

Report – Epping Forest and Commons Committee

Appointment of an interim Verderer of Epping Forest

To be presented on Thursday, 19th April 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 recent resignation of Richard Morris OBE, who served as a Verderer of Epping Forest since 1998, the Epping Forest and Commons Committee appointed a working party to recruit to this position, in accordance with the terms of the Act (the provisions of which provide for an interim Verderer to be appointed where vacancies occur between elections). The recruitment process is now complete, and the Epping Forest and Commons Committee recommend that Melissa Murphy be appointed as an interim Epping Forest Verderer (North of the Forest), until the all-out Election of Verderers in 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Court of Common Council is invited to endorse the appointment of Melissa Murphy as an interim Verderer of Epping Forest.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. The Epping Forest and Commons Committee is made up of 12 Common Councilmen and 4 Verderers of Epping Forest. Following the resignation of Mr Richard Morris as a Verderer of Epping Forest, a vacancy arose which the Epping Forest and Commons Committee sought to fill.
2. In accordance with Section 30(7) of the Epping Forest Act 1878, the Committee must make a recommendation to the Court of Common Council in respect of the appointment of a Verderer of Epping Forest who will serve as such until the septennial elections in 2020 when all four of the Epping Forest Verderers will be elected.
3. In January 2018 the Epping Forest and Commons Committee nominated a working party comprising of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, two Common

Councilmen, three Verderers and Director of Open Spaces to oversee the recruitment process.

4. Eight applications were received by the closing date. All 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 Members of the Court of Common Council.
5. After structured interviews and the application of agreed scoring criteria the working party unanimously agreed that Melissa Murphy should be recommended for approval as the new Verderer of Epping Forest.
6. At their meeting on 12 March 2018, the Epping Forest and Commons Committee considered the working party's proposal and agreed to recommend to the Court of Common Council that Melissa Murphy be appointed as an interim Verderer of Epping Forest.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. 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

8. The Court of Common Council is accordingly asked to agree the appointment of Melissa Murphy as an interim Verderer of Epping Forest, until the septennial elections in 2020.
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All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 12th day of March 2018.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

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