

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Parish Remuneration Panel **Date:** Wednesday, 25 January 2012

Place: Group Room, Room 1.19, First Floor, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 6.45 - 6.50 am

Members Present: D Jackman, Ms R Kelly and S A Lye

Other Councillors:

Apologies:

Officers Present: I Willett (Assistant to the Chief Executive) and G Lunnun (Assistant Director (Democratic Services))

1. CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Ms R Kelly be elected Chairman for the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

D Jackman reported a personal interest in agenda item 5 (Remuneration Schemes) by virtue of his mother being a member of the Ongar Town Council. He determined that his interest was prejudicial and that he would not take part in any discussion or decision in relation to that item.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2009 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. REMUNERATION SCHEMES

The Panel was advised that a letter had been sent to all Parish and Town Councils inviting proposals for consideration by the Panel if they wished to review their Remuneration Schemes. The Panel noted that only one proposal had emerged from Ongar Town Council.

The Panel was advised that in 2008 it had agreed a proposal of Ongar Town Council to pay each member a basic allowance at the rate of £300 per annum. However, subsequently the Town Council had decided not to make these payments. The Panel was informed that the Town Council now wished to reintroduce a basic allowance and was seeking approval to an amount of £226.21 per member per annum.

The Panel considered the request in relation to the guidance which it had previously given to Parish and Town Councils that the percentage of the District Council's budget allocated to Member Remuneration should be applied as a maximum for spending on Parish/Town Schemes and that no individual payment should exceed the rate for a District Councillor. The Panel noted that in 2011/12 the figure for the District Council had been 3.547%. The Panel further noted that the Ongar Town Council budget for 2010/11 had been £221,778 and that applying 3.547% to that sum equalled £7,866. Dividing that figure by the number of Ongar Town Councillors (15) achieved a maximum of £524 per member per annum and the proposal of the Town Council was therefore well within the guidance. The Panel questioned why the Town Council wished to make such precise payments

RESOLVED:

That the proposal of Ongar Town Council be agreed subject to the amount being rounded up to £230 per annum per member.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting be held on a date to be agreed.

CHAIRMAN