

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 12 November 2020  
at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor Mann (Chairman); Councillors Airey, Allingham, Asman, Atkinson, Bearder, Bicknell, Bourne, Broadhurst, Campbell, Clarke, Corben, Couldrey, Craig, Cross, Duguid, Garton, Gomer, Grajewski, Groves, Holes, House, Irish, Jurd, Kyrle, Manning, Marsh, Parker-Jones, Pragnell, Pretty, Rich, Tennent, Tidridge, Trace and Tyson-Payne

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean, Doguie and Rushton

41. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on this occasion.

42. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that:

- Due to the current coronavirus restrictions, the annual Remembrance and Armistice Day ceremonies took place online this year and, despite restrictions, people were able to lay wreaths in tribute to the fallen, on behalf of the Council and the people of Eastleigh. Residents were able to participate virtually via a pre-recorded video to mark the occasion. Residents decorated the bandstand with poppies in the run-up to the event.
- The hugely popular Christmas Lights switch-on, which is normally performed by the Mayor, was understandably cancelled this year. However, the new-look display was in place to welcome visitors to the town centre when the current restrictions are lifted.
- The Council had invested over £1 million in play areas across the Borough and the Mayor was pleased to be present at the opening of two new ones at North Stoneham Park last month.
- The Council recognised the contributions of local residents by making them Citizens of Honour at the annual Mayor making ceremony. The awards are given every two years in recognition of long and exceptional service to the community and nominations for next year's awards were now invited.

The Mayor paid tribute to the many residents across the Borough, friends in local charities and other organisations, as well as Council staff, who have risen so brilliantly to the challenges presented by the coronavirus crisis in supporting communities and businesses at this very challenging time.

43. MINUTES

**RESOLVED -**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record.**

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Campbell, Craig, Groves, Parker-Jones and Tidridge all declared a personal interest in item 10 as they volunteer for local charities.

45. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported that for our council, the critical issues remain giving support and guidance to local residents, to help them stay safe, and to maintain service provision.

Unlike in March, services apart from leisure and theatres had been maintained, and some had been enhanced, with the restarting of food waste collection and the new recycling pilot. Thank were given to the continued support and flexibility of the staff, especially those out on the streets, to keep the Borough going.

In response to recent government advice to people who were Clinically Extremely Vulnerable to take extra precautions, the Eastleigh Local Response Centre, comprising of Council services working alongside voluntary organisations and a steadfast army of volunteers, remains available as it had been since March 2020. This was for people who were unable to shop for themselves and need to stay indoors due to clinical or other vulnerabilities or who are doing the right thing by isolating with symptoms or once contact traced.

Details were awaited from government and the County Council, of the Covid winter grant scheme to support vulnerable families and address food poverty.

The Secretary of State said, in an update meeting that The Leader attended, that this would be administered by County Councils in two-tier areas, with District Councils asked to support the process, with 80% of the funding targeted at families with children, and 80% targeted at food and utility costs, and cover the period to the end of March. Guidance was due by the end of next week for this limited £170million programme.

The Holiday Activities and Food programme would be expanded to cover Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021.

The Leader reported that during the pandemic Eastleigh Borough Council had paid out over £17.5 million to 1,553 businesses across the Borough through the Business Rates Grants as well as the discretionary grant.

At the end of last month the Government announced new support schemes for business as a result of the second Lockdown. This support will come in the form of two main grant schemes.

- Firstly, the Local Restrictions Support Grant supports businesses that were open as usual, providing services in person to customers from their business premises, but which were then required to close due to the National Lockdown. It is for businesses that pay business rates on their premises.
- Secondly, the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant. The scheme was aimed at businesses that had not been forced to close but had been impacted by the effects.

The Government failed to meet its earlier pledge to pick up the costs of Covid, but the Council had received just over £2million of funding, which represents about two-thirds of the additional costs and lost income. Earlier in the year, Government asked that County and District Councils passport some of this funding to Town and Parish Councils, as Government was not going to do this directly. Sadly, few Councils have done this including Hampshire County Council. Eastleigh Borough Council have informed our local Town and Parish Councils of £180,000 that the Borough was passing to them, to match the 65% funding that had been received from Government.

With regards to the Local Plan, the Council were awaiting the Inspector's consideration of Local Plan modifications.

46. RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING CALL-INS) REQUIRING DECISION

47. AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

Consideration was given to a report that set out the amendments to Contract Standing Orders (paper 8).

**RESOLVED –**

**That Council adopts the revised amendments to the Constitution as set out in this Report.**

48. ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Consideration was given to a report that set out the Council's Annual Pay Policy Statement (Paper 9).

**RESOLVED –**

**That Council formally confirms its acceptance of the Pay Policy Statement which is in compliance with the Council's obligation under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. This Pay Policy Statement will then be updated on the Council's website for easy public access at any time.**

49. APPOINTMENT OF SECOND INDEPENDENT PERSON

Consideration was given to a report that set out the appointment of second Independent Person (paper 9a).

Thanks were given to the individuals that applied for the position.

**RESOLVED –**

**That Christopher Mardell be appointed as the Council's second Independent Person for a term of four years, to be reviewed annually in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.**

50. CABINET STATEMENTS

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Cabinet Statements, as set out in the agenda pack, be noted.**

51. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were Members' questions as set out in the Agenda, and supplementary questions were answered by the Leader and relevant Cabinet Members.

52. RESOLVED ITEMS - FOR NOTING AND QUESTIONS ONLY

**RESOLVED -**

**That the Minutes of the following meetings be received:**

**CABINET**

17 September 2020  
22 October 2020

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

12 October 2020

**AUDIT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

28 July 2020  
3 September 2020

8 September 2020  
20 October 2020

**POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL**

10 September 2020  
15 October 2020

**BURSLEDON, HAMBLE-LE-RICE AND HOUND LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

24 September 2020

**CHANDLER'S FORD AND HILTINGBURY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

16 September 2020

**EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

15 September 2020  
13 October 2020

**HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

28 September 2020  
2 November 2020

The meeting finished at 7:53 pm  
M6597