

**MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** held in the Conference Room, Epping Hall, on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 6.30pm.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OFFICER:**                    Beverley Rumsey (Town Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**        2 members of the public, 1 member of the press

**352    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Duffell and Cllr M-L Whitbread.

**353    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr N Avey, Cllr C McCredie & Cllr J Whitehouse declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7(i) as they are also Epping Forest District Councillors.

**354    DISPENSATIONS**

There were no dispensations.

**355    PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions or comments.

**356    CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.

**357    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.

Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Committee	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 ( <b>Attachment B</b> )
Planning & General Purposes Committee	14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 ( <b>Attachment C</b> )

**358    COMMUNICATIONS TO NOTE/REQUIRING DECISION**

**(i)     Request from Epping Forest District Council: Town Centre Regeneration**

Council discussed Epping Forest District Council’s Town Centre regeneration project and the request for £5000.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Epping Town Council would not contribute £5000 at this stage but would request a representative from Epping Forest District Council attend an Epping Town Council meeting and give Epping Town Councillors more information about the project.

**(ii) Royal British Legion thanks**

Epping Town Council **NOTED** the thanks from the Royal British Legion thanking them for the £67.48 collected at Epping Hall over the Remembrance period.

**359 TOWN MAYOR’S & DEPUTY MAYOR’S DUTIES**

The duties undertaken by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor since the Ordinary Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were **NOTED**.

**360 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Reports from members were received on meetings or visits since the Ordinary Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021:

Cllr G Scruton	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Cllr R Griffiths	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Cllr S Baker	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Cllr J Whitehouse	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Cllr C McCredie	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Cllr C Burgess	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Cllr H Pegrum	Freeman Ruth Benjamin funeral	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
	Epping Hall working party meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

**361 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

The Town Clerk highlighted the new Epping Town Sign on Tower Road Green.

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

**362 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31st DECEMBER 2021**

Council considered the summary financial report for December 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.

**363 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Council’s Key Member for Finance, Cllr G Scruton presented the payment schedules for December 2021 totalling **£56,836.90**. (Payments from Barclays total £44.50, the Cooperative-£56,635.38, the Co-operative Online total £157.02.) **Please note:** a petty cash transfer of £250 from the Co-operative.

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 December 2021 were **APPROVED** as presented in the schedule.

**364 BUDGETS 2022/2023 SECOND ESTIMATES**

Council discussed the budget 2022/23 second estimates documentation, as per **Attachments I-IB**.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The statutory basis for this item be **NOTED** as the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and the Audit Commission Act 1998 s44, Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014;
- (ii) The draft budget 2022/23 (**Attachment I**) should be **APPROVED**. This shows a precept increase of 3%;
- (iii) The Town Mayor was **AUTHORISED** to sign the precept demand of £538,414 for 2022/23 on behalf of Epping Town Council, which would be issued to Epping Forest District Council;
- (iv) The draft charges showing a 3% increase for 2022/23 (from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022) were **APPROVED**, with the exception of Epping Monday market (nil increase).

**CLOSURE**

The Town Mayor, Cllr M Wright, closed the meeting at **7.09pm**.

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**Signature of Chairman**

**Date**