

**EPHING TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD  
AT EPPING HALL, ST JOHNS ROAD, EPPING CM16 5JU  
ON THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 2022 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Town Councillors: M Wright (Town Mayor), B Scruton (Deputy Mayor), S Baker, C Burgess, J Duffell, R Griffiths, C McCredie, G Scruton, M L Whitbread, J Whitehouse

**OFFICERS:** Miss B Rumsey (Town Clerk, Epping Town Council)  
Mrs G Vallis (Planning & Events Officer, Epping Town Council)

One member of the press and 30 members of the public were present.

**518 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The Town Clerk, Miss B Rumsey welcomed residents to the meeting and announced housekeeping information. The Town Clerk handed over to the Town Mayor, Cllr M Wright who introduced each of the 10 Town Councillors individually (2 absent) and explained the format for the meeting.

**519 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr N Avey, Cllr H Pegrum, Mrs L Berry, Freeman of Epping and Mrs J O'Brien. Cllr J Whitehouse also apologised that she would be late to the meeting.

**520 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

**NOTED** that the minutes of the above meeting were submitted to an Ordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and appropriate action had been taken where necessary. The meeting approved the minutes, and the Mayor signed the minutes as a correct record.

**521 ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

The Annual Report for 2021/22 was received. The Town Mayor advised the meeting that any questions would be taken under agenda item 8 Open Forum.

**522 REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr M Wright, Town Mayor gave a brief report on the Town Council's main areas of work in the past year.

Epping Town Council are a busy Town Council who look after many different aspects of Epping life, including the recreation grounds, playgrounds, two allotment sites, two public halls, Bakers Lane public toilets, Bury Lane cemetery, Epping's Historic Monday Charter Market, the Town Show, Christmas Market and Epping's Christmas lights. The last year has been another busy year as we have all tried to return to some kind of normal operations, following the Covid 19 pandemic. The Town Council have continued to operate all its services and functions throughout the difficult periods of the last two years. It is a pleasure to be able to meet residents again in person this year.

**Playgrounds**

Back in 2019, Epping Town Council helped to establish Epping Playground Association, which are a local charity who have been fundraising for the refurbishment of Lower Swaines playground. The Playground Association have now reached their target (raising £134,000 in total to date). This is the result of much hard work behind the scenes and the Town Council

have assisted with fundraising. We now look forward to the final stages where the Town Council will facilitate the delivery of the new playground at Lower Swaines.

### **Platinum Jubilee**

The Town Council are delighted to be leading the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for Epping Parish and have been working with community partners to mirror as many of the national celebrations as possible. On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, the Town Council will be lighting a beacon at Frampton Road recreation ground as part of the Queen's national beacon lighting programme. We have also been encouraging the Town and Parish to dress their shops and homes in red, white and blue to mark this historic occasion together as a community.

### **Queen's Green Canopy**

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, we were delighted to plant three oak trees at Stonards Hill recreation ground as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. The trees have been recorded on an interactive map so the Queen can see where the trees have been planted on her behalf.

We also planted three new trees on our parcel of land at Theydon Grove, Esso Island to enhance the area for residents.

### **RideLondon-Essex**

Earlier this year, London Marathon Events advised us that RideLondon-Essex would be coming through Epping on the weekend of 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022. We have worked alongside Epping Forest District Council to provide information to businesses and residents about the event and its impact. We hope that the event will bring increased footfall to the Town that will benefit the High Street. (More information will be provided by London Marathon Events later this evening.

### **Monday Market and blue plaques**

Epping Town Council are very proud of our historic Charter Market and support the market as much as we can. We are currently working on a new trailer for the market, which was kindly financed by Tesco, to support the market with advertising and events. We will be unveiling a blue plaque to commemorate our Charter Market, hopefully on 9<sup>th</sup> May. We are one of only two or three blue plaques for markets in the country.

Our market, like our High Street, was put under increased pressure by the closures surrounding the Covid pandemic and we are delighted to see our market fully operational again.

### **Epping Town Sign**

The Town Council are very pleased with the new Town Sign which we have provided on Tower Road Green by the Shell Garage. The sign has been handmade by our local sign maker and this one includes the Market Charter.

### **Planning**

Epping Town Council continue to act as a Consultee on planning and Tree Protection Order (TPO) tree applications that affect Epping Parish and the Committee meets twice a month to consider all applications. In this Civic Year, we have considered 162 applications so far.

### **Town Awards**

The Town Council recognises many individuals and businesses throughout the year with Town Awards and this year we will commend a Townsperson of the Year, a Young Townsperson of the Year and an outstanding Community Group. I will look forward to presenting these to the very worthy recipients.

## **Town Show and Christmas Market**

Our annual Town Show at Stonards Hill recreation ground and Christmas Market in the High Street were both a great success. We were delighted to be able to hold these events, despite the ongoing difficult circumstances at the time, for our community. We also lit up Epping at Christmas with Christmas trees and lights as we do each year.

## **Grants**

Epping Town Council have awarded a number of grants this year, including supporting Epping in Bloom, Epping Playground Association, Epping Forest ReUse and other important local community events, such as the Pipe Band for Remembrance Sunday.

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Town Council are still working on the Neighbourhood Plan for the Town and it should be nearing completion.

## **And in conclusion...**

I am very proud to have been Chairman of Epping Town Council over the past year. The Town Council is a hardworking team of councillors and staff who hold the best interests of the town as their priority. Thank you to my fellow councillors and our excellent team of staff for their ongoing hard work, loyalty and commitment.

### **523 RIDE LONDON-ESSEX INFORMATION: SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> & SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**

Two representatives from London Marathon Events and one representative from Essex County Council's Active Essex gave a presentation and answered questions on the RideLondon-Essex cycle race that would be riding through Epping on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### **524 GUEST SPEAKER**

The Town Mayor introduced two guest speakers to address the meeting:

#### **(i) Police Talk on Fraud**

A representative from Essex Police gave a talk on fraud and advice on how to keep safe. The police officer had items on display to give residents to help.

#### **(ii) History of Stonards Hill recreation ground**

A resident gave a talk on the history of Stonards Hill recreation ground from the research he had carried out.

The Town Mayor thanked both the speakers for their participation at the meeting.

### **525 OPEN FORUM**

The Town Mayor invited residents to raise questions or comments in advance of the Annual Town Meeting relating to matters over which the Town Council has control or some influence. The Town Mayor said that if there were any further questions during the meeting, he asked for them to be emailed in and they would be replied to.

Question: Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan: Has the Town Council any information on why the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan has been held up from completion?

Cllr C Whitbread, Leader of Epping Forest District Council replied to say that the Inspector dealing with the Local Plan is on maternity leave and it is hoped that the Local Plan will be

finalised by the Summer. Miss B Rumsey, Town Clerk said that the Planning & Events Officer asks for regular updates about the Local Plan from Epping Forest District Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan runs in parallel with the Local Plan so it won't be finalised until the Local Plan is.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the Annual Town Meeting. The Town Mayor invited people to stay and speak to local Councillors after the meeting.

**The Town Mayor, Cllr M Wright closed the meeting at 9.16pm.**