



## EPSOM AND EWELL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF EPSOM AND EWELL held at the Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall on 30 April 2019

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#### PRESENT -

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

Absent: Councillors Tony Axelrod, Richard Baker, Rekha Bansil, Alex Clarke, George Crawford, Lucie Dallen and Clive Woodbridge

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

#### 39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness and transparency the following declarations were made:

##### Questions from Councillors

Councillor Liz Frost MSc FCOptom, Other Interest: Declared she was employed by the NHS. However it was noted that the Council's Standards Committee had granted a dispensation to speak on matters related to health..

##### Appointment of Independent Persons

Councillor Chris Frost BSc, Other Interest: Declared he was known to Liz Lawrence, one of the proposed Independent Panel Members through their association with the Epsom & Ewell Community Fund.

#### 40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 February 2019 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

#### 41 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor thanked and paid tribute to Councillors who were not standing in the forthcoming Borough Elections on 2 May, namely; Councillors Michael Arthur, Jean Steer, Graham Dudley, George Crawford, Mike Teasdale, Vince Romagnuolo who had served for eight year or more and Tella Wormington Tony Axelrod, who had served for four years.

The Mayor also made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy events over the past two months and to forthcoming charity events.

#### 42 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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

Two supplementary questions were asked at the meeting and answers given by the relevant Committee Chairmen.

A question was addressed to the Chairman of Strategy and Resources Committee at the meeting under FCR 12.12 on the grounds that it related to an issue of importance that had come to light after the notice period for questions from Members of the Council (given in FCR 12.2).

The question was put by Councillor John Beckett and a verbal response was given by Councillor Eber Kington, Chairman of Strategy & Resources as follows:

Question:

*'Will the Chairman of Strategy & Resources please update this Council on the action taken by the Council's Emergency Planning Team following notification of the fire at Rembrandt Court'*

Response:

*'Firstly, I would like to express our shared concern for the families living at Rembrandt Court who have been impacted so suddenly and terribly by the fire that raged through their homes on Saturday night. We all know the risks associated with fires in residential premises, and therefore I know that we all share in the sense of relief that, on this occasion, everyone got out safely. However, it must have still been a terrifying and deeply upsetting experience for those involved. It will also inevitably take some time before the lives of these families can return to some kind of normality.'*

*I also want to pay tribute to the Emergency Services including the Fire, Ambulance and Police Service who did everything possible to deal with unfolding emergency and deal with the immediate risks to life and property. The fact that there were 8 fire crews on the site, gives an indication of how serious the incident was.'*

*I would also like to thank the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Officers who co-ordinated the Council's response that evening and who also work hard to ensure that we are always ready to respond to any emergency. This includes the Council's Head of Policy, Performance and Governance, and the Council's Emergency Planning Officer and the Head of Operational Services and two of his Patrol Rangers who attended at the scene in the role of Incident Liaison Officers and who ensured that everyone had somewhere safe to stay that night. They also provided the Council's eyes and ears on the ground so that the Council knew what was happening in case other action was needed. The Head of Planning also ensured that professional expertise was available on site that night and in the early hours to assess the structural integrity of the buildings so that the Fire Service could access all parts of the building to prevent the fire getting hold again and to start their investigations. In addition the Head of HR and OD and her Communications Officers who contributed to the Council's wider communications.*

*Initial notification of the fire was through the Head of Operational Services from the Rangers who were on duty on Saturday. The Rangers then remained on scene during the evening. They liaised with the Fire Services and the occupants of the nearby houses. The early intervention and attendance of our officers was commended by the Area Commander from the Surrey Fire Rescue Service.*

*In line with the Council's emergency plans, the Leadership Team were alerted through the cascade system. The Council's Rangers were able to confirm that the church hall had opened to provide shelter while other arrangements were being made for the families. The Council also checked if there were any vulnerable people affected who might need additional immediate support.*

*Please can I also take this opportunity to thank those local residents who came out on Saturday night to help, including those kind people from the local church who opened their church hall. I'd also like to thank the Ward Councillors who also made themselves available and contributed to the solidarity of support.*

*Can I also thank the leadership of St John's Church in Stoneleigh Park Road who found 8 to 10 volunteers who, along with the Minister provided refreshments, warmth and friendship to distressed residents. In addition the Church allowed public donations of clothing, toiletries etc. to be handed into the Church Hall on Sunday morning.*

*Finally can I thank the Stoneleigh Ward Councillors who also made themselves available and contributed to the support given to the families and who publicised the appeal for items to assist the families who lost many, if not most, of their possessions. I know that their actions on the night and the day after have been greatly appreciated by those affected by the incident.*

A supplementary question was also asked and responded to at the meeting.

#### 43 CHAIRMEN'S STATEMENTS

The Council received written statements from the Chairmen of Strategy & Resources, Licensing and Planning Policy and Chairman of the Environment & Safe Communities Committee.

Three questions were asked relating to the statements and responded to by the relevant Committee Chairman.

#### 44 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

Council received a report from the Head of HR and Organisational Development regarding the approval of the draft Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Pay Policy statement for 2019/20.

Councillor Eber Kington **MOVED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put, the recommendation was **CARRIED** there being 29 in favour and 1 abstention.

Accordingly, it was resolved that:

**(1) That the Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20.**

#### 45 AUDIT, CRIME & DISORDER AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT

Council received a report from the Head of Policy, Performance & Governance regarding the approval of the annual report of the Audit, Crime, Disorder and Scrutiny Committee 2018/19, in accordance with Article 6 of Part 2 of the Council's Constitution, the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor David Reeve **MOVED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put, the recommendation was **CARRIED**, there being 29 in favour and 1 abstention.

Accordingly it was resolved that:

**(1) The Council received the Annual Report 2018/19 of the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee.**

#### 46 REVISIONS TO PART 5 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Council received a report from the Chief Legal Officer that set out the recommendations of the Standards Committee regarding proposed changes to Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Mike Teasdale **MOVED** the recommendation in the report

Councillor Clive Smitheram **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED**, 29 being in favour and 1 against.

Accordingly it was resolved that:

**Council approved:**

- (1) **The new Code of Conduct for Members at section 1 of Part 5 of the Constitution as set out at Annex 1;**
- (2) **Revisions to sections 4, 5, 6, 7 of Part 5 of the Constitution set out at Annex 1;**
- (3) **That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any further changes as may be necessary arising out of this report in consultation with the Chairman of the Standards Committee;**

**Council noted:**

- (4) **That in accordance with authority already delegated to the Monitoring Officer, changes will be made to job titles in the remainder of Part 5 to update references in line with the management structure.**

#### **47 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019-2020**

Council received a report seeking approval of the Calendar of Meetings for 2019-2020.

Councillor Eber Kington **MOVED** the recommendation in the report

Councillor Clive Smitheram **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED**, there being 29 in favour and 1 abstention

Accordingly it was resolved that:

- (1) **The Council approved the Calendar of Meetings for 2019-2020**

#### **48 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

Following a recruitment process undertaken jointly with Surrey Borough Councils, the Chief Legal Officer presented a report seeking approval for the formal appointment of the Council's statutory Independent Persons for a four year term of office expiring in May 2023.

Councillor Mike Teasdale **MOVED** the recommendation in the report

Councillor Clive Smitheram **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report

Upon being put, the recommendation was **CARRIED** there being 29 in favour and 1 abstention

Accordingly, it was resolved that:

(1) **That the following persons be appointed as Independent Persons for a four-year term of office expiring in May 2023:**

- **John Smith**
- **Vivienne Cameron**
- **Roger Pett**
- **Bill Donnelly**
- **Bernard Quoroll**
- **Paul Eaves**
- **Liz Lawrence**

**49 EPSOM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT OPERATING & BASELINE AGREEMENT**

Council received a report from the Chief Legal Officer seeking authority to approve and complete a services agreement in relation to the Epsom Business District with Epsom BID Limited.

Councillor Eber Kington **MOVED** the recommendation in the report

Clive Smitheram **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put, the recommendation was **CARRIED** without division

Accordingly, it was resolved that:

(1) **Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Strategy & Resources Committee to approve and complete an Operating and Baseline Agreement in relation to Epsom Business Improvement District with Epsom BID Limited.**

**50      TRIBUTES**

Councillor Eber Kington thanked retiring Councillors for their important contributions namely; Michael Arthur, Jean Steer, Vince Romagnuolo, Graham Dudley and Mike Teasdale.

Councillor Tina Mountain thanked the Mayor, and Council Officers and wished happiness for all retiring Councillors.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

COUNCILLOR NEIL DALLEN  
MAYOR