

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL** of the
BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL held in the **ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL TOWN HALL,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
On **Wednesday 4th October 2023** at **6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Crotty;
Cllr Drayson; Cllr El; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Huseyin;
Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Norris; Cllr Plim; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; Representative of Hastings Direct, two representatives of 18 hours, Cllr Bayliss (Rother District Council); 3 members of the public.

00307. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Questions asked in meetings are responded to in the draft minutes of the meeting. The Council's current policy is that the draft minutes of the meeting held on a Wednesday are uploaded to the Council's website on the Friday of that week, workload permitting.

A representative of Hastings Direct presented an update on work in the community to the council.

A representative of 18 Hours presented an update on recent events to the

00308. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Baldry; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Wilson

00309. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council and member of 18 hours.

Cllr Gibson declared an interest as a member of the Bexhill Trust and Bexhill Community Events Group.

Cllr Brailsford declared an interest as a member of Bexhill Community Events Group.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Bexhill Trust and as a member of Rother District Council.

00310. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Brailsford reminded Council members to communicate issues with each directly and not with the public or on social media, and to treat each other with respect to ensure the council maintains its reputation.

00311. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 6th September 2023.

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00312. COMMITTEES

- a) The minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting were noted:
 - i. Asset Transfer committee 13/09/23.
 - ii. Community committee 13/09/23.
 - iii. Planning and Development Advisory committee 27/09/23.
 - iv. Finance and General Purposes committee 27/09/23

00313. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Community committee.
 - i. To consider Christmas Lights Project Plan from Community committee, following endorsement from the Finance and General Purposes committee.
It was **RESOLVED** to ringfence £24,300 from the General Reserves fund to Town Centre Christmas Lights budget making the total up to £30,000 and to approve the delegated authority to the Community Committee to carry out safety checks and repairs to wires, appoint a Christmas lights contractor to rent, supply and install lights in all up to a value of £30,000.
- b) Finance and General Purposes committee.
 - i. To approve Equality and Diversity policy.
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Equality and Diversity policy.

00314. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – an update was noted.

00315. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for three minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors – noted.
It was **AGREED** to write to Huw Merriman to address the suggestion of an unelected Town Board and the announcement of government funding of £20m by Huw Merriman MP and raised concern that the town council had not been approached and wanted to know where members of the town fit as the elected members of Bexhill.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.
 - i. To consider request from Cllr Bayliss for the Town Council to take on tree planting project in St Leonard's Road.
It was noted that a meeting with residents and businesses in St Leonard's Road will take place tomorrow and more information will be on the next agenda.

Cllr Bayliss advised that Rother District Council will be the appropriate body in setting up the Town Board with approval by civil servants.

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
A report for Sackville ward was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Crotty gave a verbal update on outstanding items in Central Ward.

00316. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To note DBS checks outstanding for:
 - i. Tony Carroll.

It was **AGREED** to remove this item from the agenda.

- b) To note equipment being purchased for audio recording. Audio recording to commence at next meeting – noted.
- c) To consider quotations for videoing meetings.

It was noted that some quotations are still outstanding from some contractors, and a final report will be received at the November meeting.

- d) To note future meeting venues arranged as follows, due to Town Hall unavailability:
 - i. 10th April 2024 – Pebsham Community Hub.
 - ii. 17th April 2024 – St Peter’s Community Centre (to be confirmed).
 - iii. 24th April 2024 – All Saints School.
 - iv. 8th May 2024 – Pebsham Community Hub.Members were reminded that venues are difficult to find on a Wednesday evening due to the vast number of clubs and groups meeting regularly in the area.
- e) To note conclusion of audit and no matters raised by external auditor.
It was **RESOLVED** to thank the Clerk and council staff for all their hard work to finalise a complete audit with no matters raised.

00317. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Baldry; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Plim; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Crotty.

It was noted that a meeting is being organised.

- b) To note leaders meeting being arranged – noted.

00318. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note Police Liaison Group taking place on 17th November 2023 – noted.

00319. NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To note no response from Home Office regarding feedback – noted.

- b) To receive update from Cllr Jacklin.

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Cllr Jacklin advised that the site has been purchased by the Home Office and the Home Office update note now states that the site could be used as a detention centre.

This agenda item will be re-labelled “to receive an update on the Northeye Asylum.”

It was **RESOLVED** to bring forward Cllr Jacklin’s motion:

- i. Cllr Jacklin.

That the Council publishes the summary analysis of the Northeye public meeting held on 26th April 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council publishes the summary analysis of the Northeye public meeting on 26th April 2023.

00320. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

- a) To receive update from Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Plim on ‘Bexhill Hub For Ukraine Support’.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Drayson and Cllr Crotty agreed to attend the Support for Ukraine meetings in place of Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Plim.

00321. KITES NEST WOOD AND WET WOOD

- a) To note request from landowner for an offer from The Council – noted. It was **RESOLVED** to explore this item at the next meeting and for the Clerk to carry out further investigations.
- b) To note deadline for bids is 1st February 2024 – noted.

00322. PEBSHAM ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

- a) To note Rother District Council investigating lease options at Pebsham Recreation Ground and play park options and grant funding being investigated - noted.

00323. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

To receive reports from External Representatives (circulated prior to the meeting).

- a) RALC – Cllr Wilson and Cllr Crotty.
b) Citizen’s Advice – Cllr Gibson.
c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Cllr Brailsford.
d) Fairtrade – Cllr Baldry.
e) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Gibson.
f) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Gibson.
g) Support for Ukraine – Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Plim (reported earlier in the meeting under a standing agenda item).

It was **AGREED** to remove the standing item for Support for Ukraine and reports to be received at this item on future agendas.

- h) High Street Task Force – Cllr Brailsford, Cllr Baldry, Cllr Plim, Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Crotty (reported earlier in the meeting under a standing agenda item).

00324. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Motions carried forward from the last meeting.

- i. Cllr Goss.

That the Town Clerk is requested to produce an 'Events' sheet with dates and times for each month to be issued by email to councillors two weeks prior to the month start listing all events which Committees have planned or which Councillors have been invited to or may have an involvement in so that they can be understood and diarised.

Cllr Goss' motion was withdrawn.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to put the exact dates of every event mentioned on each agenda and set of minutes.

- ii. Cllr Wilson.

To review the communication protocol from committees to all other councillors regarding events that are being arranged for the town by the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.

As Cllr Wilson was not present this item will be deferred to the next meeting.

- iii. Cllr Wilson.

To ensure that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee are signatories on the bank accounts to enable the processing of payments by either of the above.

As Cllr Wilson was not present this item will be deferred to the next meeting.

- iv. Cllr Wilson.

Asks the Town Council to add an agenda item of The Bexhill Trust to enable new councillors to understand what it is, how much money there is, what's it for and which councillors are involved within it?

As Cllr Wilson was not present this item will be deferred to the next meeting.

- b) Motions received for this meeting.

- i. Cllr Drayson.

That this council, establishes a Working Group, of no more than four (4) councillors to research and produce an alternative method of coopting

Members on to Bexhill Town Council. Members of the Working Group will be appointed at this evening's meeting and will

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present their recommendations to Full Council at its meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th November. The Working Group shall be quorate with three members present.

Cllr Gibson left the meeting at 20:15pm.

This motion was withdrawn, and co-option will be revisited at a future meeting.

00325. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Correspondence not noted at the last meeting:

- a) Thank you email from Bexhill TreFoil Guild for Mayor's attendance at event.
- b) One You East Sussex Newsletter.
- c) Email from Chair of Rother District Council welcoming invitations to engagements.
- d) Email from Resident concerning effect of Northeye proposal on the Bexhill Housing market.
- e) Rother District Council Members Bulletin July 2023.
- f) Email from the Footbridge Gallery – Judging.
- g) W. Ave Arts Chapel Path underpass project.
- h) Email from RVA – Volunteer awards.
- i) Complaint from Co-Option candidate.
- j) Emails from Rother District Council regarding shade at Bexhill skate park.
- k) Email from Resident regarding safety concerns due to Northeye Proposal.
- l) Email from Resident regarding Noticeboards.
- m) Complaint about a Councillor referred to Rother District Council.
- n) Email from Rural Market Town Group.
- o) Sussex Police Crime Commissioner's Survey.
- p) East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care Strategy.
- q) NALC/ De Montfort University Local Council Elections Surveys.
- r) Request for letter of support for Bexhill Maritime grant application from Rother District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Bexhill Maritime grant application from Rother District Council.

00326. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive questions raised at the last meeting.
There were none.
- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Cllr Crotty asked for the town council to promote being a councillor.
Cllr Crotty when councillor's photos to be added to the website.
Cllr Goss asked where the training matrix is on the website.

- Cllr Crotty asked if there was a risk register.
- c) To note any future agenda items.
 - d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

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There were none.

00327. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8TH NOVEMBER 2023

The meeting was closed at 20:35pm.

DRAFT