



EPSOM AND EWELL

Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH of EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Town Hall, Epsom on 12 December 2017

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Liz Frost); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Neil Dallen); Councillors Michael Arthur, Richard Baker, John Beckett, Steve Bridger, Kate Chinn, Alex Clarke, George Crawford, Lucie Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Graham Dudley, Robert Foote, Chris Frost, Rob Geleit, Eber Kington, Omer Kokou-Tchri, Jan Mason, Tina Mountain, Barry Nash, Peter O'Donovan, Martin Olney, Keith Partridge, Jane Race, David Reeve, Humphrey Reynolds, Guy Robbins, Vince Romagnuolo, Clive Smitheram, Jean Steer, Alan Sursham, Mike Teasdale, Peter Webb, David Wood, Clive Woodbridge and Tella Wormington

Absent: Councillors Tony Axelrod and Rekha Bansil

The Meeting was preceded by prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by councillors regarding items on the Agenda.

26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of the Council held on 17 October 2017 and 28 November 2017 respectively were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

27 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year and made a number of announcements relating to forthcoming charity events. She also informed members that she had recently attended the rededication of the grave of Lt. Colonel Northey of Epsom, a young officer killed in the Zulu wars of 1800s. Among the guests were a Zulu princess and members of the Northey family.

28 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Eight questions had been addressed to Committee Chairmen to which written answers had been provided and published.

29 SCHEME FOR MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Council received and considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding a Scheme for Members Allowances.

Upon the recommendations of the Panel being put, it was **MOVED** by Councillor Clive Smitheram and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hannah Dalton that:

the Council:

- (1) Did not accept the recommendation of the IPR in regard to the uplift in Basic Allowance and retains the current system of Basic Allowances and indexation;
- (2) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to award the majority Group Chairman/Leader a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,703 for 2018/19 (under current formulae £4,113) subject to any indexation that may apply;
- (3) Did not accept the recommendation of the IRP in regard to the allowance for a Leader of a Minority Group and agrees to retain the current funding arrangements;
- (4) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to withdraw the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee;
- (5) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to withdraw the Special Responsibility Allowance for the independent person for standards matters (currently £1,012.44 per annum) and replace it with a daily rate of £250 payable only when the post is required by the Council to perform the duties of an Independent Person;
- (6) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to implement one Special Responsibility Allowance per member;
- (7) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to replace the reference to the National Living Minimum Wage for Dependent Carer's Allowance with the appropriate rate of the National Living Wage;
- (8) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to continue to adopt HMRC rates for calculating reimbursement of Members mileage and that subsistence payments should be in accordance with those paid to Officers of the Council;

- (9) Approve an additional £150 (as originally recommended to Strategy and Resources Committee in March 2015) to be consolidated within the 2017/18 Basic Allowance, to reflect the previous provision and support arrangements for broadband, phone lines, printers and IT technical support which has ceased;
- (10) Adopt recommendation (1) to (8) above from 1 April 2018.

The amendment was **CARRIED**, there being 23 members in favour, 7 members against and 5 abstentions.

It was thereupon **MOVED** by Councillor Vince Romagnuolo and **SECONDED** by Councillor Kate Chinn that:

“Officers look to investigate a scheme based on expenses only and report back to Full Council”

Upon being put, the amendment was **LOST**, there being 6 members in favour and the majority against

RESOLVED that:

the Council:

- (1) Did not accept the recommendation of the IPR in regard to the uplift in Basic Allowance and retains the current system of Basic Allowances and indexation;
- (2) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to award the majority Group Chairman/Leader a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,703 for 2018/19 (under current formulae £4,113) subject to any indexation that may apply;
- (3) Did not accept the recommendation of the IRP in regard to the allowance for a Leader of a Minority Group and agrees to retain the current funding arrangements;
- (4) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to withdraw the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee;
- (5) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to withdraw the Special Responsibility Allowance for the independent person for standards matters (currently £1,012.44 per annum) and replace it with a daily rate of £250 payable only when the post is required by the Council to perform the duties of an Independent Person;
- (6) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to implement one Special Responsibility Allowance per member;
- (7) Accept the recommendation of the IRP to replace the reference to the National Living Minimum Wage for Dependent Carer's Allowance with the appropriate rate of the National Living Wage;

- (8) **Accept the recommendation of the IRP to continue to adopt HMRC rates for calculating reimbursement of Members mileage and that subsistence payments should be in accordance with those paid to Officers of the Council;**
- (9) **Approve an additional £150 (as originally recommended to Strategy and Resources Committee in March 2015) to be consolidated within the 2017/18 Basic Allowance, to reflect the previous provision and support arrangements for broadband, phone lines, printers and IT technical support which has ceased;**
- (10) **Adopt recommendation (1) to (8) above from 1 April 2018.**

30 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19

Council received a report from the Head of Legal & Democratic Services regarding the proposed Calendar of Council and Committee meetings.

Councillor Eber Kington **MOVED**, and Councillor Clive Smitheram **SECONDED**, the recommendation in the report subject to reporting that the Democratic Services Manager would seek to resolve a clash in proposed dates. The calendar currently listed the Environment Committee and Local Committee as both taking place on 11 June 2018 and the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee and Planning Committee both taking place on 18 April 2019. The Democratic Services Manager would seek to reschedule the Environment and Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committees.

Upon being put, the recommendation that the Council approve the 2018/19 Calendar of Meetings was **CARRIED**

RESOLVED

that the Calendar of Meetings for 2018/19 be approved.

31 MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

No motions to Council had been received by the deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 29 November 2017 (eight clear working days before the meeting).

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.55 pm

COUNCILLOR LIZ FROST
MAYOR