

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA FULL COUNCIL** held in the **ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA**

On **Wednesday 8th November 2023** at **6:30pm**.

PRESENT: Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Crotty; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Norris; Cllr Plim; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Bayliss (Rother District Councillor); Cllr Stanger (Rother District Councillor); Cllr Timpe (Rother District Councillor); Cllr Hollidge (East Sussex County Councillor); Cllr Geary (East Sussex County Council); Four members of the public.

00377 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of public spoke about the closure of the public toilets and supported the Town Council taking on the cleaning and maintenance.

A member of the public raised concerns about the progress being achieved on the Council's project list and asked for a more detailed schedule in the future.

A member of the public spoke about the Council organising a public meeting regarding the Government's Northeye Asylum plans.

A member of the public asked that councillors speak clearly and not over each other during audio recording and asked what happened to the existing equipment that was used for streaming.

All equipment that was transferred from the Town Forum is stored at the Town Council Hub and listed on the Town Council's asset register.

Cllr Jacklin entered the meeting at 18:36pm.

00378 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies from Cllr Carroll; Cllr El; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Huseyin; and Cllr Rustem with reasons.

00379 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council and a Trustee and Director of Citizens Advice.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest is a member of Rother District Council.

00380 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00381 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 4th October 2023.

00382 COMMITTEES

- a) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:
- i. Planning and Development Advisory Committee 04/10/2023
 - ii. Asset Transfer Committee 11/10/2023
 - iii. Climate, Nature and Environment Committee 11/10/2023
 - iv. Finance and General Purposes Committee 18/10/2023
 - v. Planning and Development Advisory Committee 18/10/2023

Cllr Drayson asked how members can raise concerns about a committee, NALC advice will be sought.

The agenda items were rearranged.

00383 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Motions received for this meeting.
- i. Cllr Brailsford

That Bexhill Town Council should hold an Extraordinary Public Meeting, or other form of residents' consultation before the end of this year regarding use of the Northeye site.

An amendment to the motion was received and it was **RESOLVED** that Bexhill Town Council should hold an Extraordinary Public Meeting, or other form of residents' consultation before the end of January regarding use of the Northeye site.

- b) Motions carried forward from last meeting.
- i. 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.

The motion was not voted on and it was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to obtain advice on councillors providing written reports to accompany committee minutes.

- c) Motions received for this meeting.
- i. Cllr Drayson

That this Council, establishes a Working Party to review the Committee Structure of the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and, if appropriate, make recommendations to ensure that it is providing necessary and appropriate support to the work of The Council as a whole.

The Working Party to consist of no more than SEVEN (7) Councillors of whom FIVE (5) shall be a Quorum.

The Working Party shall report any recommendations to Full Council on Wednesday 6th March 2024.

Cllr Drayson withdrew this motion.

00384 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Asset Transfer Committee

- i. To note update on final deadline negotiations with Rother District Council on public toilet transfer and to consider next steps.

It was **RESOLVED** to mandate the Asset transfer committee to further consider the possible administration, management and maintenance of the toilets.

The Asset Transfer Committee will review the information from Rother District Council on leasehold and will recommend next steps in December.

Cllr Jacklin left the meeting at 19:43pm.

b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

- i. MarketPlace Freedom Church It is recommended that Full Council donate £7,885.76 to fund the Freedom Church project.

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £7,885.76 to fund the Freedom Church project.

00385 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for 3 minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Cllr Hollidge addressed the meeting to give an update on the financial challenges and current projects of East Sussex County Council.

Cllr Geary asked for feedback from the council on the reports being sent and gave updates on road safety schemes and Northeye.

b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

Cllr Bayliss updated the council on St Leonard's greening project, Christmas shopping campaign and parking review.

Cllr Clasby left the meeting at 19:57pm

Cllr Stanger gave an update on Northeye, Herbrand Walk, and the public toilet closures.

Cllr Timpe gave an update on the public toilet closures, tennis court resurfacing, Galley Hill skate park and replacement container.

c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Crotty updated on the blocked drains and the community toilet scheme. Cllr Plim updated on the St Leonard's Road greening project.

Cllr Clasby re-entered the meeting at 20:03pm

00386 MAYOR'S OFFICE

An update on the work of the Town Mayor was noted.

00387 TO NOTE RESIGNATION OF CLLRS BALDRY AND GIBSON AND TO CONSIDER APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE VACANCIES

- a) Community Committee X 1
There were no nominations, and this will be carried forward to the next meeting.
- b) Asset Transfer Committee X 1
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Crotty to the Asset Transfer Committee.
- c) Finance and General Purposes Committee X 2
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Drayson and Cllr El.
- d) Climate, Nature and Environment Committee X 2
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Drayson to the Climate, Nature and Environment Committee.

00388 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To note response from Huw Merriman's office concerning Town Board – noted.
- b) To note date of election for Sackville Ward vacancy – 21st December 2023 – noted.
- c) To note estimated cost of election £8,600. This includes polling cards at £2,500. The council is asked to consider proceeding with polling cards at the cost of £2,500.
It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with polling cards.
- d) To consider quotations for videoing meetings.
It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to score the quotations through the procurement procedure and present at the next meeting.

00389 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To note meeting being arranged for High Street Task Force – Cllr Brailsford; Plim; Huseyin; Crotty – noted.
- b) To report update from Leaders meeting on 08/11/2023 – noted.

00390 SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note Police liaison group taking place on 17th November 2023 remotely.

00391 NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To note no response from Home Office regarding feedback.
It was noted that a response had been received since the agenda had been published and this is available on the Town Council's website.
- b) To note analysis published – noted.
- c) To receive any further update.
A report from Cllr Jacklin was circulated prior to the meeting.

00392 BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS

- a) To consider the following from East Sussex Highways regarding bus stops at Dorset Road, Richmond Road, Bexhill College, Hastings Road:
 - i. Seek your views and feedback on the proposed works.
 - ii. Request that if you are comfortable with the proposed works, you confirm your agreement to take ownership of the bus shelters with future responsibility for cleaning & maintenance.
 - iii. Ask whether you would be able to contribute any funding for these works.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:28pm.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 20:30pm

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr Hollidge to address the meeting and explain the scheme.

The Clerk was asked to seek clarification on the income for advertising and expenditure from East Sussex County Council.

It was **RESOLVED** for this matter to be passed to the Asset Transfer Committee and for the Rother District Council bus shelters to be re-investigated by the Committee.

00393 KITES NEST WOOD AND WET WOOD

- a) To note information circulated to councillors and to consider next steps.
It was **RESOLVED** to advise that the Town Council is unable to offer any financial assistance and will not be making a bid for the land.

00394 ST LEONARD'S GREENING PROJECT

- a) To receive update.

00395 To consider request from Cllr Bayliss for the Town Council to set up a Community Toilet scheme.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr Bayliss to address the meeting about the Community Toilet Scheme.

It was noted that this will be revisited by the Council after a decision on the maintenance of the toilets.

00396 PEBSHAM ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

- a) To note no further updates from Rother District Council investigating lease options at Pebsham Recreation Ground and play park options – noted.

00397 BEXHILL TRUST

- a) To consider suspending Standing Orders for the chair of Bexhill Trust to address the meeting.
The report from the chair of the Trust was noted and questions are to be addressed direct to the Chair of the Trust.

Cllr Plim and Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 21:00pm

- 00398** To appoint two judges to the Christmas window competition 30th November 9.30am at the Town Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint two judges to Cllr Plim and Cllr Winter.

- 00399** To appoint two representatives to attend the Annual Parish Conference on 5th December 2pm-4.30pm at the Town Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Crotty to attend the Annual Parish Conference.

- 00400** ESALC AGM – to appoint two representatives to attend the ESALC AGM 14th November 2023 at Uckfield Civic Centre 10am.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Wilson to attend the ESALC AGM.

The meeting was closed at 21:04pm

00401 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6TH DECEMBER 2023