



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 10 December 2024

PRESENT -

The Mayor (Councillor Steve Bridger); The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Robert Leach); Councillors Arthur Abdulin, Chris Ames, John Beckett, Kate Chinn, Christine Cleveland, Neil Dallen, Hannah Dalton, Liz Frost, Bernice Froud, Tony Froud, Rob Geleit, Shanice Goldman, Christine Howells, Graham Jones, Alison Kelly, Rachel King, James Lawrence, Jan Mason, Steven McCormick, Julie Morris, Bernie Muir, Phil Neale, Peter O'Donovan, Kieran Persand, Humphrey Reynolds, Darren Talbot, Chris Watson, Alan Williamson and Clive Woodbridge

Absent: Councillors Alex Coley, Julian Freeman, Lucie McIntyre and Kim Spickett

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

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Bernice Froud, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Bernice Froud declared that she had a meeting with Epsom Netball Club in relation to the Hook Road Arena site.

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Bernie Muir, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Bernie Muir declared that she and Councillor Keiran Persand had met Mr Barry Gartell, who had lobbied them to approve a sport centre that was designated possibly for Hook Road Arena. Councillor Bernie Muir stated that she did not believe that this had in any way influenced their decision making process.

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Chris Ames, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Chris Ames declared that he and Councillor Kate Chinn had been invited to a meeting with representatives of Epsom and Ewell Football Club in relation to the promotion of the Hook Road Arena site. Councillor Chris Ames stated that he did not believe that this had particularly influenced their thinking on the matter and that he had also been lobbied by a number of other residents on this issue.

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Kate Chinn, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Kate Chinn declared that she and Councillor Chris Ames had met Mr Barry Gartell, who had lobbied them to approve a sport centre that was designated possibly for Hook Road Arena. Councillor Kate Chinn stated that she did not believe that this had in any way influenced their decision making process.

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Kieran Persand, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Bernie Muir declared that she and Councillor Keiran Persand had met Mr Barry Gartell, who had lobbied them to approve a sport centre that was designated possibly for Hook Road Arena. Councillor Bernie Muir stated that she did not believe that this had in any way influenced their decision making process.

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Neil Dallen MBE, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Neil Dallen declared that he had been at various meetings with various clubs and authorities in relation to the Hook Road Arena Site.

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

Councillor Peter O'Donovan, Other Interest: In the interests of openness and transparency Councillor Peter O'Donovan declared that he volunteers with Epsom & Ewell Football Club at weekends when he is available but that he had not been involved in any applications for Hook Road Arena.

23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 30 July 2024 were agreed as a true record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

24 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS/BUSINESS

The Mayor made a number of announcements relating to noteworthy recent and upcoming events.

25 PETITION FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

Council received a petition, entitled “Remove Green Belt from the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Local Plan” which had met the threshold for Council debate (receiving a total of 1,632 valid signatures) and had been accepted under the requirements of the Council’s Petition Scheme. Details of the Petition were set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

In advance of the petition organiser being invited to present the petition to the Council, the Mayor informed the Council of the procedure to be followed on this item. As the petition called for a motion that related to a later item on the agenda (Item 13 - Proposed submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan), the Mayor informed the Council that motions or amendments would not be accepted during the debate on the petition, but that there would be an opportunity for such to be proposed during Item 13 of the agenda.

Accordingly, and in line with the Council’s general rules of debate and the Petition Scheme, the petition organiser was given 5 minutes to present the petition and Chairman of Licensing & Planning Policy Committee responded to the Petition.

The meeting was then opened to debate and concluded with a final reply from the Chairman of Licensing & Planning Policy Committee.

26 QUESTIONS

One question had been addressed to the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee, to which a written answer had been provided and published.

27 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023-2024

The Council received a report presenting the Annual Governance Statement 2023-2024.

Councillor Steven McCormick **MOVED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED** with 29 votes for, 1 vote against and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Note the Annual Governance Statement 2023-2024 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**

28 CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS - PROCUREMENT ACT UPDATE

Council received a report presenting updated Contract Standing Orders in accordance with the recommendation of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED** with 29 votes for, 1 vote against and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Approve the revisions to the Contract Standing Orders, with respect to the Procurement Act 2023 and document formatting, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.**
- (2) **Approve the revisions to the Contract Standing Orders, with respect to those not mandated by the Procurement Act 2023, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.**

29 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025-2026

Council received a report presenting the extended Municipal Calendar of ordinary meetings from May 2025 to July 2026.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED** unanimously.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) **Approve the Municipal Calendar of ordinary meetings for 2025-2026.**

30 BOURNE HALL WINDOWS PHASE 2

Council received a report seeking approval of capital budget to fund phase 2 of replacement of windows at Bourne Hall. Approval was being sought ahead of the usual capital programme cycle, due to be brought to Council in February 2025. This would enable the scheme to be coordinated with phase 1 of the windows replacement being funded by UK Shared Prosperity Funding, so that cost savings may be realised through undertaking works concurrently.

Councillor Clive Woodbridge **MOVED** and Councillor Neil Dallen **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was **CARRIED** with 28 votes for, 2 votes against and the Mayor not voting.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Approve a capital expenditure budget of £410,000 for phase 2 of the replacement of windows at Bourne Hall.**

31 URGENT DECISIONS

Council received a report setting out the decisions taken by the Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration on the grounds of urgency, in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was unanimously **CARRIED**.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

- (1) To note the urgent decision taken and the reasons for that decision.**

32 COMMITTEE DECISIONS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH URGENCY PROCEDURE

Council received a report providing notification of committee decisions taken in accordance with the urgency procedure contained in Annex 4.6 of the Operating Framework. The decisions had been taken at meetings of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 24 September 2024 and 20 November 2024.

Councillor Peter O'Donovan **MOVED** and Councillor Neil Dallen **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was unanimously **CARRIED**.

Accordingly it was resolved to:

- (1) Note the decisions of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 24 September 2024 and 20 November 2024.**

33 MOTIONS

The Council received one Motion submitted under FCR 14 of Appendix 4 of the Constitution.

Motion 1

The Council unanimously resolved to debate the Motion at the meeting.

In pursuance of the Council's Rules of Procedure, Councillor Steven McCormick **MOVED** and Councillor Neil Dallen **SECONDED** the following Motion.

Motion

"This Council notes that:

Home delivery via motorcycles and pedal cycles from takeaway outlets is becoming increasingly popular. It responds to customer demand, contributes to the local economy, and provides employment opportunities for delivery drivers. However, like some other changes in shopping behaviour and consumer preferences, it can also raise unexpected and sometimes unwanted consequences.

Currently, in too many areas of Epsom & Ewell, high streets and shopping centres are facing a need for parking spaces by delivery drivers and, too often, that is leading to inconsiderate, dangerous and illegal parking on the pavement to the detriment and safety of pedestrians and shoppers and, currently, there is no agreed response from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

In light of the factors listed above, this Council agrees to the following actions:

Ask that the Epsom & Ewell Local Planning Authority(LPA) consider the requirements for motorcycle parking in new retail developments and changes of use applications and include necessary policy and supplementary planning documents (where required) to support this requirement.

Write to Delivery companies (Uber Eats, Deliveroo, Just Eat, etc.) to highlight the issue of motorcycle delivery parking on pavements and issues caused by riding on and across pavements.

To convene a round-table meeting with all Delivery companies to discuss best practice guidelines for delivery riders in Epsom & Ewell.

Work closely with partners, the Police and Surrey County Council to effectively enforce the current parking restrictions, and where possible to identify measures to discourage all motorised vehicles from accessing the footway.

Identify and highlight current parking areas in Epsom & Ewell that can be accessed and used by delivery riders and work to identify possible new alternative parking areas."

Upon being put the Council unanimously **RESOLVED**:

This Council notes that:

Home delivery via motorcycles and pedal cycles from takeaway outlets is becoming increasingly popular. It responds to customer demand, contributes to the local economy, and provides employment opportunities for delivery drivers. However, like some other changes in shopping behaviour and consumer preferences, it can also raise unexpected and sometimes unwanted consequences.

Currently, in too many areas of Epsom & Ewell, high streets and shopping centres are facing a need for parking spaces by delivery drivers and, too often, that is leading to inconsiderate, dangerous and illegal parking on the pavement to the detriment and safety of pedestrians and shoppers and, currently, there is no agreed response from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.

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To convene a round-table meeting with all Delivery companies to discuss best practice guidelines for delivery riders in Epsom & Ewell.

Work closely with partners, the Police and Surrey County Council to effectively enforce the current parking restrictions, and where possible to identify measures to discourage all motorised vehicles from accessing the footway.

Identify and highlight current parking areas in Epsom & Ewell that can be accessed and used by delivery riders and work to identify possible new alternative parking areas.

34 PROPOSED SUBMISSION EPSOM AND EWELL LOCAL PLAN

Council received a report presenting the Proposed Submission Local Plan (2022-2040) with the recommendation that public consultation be undertaken as soon as practically possible and in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme (the Local Plan timetable).

The Licencing and Planning Policy Committee on 20 November 2024 agreed to recommend to Full Council that: the Proposed Submission Local Plan be endorsed as being sound; public consultation should commence on the document as soon as is practically possible for a period of six weeks and that the plan should be submitted for independent examination as soon as is practically possible.

Prior to the debate the Mayor informed the Council of the procedure to be followed on this item. The Mayor proposed that the consideration of the item be managed in three different phases:

Phase one would begin with an invitation to the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee to introduce the item. Following the Chair's introduction, the matter will then be opened to all members to make a statement for up to 3 minutes if they wished.

Phase two would commence once all statements had been made and provided an opportunity for any member to seek clarification from the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on any statements of fact within the report.

Phase three would follow after questions of clarification and provided an opportunity for any member who wishes to propose a motion to do so prior to the final reply from the Chair and the vote on the substantive matter.

Accordingly, Councillor Peter O'Donovan **MOVED** the recommendations in the report and the item was debated following the procedure set out above.

Following debate, and upon being put the recommendations were **CARRIED** with 16 votes for, 8 votes against and 7 abstentions. In accordance with FCR 4.61 of Appendix 4 to the Constitution, a recorded vote was taken on this matter as detailed below, there being 8 councillors in support of a recorded vote.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Endorse the Proposed Submission Local Plan as being sound.**
- (2) Approve that public consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan commences as soon as is practicably possible for a period of 6 weeks, dates to be agreed with the Chair of Licensing and Planning Policy Committee.**
- (3) Approve the submission of the Proposed Submission Local Plan 2022-2040 and all associated documents, together with a Statement including how the responses from previous consultations have been taken into account and a summary of the main issues raised in the publication stage responses, to the Secretary of State for independent examination under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation as soon as is practically possible following the close of the six week public consultation.**

Proposed Submission Epsom and Ewell Local Plan (Motion)	
Councillor Steve Bridger	For
Councillor Robert Leach	For
Councillor Arthur Abdulin	For
Councillor Chris Ames	Abstain
Councillor John Beckett	For
Councillor Kate Chinn	Abstain
Councillor Christine Cleveland	Abstain
Councillor Neil Dallen MBE	For
Councillor Hannah Dalton	For
Councillor Liz Frost	For
Councillor Bernice Froud	Abstain
Councillor Tony Froud	Abstain
Councillor Rob Geleit	Against
Councillor Shanice Goldman	For
Councillor Christine Howells	Against
Councillor Graham Jones MBE	Abstain
Councillor Alison Kelly	Against
Councillor Rachel King	For
Councillor James Lawrence	Against
Councillor Jan Mason	Against
Councillor Steven McCormick	For
Councillor Julie Morris	Against
Councillor Bernie Muir	Against
Councillor Phil Neale	For
Councillor Peter O'Donovan	For
Councillor Kieran Persand	Against
Councillor Humphrey Reynolds	For
Councillor Darren Talbot	Abstain
Councillor Chris Watson	For
Councillor Alan Williamson	For
Councillor Clive Woodbridge	For
Carried	

35 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council passed a resolution by majority decision to exclude the public from the meeting for Part Two of the Agenda on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

36 APPOINTMENT OF PANEL MEMBERS TO THE IRP

The Council received a report seeking the formal appointment of members to the council's Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Councillor Hannah Dalton **MOVED** and Councillor Neil Dallen **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was unanimously **CARRIED**.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- 1) Appoint the following as members of the Independent Remuneration Panel:**
 - i) Tricia Bernard-Hector**
 - ii) John Thompson MBE**

37 APPOINTMENT OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

Council received a report requesting that the Council appoints Peter Sebastian as its Section 151 (s151) Officer on a permanent basis.

Councillor Neil Dallen **MOVED** and Councillor Hannah Dalton **SECONDED** the recommendation in the report.

Upon being put the recommendation was unanimously **CARRIED**.

Accordingly, it was resolved to:

- (1) Approve the appointment of Peter Sebastian as the Council's s151 Officer, on a permanent basis, effective as from 20th January 2025.**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 10.04 pm

COUNCILLOR STEVE BRIDGER
MAYOR