

EPWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council **held on Tuesday, 5th April 2022, at 7.00 pm,** **in the Small Room of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth**

Public Participation

Mr Graham Milnes spoke about Turbary Road. He said back in 2009 the town council saw the need to liaise with the Turbary residents to try and find a solution to Turbary Road. A working group was formed, who concluded that this would be best fulfilled by tarmacing the surface. Quotes were obtained to tarmac the full length of the road and the town council precepted £16,000 to do so. North Lincolnshire Council would not adopt Turbary Road unless it was brought up to highway standard and a figure of £250,000 was mentioned. However at a meeting held on 24th February 2010 between North Lincolnshire Council and Epworth Town Council, it was suggested that if the land could be proven to be in the ownership of the town council then it could surface the road, otherwise the expenditure would be open to challenge, therefore the town council needed to prove land ownership first which would then give it a power to upgrade the surface, and then have an agreement with North Lincolnshire Council about future maintenance. He stated that in a report dated July 2011, an independent barrister appointed by the town council to establish ownership of Turbary Road concluded that it owned Turbary Road and was therefore entitled to carry out work so it was in a reasonable condition for the traffic it carried. However North Lincolnshire Council would then not allow the road to be tarmaced, so a compromise was reached where the surface would be scraped and planings added on a regular basis at the expense of North Lincolnshire Council and Epworth Town Council. Mr Milnes said seven years later given the £2,000 spent on the barrister's report and the £14,000 on road maintenance, the amount set aside in the precept of £16,000 to tarmac the surface had now been spent and we were back to square one. Residents had been told by North Lincolnshire Council that it was illegal to drive on Turbary Road, and also informed by Epworth Town Council that North Lincolnshire Council had taken over it, however he believed the town council still had responsibility for looking after it. He therefore urged the town council to resurrect the working group and try and work with the residents and North Lincolnshire Council to find some form of permanent solution to Turbary Road.

01/04/22 **Record of Members Present**

The following councillors were present: Councillors J Whittaker (Chairman), Brumby, Finch, Fleet, Garner, R Whittaker & Woods.

02/04/22 **Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies from Councillors Cooper - other commitments, and Councillors Stewart - who was going away.

03/04/22 **Declarations of Interest & Dispensations**

- (i) No declarations of interest were made.
- (ii) No dispensations had been granted.

The Chairman suggested that Item 8 (ii) a) Mr G Milnes - Turbary Road on the agenda should be brought forward given there were some residents of the Turbary present. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Brumby - It was resolved that this item be brought forward for discussion.

08/04/22 **Correspondence**

(ii) a) Mr G Milnes - Turbary Road. The Chairman explained to councillors some of the history to do with Turbary Road as they were relatively new.

He reiterated some of what had been said by Mr Milnes, that initially £16,000 had been set aside in the precept for the road to be tarmaced and then later a compromise was reached whereby both Epworth Town Council and North Lincolnshire Council made a contribution of £1,000 each per year towards the maintenance of Turbary Road. He believed this agreement was working well for all parties, only for North Lincolnshire Council later not want to continue with the match funding, and therefore withdraw from the arrangement. He then referred to a ward councillor's report which stated that North Lincolnshire Council had taken responsibility for the maintenance the road and any queries from residents should therefore be directed to North Lincolnshire Council's contact centre. However it would appear from communication the town council had received that some residents were not satisfied with the way it was being maintained. He believed the problem was and still is that North Lincs Council has the final say over the character of the path, and if North Lincolnshire Council would not allow a suitable alteration to the surface of the footpath / road, then the town council was in no position to risk taxpayers money by increasing liability. He wanted nothing more than Epworth Town Council to engage in constructive, transparent meaningful communication to find a solution to the ongoing issue. He encouraged residents to lobby their ward councillors and request their support in getting North Lincs Council to re-engage with all stakeholders to find a suitable solution for the future.

Proposed by J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Brumby - **It was resolved that standing orders be suspended temporarily to allow a member of the public to speak.**

Mr Milnes informed the Council that they had been lobbying their ward councillors and the next step was to go to the MP to see if he could help. He reiterated the need for a working group to meet up with North Lincolnshire Council who he said were only looking at it as a footpath despite it being terrible to walk down.

Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor D Woods - **It was resolved that the Council should support the residents by approaching North Lincolnshire Council along with the ward councillors and ask for a meeting with all interested parties (including residents) to try and find a solution to the problem of Turbary Road.**

04/04/22

Chairman's Report

(i) End of Chairmanship - The Chairman told councillors it would be his last meeting as Chair and how proud he had been to represent the Council. He didn't think the Council would undergo the amount of change it had and the amount of work it involved. He had tried as hard as he could possibly do in the role to drive change. He thanked councillors for the work they had done in the last three years, which needed to continue in the future. **(ii) Epworth & Belton Scout Group** - He had met the Leader and the Scouts, however he needed more support, therefore he asked councillors if they knew anyone. **(iii) Epworth Sharks Swimming Club** - Struggling for swimmers, so again he asked councillors if they knew of any kids or adults who would be interested. **(iv) Consultation** - He believed this had been a success with many residents attending to chat about the development and other issues. **(v) Hanging Baskets** - He had helped Councillor R Whittaker sort out the hanging baskets and thanked her for this. Proposed by Councillor Brumby and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**

05/04/22

Ward Councillors' Report

(i) **Highways Issues** - M180 junction now open, Goodcop Pumping Station bridge repair is complete and Thorne Road just outside of Sandtoft is open. Yorkshire Water have a daytime road closure on the Wroot Road - this is for major repairs scheduled until June. Northern Powergrid are continuing the major electrical cable laying and substation upgrades between Epworth and Haxey. Start of a major programme of footpath refurbishment in Epworth - Woodland Way and Pinfold. Recently requested that the footpaths running alongside Epworth Primary school be inspected and action taken to improve the path surface and cut back further to reduce them being overgrown.

(ii) **Community Payback** - Ideas submitted but the Probation Service have said they can't travel with their offenders due to their own COVID restrictions.

(iii) **Planning** - Both ward councillors attended one of the consultation events for the Millea Land Developments proposals for the Epworth Garden Centre site, whilst it was good to see developers wanting to invest in the town, they have a huge number of concerns around the proposals and await a planning application.

(iv) **Bus Services** - Isle Coaches have given notice to the Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain and North Lincolnshire Council that they will no longer operate with effect from June this year and Hornsby's will take over the routes.

(v) **5G Phone Mast and Cabinets on Tottermire Lane / Belton Road** - The Leader of North Lincolnshire Council and Councillor Mitchell had met with a senior representative from mobile phone company Three UK and asked them to take action to address the appearance of the equipment at this location - including painting the cabinets green and moving the bench and planters now blighted by the installation. He stated that this was feasible and they would consider the requests, however there had been no response to date.

(vi) **Household Waste Collections** - The past two weeks have seen the service badly affected by driver absence due to COVID. Let them know if any residents haven't had their bins emptied and they'll ensure that the crew re-attend. Residents waiting for bin exchanges are having to wait a long time as the service focusses on the household waste collections during the staffing issue.

(vii) **Men In Sheds** - 27th April 2022 and 25th May 2022. Drop in information sessions at the Imperial Hall in Epworth. An initiative aimed at reducing loneliness and social isolation in men - although not exclusively men.

(viii) **NHS Digital** - Information sessions at various church coffee morning in Epworth and Belton aimed at helping older residents become familiar with NHS Apps. The project team will also help residents with smart technology in general - again helping them to stay connected and reduce feelings of social isolation. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**

06/04/22

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday, 1st March 2022, had been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor J Whittaker - **It was resolved that they should be approved as a correct record.**

07/04/22

Clerk's Report

Minute 08/03/22 Correspondence (ii) a) North Lincs Council - Updated Code of Conduct. The Clerk had appealed to the relevant authorities to make the code of conduct enforceable.

Minute 08/03/22 Correspondence (ii) b) Epworth And District

Agricultural Society - Epworth Show Stand. The Clerk had booked a 12ft by 12ft indoor stand and also two tables and 3 chairs at a cost of £54.

Minute 08/03/22 Correspondence (ii) c) Doncaster MBC - Future Correspondence Planning Policy & Environment. The Clerk had let them know the Council was prepared to carry on receiving future information.

Minute 08/03/22 Correspondence (ii) i) North Lincs Council - Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant. The Clerk had informed North Lincolnshire Council that the Council accepted the terms and conditions of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant.

Minute 08/03/22 Correspondence (ii) o) Northern Powergrid - Cutting of Trees & Hedges. The Clerk had informed Northern Power Grid that the Council had given consent for some of the trees and hedges to be cut.

Minute 12/03/22 Financial Regulations - The Clerk had amended the financial regulations as agreed at the last meeting.

Minute 15/03/22 Grass Cutting - The Clerk had asked J B Rural Services Ltd to carry out the Grass Cutting of the Churchyard, Kings Head Croft and the Cemetery at a cost of £2,660 + VAT per year for a period of three years.

Minute 16/03/22 Hanging Baskets - The Clerk had asked George Tune & Son to fill the hanging baskets at a cost of £30.50 + VAT.

Minute 18/03/22 Northern Powergrid - The Clerk informed the Council that the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee were about to look for a suitable location for the Outdoor Gym Equipment and he was clarifying the process with Northern Powergrid.

Minute 19/03/22 Beacon Inspection - The Clerk informed councillors that Mr A Savory had carried out an inspection of the Beacon at a total cost of £24.04.

Minute 20/03/22 Mole Problem - The Clerk informed councillors that Axholme Pest Control had been asked to carry out the work to deal with the mole problem at a cost of up to £100 + VAT.

Minute 21/03/22 Notice Board - The Clerk informed councillors that Steven Smithey asked to repair the Council's noticeboard at a cost of £80 + VAT.

Minute 22/03/22 Play Equipment - The Clerk had asked Playdale Playgrounds Ltd to carry out a repair of the play equipment at a cost of £1,819.59 + VAT - not including installation.

Minute 24/03/22 Items Raised by Councillors (ii) Local Council Award Scheme - The Clerk had put the Council's Action Plan for 2022-2023 on the website.

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Brumby - **It was resolved that the report be noted.**

08/04/22

Correspondence

- (i) a) NHS Test & Trace - QR Poster Service
- b) Barton Upon Humber Town Council - Civic Dinner
- c) HSBC - Risk of Fraud Is Increasing
- d) Northern Powergrid - £8.2 Million Investment in Epworth & Haxey

- e) Rural / Market Town Group - Clerks Advisory Panel
- f) Public Sector Audit - VAT
- g) Rural / Market Town Group - Online Meeting for Members
- h) Labour Group Office - Workers Memorial Day
- i) ERNLLCA - Updates on 2021 / 2022 Pay Settlement
- j) Vodafone - Important Changes to Mobile Account
- k) Mr D Keeley - Clearcom / KCOM Fibre Installation
- l) ERNLLCA - 2021 / 2022 Pay Award
- m) ERNLLCA - Training Calendar
- n) Ms F Glynn - Litter from Recycling Centre on Belton Road
- o) Public Sector Audit - Revised Thresholds for Public Contracts
- p) ERNLLCA / NALC - International Women's Day
- q) ERNLLCA - Happy Year Ending Training
- r) BBC Radio Humberside - Jubilee Celebration
- s) Ms L Wraith - Tree Debris
- t) Unity Trust - Debit Interest Rates
- u) Mr J Wainwright - Beacon
- v) Winterton Town Council - Civic Dinner
- w) Isle Choral Singers - Concert Poster
- x) Green Lane Association - Countryside Access
- y) ERNLLCA - Appointment of New Executive Officer
- z) ERNLLCA - Scribe Year End Resources
- aa) ERNLLCA / CloudyIT - Free IT Webinars
- bb) Mr S Mullen - Broken Equipment
- cc) Yorkshire Water - Work on Turbary Road & Wroot Road
- dd) Conservative Group Office - Isle Flag
- ee) Bright HR - How to Effectively Manage HR in Your Business Seminar
- ff) Everflow Water - Wholesale Price Changes
- gg) Mr D Maule - Nuisance Dogs Barking
- hh) North Lincs Council - Epworth Traffic Signal Replacement
- ii) ERNLLCA - Ukraine & Legal Topic Notes
- jj) NALC - Make a Change
- kk) HWRA - Men in Sheds
- ll) North Lincs Council - New System for Handling Invoices
- mm) NALC - Utility Aid

Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

(ii) a) Mr G Milnes - Turbary Road. This item had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

b) NALC - Star Council Awards. The awards recognise the achievements of the local parish and town council sector and there are five award categories:- Clerk of the Year / County Association Project of the Year / Young Councillor of the Year / Councillor of the Year / Council of the Year. Nomination period ends 27th May 2022. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

c) ERNLLCA / Parkinson Partnership - Finance Training. Details of various courses - including Year End Accounts & Audit, VAT for VAT Registered Councils, VAT for Unregistered Councils, The Role of Internal Audit, Internal Controls & Finance for Councillors, which are being held March to July 2022. Proposed by Councillor Brumby and seconded by Councillor Garner

- It was resolved that the Clerk be allowed to attend the VAT Course for Unregistered Councils at a cost of £30 + VAT.

d) Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner - Community Payback. Letter about Community Payback asking for the Council to put forward projects that would benefit local residents, however one of the ward councillors had already nominated the weeding of paths and road gullies in Epworth town centre. Proposed by Councillor Brumby and seconded by Councillor Fleet - **It was resolved that the Council agree with the weeding of paths and road gullies in Epworth town centre, however also additional suitable tasks as and when they occur.**

e) ERNLLCA - Spring Training Day. Details of a training day due to be held on Friday, 29th April 2022, from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm, at The Village Hotel, Henry Boot Way, Priory Way, Hull. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that should councillors wish to attend the Spring Training Day that they let the Clerk know and he'll book them on the course at a cost of £90 + VAT per delegate.**

f) North Lincs Council - Integrated Transport Strategy. A request to complete an online survey, however the link did not take you to the survey. The Clerk queried this and was sent an email containing the survey, however councillors had only just received it. Proposed by Councillor Brumby and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that this item be deferred until the next meeting.**

g) ERNLLCA - NALC Letter to Smaller Councils. Letter from Councillor Graham Ford - Chair of NALC Smaller Councils Committee wanting to hear from councils about the issues they would like the Committee to address which are specific to small councils and how NALC could meet those needs. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that this item be noted.**

09/04/22

Publications

The following publications had been received:-

ERNLLCA - Newsletter	February 2022
Clerk & Councils Direct - Magazine	March 2022
North Lincs Council - Forthcoming Meetings	March 2022
Public Sector Network - Newsletter	March 2022
Rural Services Network - Rural Funding Digest	March 2022
SLCC - The Clerk Magazine	March 2022
North Lincs Council - Forthcoming Meetings	April 2022
NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin	
NALC - Events	
NALC - Newsletter	
North Lincs Council - Business Focus & Update	
North Lincs Council - News Direct	
North Lincs Council - Weekly Roadworks	
Public Sector Executive - Online Newsletters	
Rural Services Network - Rural Bulletin	
SLCC - News Bulletin	
VANL - Newsletter	

Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner
- It was resolved that the information be noted.

10/04/22

Committee / Working Group Reports

i) **Planning Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday, 9th February 2022, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

ii) **Planning Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 8th March 2022, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

iii) **Personnel Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on Monday, 14th March 2022, were circulated prior to the meeting, however they were unable to be approved.

iv) **Finance Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday, 15th March 2022, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

v) **Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Woods - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

vi) **Planning Committee** - The minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Monday, 28th March 2022, were circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that they be approved as a correct record.**

11/04/22

Finance

(i) **Financial Report & Bank Reconciliation Statement** - The Clerk had provided each member of the Council with detailed monthly accounts for February 2022 for them to scrutinise. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the Financial Report & Bank Statement for January 2022 should be approved.**

(ii) **Accounts for Payment**

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - APRIL 2022

Payments made before or since last meeting:-

21/03/2022	DD	EDF Energy	Electricity	9.00
		DD	EDF Energy	35.00
		DD	EDF Energy	65.00
22/03/2022		HSBC	Bank Charges	8.00
25/03/2022	DD	Vodafone	Mobile Phone Charges	23.31
28/03/2022	DD	Plusnet	Telephone & Broadband Charges	39.43

31/03/2022	BP	Complete Business Sol	Paper	29.92
	BP	ERNLLCA	Training Course	84.00
	BP	J T Building Ltd	Rebuild Churchyard Wall	350.00
	BP	Mr A E Savory	Beacon Inspection	24.04
01/04/2022	DD	North Lincs Council	Business Rates	72.08
	DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	11.00
	DD	Scottish Power	Electricity	11.00

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the action taken be approved.**

Payments submitted at this meeting:-

05/04/2022	BP	Starboard Systems Limited	Annual Accounts Licence	561.60
	BP	Epworth Imperial Hall	Room Hire	22.50
	BP	J T Building Ltd	Replace Door Lock	55.00
	BP	Torne Valley Ltd	Weedkiller / Sacks / Cleaning	57.79
	BP	Torne Valley Ltd	Shaft for Fork	5.18
	BP	MWQA Ltd	Monthly H&S Competent Person Fee	50.00
	BP	MKS Groundcare Ltd	Grasscutting	240.00
	BP	Mr P Barker	Expenses - Mileage	5.40
	BP	Mr S Quantrill	Expenses - Mileage & Refuse Sacks	8.85
	BP	Wages / Tax & NI / Pension	Month 12	3,157.96

Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that these accounts be paid.**

12/04/22

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

(i) Advertisement of Musical Events on New Waste Bins - At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, it discussed whether to advertise the Ceilidh and Miss Marina Mae Concert on the new waste bins. Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to advertise the musical events being held in Epworth for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations on the new North Lincolnshire Council Waste Bins.**

(ii) Food Fair - At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, it discussed if the small area at the back of the Kings Head Croft car park could be used by food / drink vendors. Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to see if the small area at the back of the Kings Head Croft car park could be used by food / drink vendors on Sunday, 5th June 2022, from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm - subject to North Lincolnshire Council permitting it.**

(iii) Beacon - At a meeting of the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, it discussed the possibility of a need for the Beacon to be moved. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee to ask North Lincolnshire Council if the Beacon**

could be moved from its existing location to the edge of some land they own off Belton Road - however this was subject to it not being able to stay where it is now and informing the landowner we were trying to get it moved.

13/04/22

Waste Bins

(i) **General Waste Bins** - The Clerk had received an email from one of the ward councillors about the waste bin consultation and provided each councillor with a copy of it. The Council had asked for the following bins:- a) The floor bin at the top of Hollingsworth Lane to be moved to Fieldside, however it would have to pay for it to be repositioned. b) A post bin to be provided near the sewage pumping station near Hollingsworth Lane, but was told that post bins are not routinely being fitted. c) A floor bin to be provided outside Oceans 52, and was told a bin would be provided but further down nearer South Axholme Group Practice. d) A post bin to be provided outside the HSBC Bank in the Market Place, and was told a floor bin would be provided. One of the ward councillors commented that the old unsightly town centre bins would be replaced with larger capacity bins with recycling provision and be conservation suitable. Councillors welcomed the consultation over where the waste bins would go, but some would have liked to have been consulted over the type of bins provided. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Brumby - **It was resolved that the Clerk ask North Lincolnshire to move the bin at the top of Hollingsworth Lane to Fieldside (next to the footpath on the school side between 57 & 81 Fieldside) - subject to it still being serviced, and up to a cost of £220 + VAT.**

(ii) **Dog Waste Bin** - At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, it discussed the dog waste bin which has been removed from the field end of the footpath leading from Eastfield Road to the rear of Lockwood Bank and recommended it be reinstated. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk send a letter to North Lincolnshire Council asking them to re-instate the dog waste bin.**

14/04/22

Hedges

At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, it discussed the need to replace some of the hedging at the cemetery, however it was felt that there was a need to temporarily fill the gap in the hedge. Proposed by Councillor Brumby and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk be allowed to purchase some stakes and wire up to the value of £50 + VAT in order to fill the gap in the hedge at the cemetery.**

15/04/22

Gravel for Cemetery Paths

At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, it discussed the need for more gravel for the cemetery paths. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that Full Council should agree with the recommendation made by the Combined Cemetery & Environment Committee and the Clerk should purchase three tonnes of gravel from Axholme Landscapes at a cost of £150 + VAT for the cemetery paths.**

- 16/04/22** **Electricity**
The Clerk had received correspondence from Scottish Power and details of the new electricity deal they were prepared to offer and provided councillors with a copy of it, however he had also received an email today from a broker about various deals but not had time to study it. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the item be deferred until the next meeting.**
- 17/04/22** **Internal Auditor**
The Clerk had been provided with a quote from Richard Dixon of Public Sector Audit, who carried out the internal audit last year. He said it was difficult to estimate in advance the time required and therefore what the cost would be for the 2021 / 2022 audit, however he estimated it to be in the region of £800. Proposed by Councillor Finch and seconded by Councillor Garner - **It was resolved that Public Sector Audit be asked to carry out the Internal Audit for 2021 / 2022 at a cost of up to £800.**
- 18/04/22** **Dementia Training**
The Clerk had been liaising with others to try and arrange some dementia training, however there may be a need for somewhere more central and easier to park than Cemetery Lodge. **It was resolved that the Clerk should book the Small Room of the Imperial Hall on Wednesday, 18th May 2022, from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, at a cost of up to £10 for Dementia Training.**
- 19/04/22** **Best Kept Village Competition**
The Clerk had received information about this year's competition and it was felt the Council should enter it - including the categories for Best Kept Playground / Best Kept Churchyard / Cemetery, Best Community Planting. Proposed by Councillor Brumby and seconded by Councillor R Whittaker - **It was resolved that the Council should enter the Best Kept Village Competition for 2022 at a cost of £50.**
- 20/04/22** **Items Raised by Councillors**
- (i) **Mayor** - This item had been deferred from the last meeting, because it was felt more councillors should be present to take part in such a decision. Some councillors believed it would be a good thing for Epworth because it would raise the profile of the town, however other councillors believed it was a status thing and you could do whatever you wanted to do as Mayor as Chair of the Council. Proposed by Councillor Woods and seconded by Councillor Garner that Epworth should have a Mayor. **The motion failed.**
- (ii) **Communication** - The Chairman stated that the Council had stopped publishing the Epworth Echo about a year ago and now relied on Facebook to communicate with residents. He had analysed the statistics and provided councillors with a copy of them. It showed that Facebook was only reaching the younger age groups and very few over the age of 65. Facebook should not be stopped, however it was nowhere near good enough and there may be a need to go back to a newsletter. Proposed by Councillor Garner and seconded by Councillor Brumby - **It was resolved that the Council should look at other ways of improving communication.**

Note: Councillor Woods left the meeting before the next item was discussed.

(iii) **Dogs** - Dogs in the Cemetery. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that this item be deferred due to time constraints until the next meeting.**

21/04/22

Questions to the Chairman

There were no questions of an immediate urgency to the Chairman.

22/04/22

Personnel

(i) Probationary Period (ii) Contract of Employment (iii) Pay Award
Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Brumby - **It was resolved that these items should be deferred due to time constraints until the next meeting.**

23/04/22

Annual Town Meeting

Councillors discussed a date for the Annual Town Meeting. Proposed by Councillor J Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Fleet - **It was resolved that the Annual Town Meeting should be held on Monday, 25th April 2022, at 7.00 pm, in the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth.**

24/04/22

Date, Time & Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Tuesday, 3rd May 2022, at 7.00 pm, in the Small Room of the Imperial Hall, Chapel Street, Epworth. There is also a meeting of the Planning Committee due to take place on Monday, 11th April 2022, at 7.00 pm, followed by a meeting of the Finance Committee on Wednesday, 20th April 2022, at 7.00 pm - all in the Chapel of Rest, Cemetery Lodge, Burnham Road, Epworth. Proposed by Councillor R Whittaker and seconded by Councillor Finch - **It was resolved that the information be noted.**

25/04/22

Closure of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.