 14th January 2021 were **NOTED**.

401 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Reports from members were received on meetings or visits since the Ordinary Council meeting on 14th January 2021:

Cllr B Scruton	Local Highways Panel ECC	18 th January 2021
	Epping Eppingen Committee meeting	27 th January 2021
	Local Council Liaison Committee meeting (Qualis)	28 th Jan 2021
	Princess Alexandra Hospital public meeting	4 th February 2021
	EFDC ExtraOrdinary meeting Air Pollution	8 th February 2021
Cllr C McCredie	EALC Climate Crisis Conference	28 th January 2021
	Swaines Green AGM	4 th February 2021

Cllr J Duffell	Playground working party meeting	20th January 2021
Cllr C Burgess	Playground working party meeting	20th January 2021

402 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

The Town Clerk advised members that the works to the Forest Room floor at the Jack Silley Pavilion were currently underway and would continue throughout February 2021.

Members **NOTED** the report of the Town Clerk.

403 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31st JANUARY 2021

Council considered the summary financial report for January 2021, presented by Council's Key Member for Finance, Cllr G Scruton.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- (ii) No further action was required at the current time.

404 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Council's Key Member for Finance, Cllr G Scruton presented the payment schedules for January 2021 totalling £47,060.72. Payments from The Co-operative total: £46,953.09, Barclays total £43.71 & The Co-operative online total: £63.92. **Please note:** a transfer from Barclays to The Co-operative of £40,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- (ii) The list of payments for January 2021 were **APPROVED** as presented in the schedule.

405 BUDGET VIREMENT

Council discussed the Town Clerk's **RECOMMENDATION** to vire £2000 from 220/4260 (Cemetery/Repairs and Maintenance) to 240/4260 (Parks & Building/Repairs and Maintenance), to more accurately reflect the expenditure required and undertaken.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- (ii) The virement should be made as detailed.

406 EPPING WAR MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION

Council discussed a commemoration to mark Epping War Memorial's 100th birthday (birthday is 8th May 2021).

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923,s1;
- (ii) A service of rededication would be held to mark the War Memorial's 100th birthday, involving Epping Town Council, the Royal British Legion and the Church;
- (iii) Cllr J Duffell would pursue this with the Revd Lee Batson (St John's Church Epping);
- (iv) Subject to Covid restrictions and guidance in 2021, Epping Town Council would try to deliver some of the things planned for the missed VE Day 75 in 2020, hopefully including an exhibition and possibly dancing. The event would be a commemoration and celebration.

407 CHRISTMAS MARKET 2021

Council discussed the Christmas Market 2021, and considered the information provided as per **Attachment P**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s144;
- (ii) The date of the Christmas Market will be Saturday 4th December 2021, to coincide with the Christmas Tree Festival 2021;
- (iii) The format of the Christmas Market will be daytime event, 10am to 4pm;
- (iv) The planning and events officer and Town Clerk would pursue alternative lighting options which may facilitate a later closing time and this would be revisited during the year as more information is collected;
- (v) Council wished to thank Mr C Vallis for his generosity and excellent PA/music system he provided for the Christmas Market.

408 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

409 LAND ISSUE

Council considered the land issue information as per **Attachment Q**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Highways Act 1980, s43 & s50;
- (ii) The footpath item would not be pursued at the current time;
- (iii) Cllr N Avey, Cllr R Griffiths and Cllr B Scruton would work with the Town Clerk to consider other ways to protect the land.

410 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TENDER

Council discussed the Christmas Lights and tender documents as per **Attachment R**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s144;
- (ii) The tender document as per **Attachment R** should be **APPROVED** with no amendments and issued to Christmas Lighting providers.

***Please note**, at the meeting, these items were reordered and the Civic Award item was discussed before the Townsperson of the Year 2020 item, due to the non pecuniary interests of Cllr G Scruton (Chairman) and Cllr B Scruton. Both councillors left the meeting after the Civic Award item and before the Townsperson of the Year 2020 item and did not take part in the Townsperson of the Year 2020 discussion or vote.

411 TOWNSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2020

Council discussed the Townsperson of the Year 2020 nominations, as per **Attachment S**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s111;
- (ii) The Townsperson of the Year 2020 would be awarded to Jacqui Mortimer.

412 CIVIC AWARD SCHEME

Council discussed the Civic Award Scheme nominations, as per **Attachment T**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Local Government Act 1972, s111;
- (ii) Lindsay House in Lindsey Street would be awarded the Civic Award 2020.

CLOSURE

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M Wright, closed the meeting at **8.30pm**.

Signature of Chairman

Date