

## Report – Epping Forest and Commons Committee

### Appointment of a Verderer of Epping Forest

*To be presented on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

#### **SUMMARY**

The Epping Forest and Commons Committee is made up of 12 Common Councilmen and 4 Verderers of Epping Forest, as specified by the Epping Forest Act (1878).

Following the untimely death in service of Peter Adams MBE, who served as a Verderer of Epping Forest since January 1997 until 6 April 2018, and in accordance with the Epping Forest Act (1878), the Epping Forest and Commons Committee appointed a working party to recruit to this position. The recruitment process is now complete, and the Epping Forest and Commons Committee unanimously recommend that Nicholas Munday be appointed as Epping Forest Verderer (South).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Court of Common Council is invited to endorse the appointment of Nicholas Munday as Epping Forest Verderer (South) and to note the proposal that future Verderer appointments are put to it for information only.

#### **MAIN REPORT**

##### **Background**

1. The Epping Forest and Commons Committee is made up of 12 Common Councilmen and four Verderers of Epping Forest. Following the untimely death in service of Peter Adams MBE a vacancy for Verderer arose which the Epping Forest and Commons Committee sought to fill.
2. On 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 the Epping Forest and Commons Committee nominated a working party comprising of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, two Common Councilmen, two Verderers and the Director of Open Spaces to oversee the recruitment process.
3. Advertisements opened online on 20 July 2018 with a closing date of midday on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, with copy in the print editions of City AM and Epping Forest Guardian. The vacancy was also promoted through social media channels.

4. Five applications were received by the closing date. All of the applicants met the criteria laid out in the Epping Forest Act (1878) in that they were all resident in one of the ancient Forest parishes and were not elected members of the City of London Corporation.
5. The Working Party interviewed all five applicants on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at The Warren.
6. After structured interviews and the application of agreed scoring criteria the Working Party unanimously agreed that Nicholas Munday should be recommended for approval as the new Verderer of Epping Forest.
7. At their meeting on 19 November 2018, the Epping Forest and Commons Committee considered the working party's proposal and unanimously agreed to recommend to the Court of Common Council that Nicolas Munday be appointed as the new Verderer of Epping Forest.
8. Historically, and in accordance with Section 30(7) of the Epping Forest Act 1878, the Epping Forest and Commons Committee make a recommendation to the Court of Common Council in respect of the appointment of a Verderer of Epping Forest. However, under section 30(7), it clearly states that "Casual vacancies among the verderers caused by death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise shall be filled by the Conservators...". Legal advice has further clarified that, under section 31(1) of the Act (which reads "There shall be a committee for the purposes of this Act styled the Epping Forest Committee (in this Act referred to as the committee), which committee shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, have authority to exercise the powers and discretion and do the acts which the Conservators are by this Act empowered to exercise and do."), and the terms of reference of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, the Committee technically has the power to fill these types of vacancy itself, without reference to the Court.
9. The Committee are, nevertheless, keen to honour previous custom and practice and to be consistent with the procedure set out in recent reports. As such, this appointment is presented for the formal endorsement of the Court. It is, however, intended that all future appointments of this nature be presented to the Court for information only, subject to any views the Court may have.

#### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

10. This process fulfils the obligation on the City of London under Section 30(7) of the Epping Forest Act, namely:

*Casual vacancies among the verderers caused by death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise shall be filled by the Conservators from among persons qualified to be elected verderers; but a person appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall be entitled to hold office so long as the vacating verderer would have been entitled to hold office.*

**Conclusion**

11. The Court of Common Council is accordingly asked to agree the appointment of Nicholas Munday as Verderer of Epping Forest, until the septennial elections in 2020 and to note the proposal around future Court reports of this nature being for information only subject to any views the Court may have on this.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Philip John Woodhouse, Deputy**  
Chairman, Epping Forest and Commons Committee