

**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the  
**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FULL COUNCIL** held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROTHER DISTRICT**  
**COUNCIL TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.**  
on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Plim (Chair); Cllr Baldry; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Harding; Cllr Norris; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Wray; Cllr Stanger; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Winter.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Miller, Clerk; one sound technician; eight members of the public.

**00596. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

***Questions are asked at the meeting and a response provided in italics below after the meeting.***

A member of the public:

- a) Asked councillors to note the online petition signed by approximately five hundred residents asking the town council not to take on the public toilets.  
*Noted.*
- b) Reported that the new finance officer at the District Council had suggested that the town council has already agreed to take on the public toilets at a recent cabinet meeting.

A member of the public asked:

- c) Where has the information come from with regards to the cost of the lease for the new toilets.  
*This is a quote from the town council's solicitor, based on the information given by Rother District Council.*
- d) Can District and County Councillors reports that are sent to the town council be published.  
*The relevant members have been asked if this is possible.*
- e) Is there a service level agreement for replies to emails?  
*No. A request for information under the Freedom of Information Act must be responded to within 20 days.*

A member of the public reported:

- f) Following a medical emergency near the Town Hall could the defibrillator at the Town Hall be made known to the public and a list of available defibrillators added to noticeboards.  
*The management of the Town Hall is the responsibility of Rother District Council. A national database is available here and is maintained by Community Heartbeat.*  
[The National Defibrillator Database | \(nddb.uk\)](https://www.nddb.uk).

A member of the public reported:

- g) That most public toilets are maintained by town and parish councils and supported the transfer to the Town Council.

A member of the public asked:

- h) That the town council be aware that financial information projections for the cost of maintaining the public toilets may change due to the cost-of-living crisis,  
*Noted.*
- i) Will a procurement process take place for a solicitor?  
*The Town Council uses local government specialist solicitor Surrey Hills. The Town Council can consider tendering for a new solicitor if it so wishes.*
- j) How often are the noticeboards updated?  
*As often as resources allow, depending on the dates of notices, roughly on average once a week.*
- k) The election rules have been changed and voters must provide ID, this should be published and highlighted. Why is it not on the town council website.  
*The posters have been prepared and will be posted at the appropriate times.*
- l) The Community Committee met with only three members present, how many must be present to form a quorum, I believe it is 50%?  
*The minimum number of councillors required to form a quorum is one third or three. Local Government Act 1972 sch 12 para 42.*
- m) Why the town council address is still listed as the town hall and not Western Road.  
*The town council office only opened this week, addresses held are currently being updated.*
- n) Under the minutes it still says these minutes are draft. Should they be updated with signed versions?  
*There is no legal duty to display draft or signed minutes on the Town Council website. As resources increase, the council could decide to replace the current displayed draft documents with signed ones.*
- o) On 16<sup>th</sup> March it was agreed to live stream meetings, why has this not been implemented, I can see this meeting is being recorded, where will it be available?  
*Full details of all the decisions taken in relation to streaming meetings since the original decision can be found in the Community Committee minutes on our website. Equipment is in the final testing stages and we will announce when recordings will be available in due course.*

#### **00597. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons for Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Izzard.

#### **00598. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr Harding declared an interest in the item concerning the Ukrainian Hub, due to hosting Ukrainian.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest the budget item, as a member of Rother District Council.

Initial.....

Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the item concerning the Ukrainian Hub, due to hosting Ukrainian.

Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the Foodbank.

Cllr winter declared an interest as a company director and trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau.

Cllr Taylor-Gee declared an interest in the Ukrainian Hub item as the organiser of the Hub.

It was noted that any interests in the Civic Awards list will be declared during the item.

#### **00599. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

#### **00600. MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### **00601. COMMITTEES**

To receive minutes and updates of committees held since the last Full Council meeting:

- a) Planning and Development Advisory Committee – 11/1/23 – noted.

#### **00602. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

There are none.

#### **00603. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

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

#### **00604. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors – noted.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors – there were none.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors – a report was received from Sackville Ward.

#### **00605. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

*Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 19:23pm*

- a) To consider response to Rother District Council Budget Consultation 2023/24.

It was **RESOLVED** to advise the District Council that the decision on the toilet transfer is still in negotiation and has not been decided either way.

*Cllr Thomas re-entered the meeting at 19:26pm*

- b) To note new premises opened 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Thanks, and congratulations were noted to the Town Clerk and the staff for creating a warm and welcoming office for residents.

The Town Clerk is investigating if Rother District Council will allow the town council to stock bin bags at the office.

**000605. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

- a) To receive an update on lease – an update was noted.
- b) To consider holding a public consultation in the new premises (Cllr Izzard)  
It was **RESOLVED** for councillors to consult with their residents in their wards. A factsheet will be created for councillors to use.

**000606. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON**

- a) To receive any updates on liaison meetings.  
There had been no further meetings since the last report. Councillors did not have any questions to ask of the District Council.
- b) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim and Cllr Taylor-Gee. – an update was noted.

**000607. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON**

- a) To report Police liaison meeting 17/01/2023 at 1pm – noted.
- b) To note Clerk to investigate CCTV improvement opportunities when more time available – noted.

**000608. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE**

- a) To receive an update from Cllr Brailsford; Taylor-Gee; Thomas – on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support' – an update was noted.  
Thanks were noted to Cllr Taylor-Gee for her work on the Ukrainian Hub as it is making a huge difference to people's lives.

**000609. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting)

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee
- b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron - Mayor
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Izzard
- e) Old and Bold – Cllr Barfoot
- f) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson

**000610. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There were none.

**000611. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) Emails from resident concerning public toilets.
- b) Rother District Council update on Egerton Park tennis court funding  
It was **RESOLVED** to write to Adrian Gaylon to congratulate on this great achievement and offer support to add further value to the project.
- c) Freedom of Information request for code of conduct investigation outcomes – 30/01/2023
- d) Freedom of Information request for complaints investigation report – 27/01/2023
- e) ESALC – Time for Dementia project

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the organisation to find out how the town council could support the project.

- f) New hospital site update for mental health hospital

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the trust and ask them to present an update to Full Council.

- g) Email from resident requesting copy of Code of Conduct – noted.

- h) ESCC Public Health Consultation – noted.

- i) Email offering pictures for new premises.

The council will develop a policy on displaying photographs and artwork.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to find out what the photographer has that could fit at the premises and explore a local gallery area at the De La Warr Pavilion.

## 00612. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive answers to questions asked at the last meeting.

Cllr Izzard asked about the flooding by Ravenside and Galley Hill, near entrance to beach which is affecting the nearby businesses. Cllr Izzard will consult with the District Council in the first instance.	Rother District Council and the Fire Service have been assisting Southern Water to clear the flooding.
Cllr Thomas asked for dementia training for councillors.	This will be arranged by the Community Committee
Cllr Drayson asked for councillors to not 'reply to all' to reduce the clerk's workload.	Noted.

- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.

Cllr Brailsford asked about the Bexhill News Advertorial and it was noted that this is on the Community Committee agenda for discussion.

- c) Future agenda items

Cllr Stanger asked for the COVID Remembrance Day to be added to the next agenda.

- b) Consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.  
There were none.

*Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press were asked to leave the meeting during consideration of item 00613:*

## 00613. AWARDS 2023/2024

- a) To approve Civic Award and Freedom Award winners to receive awards at Annual Town Meeting on 18th March 2023.

Harriet Chapman, League of Friends	Cllr Winter left the meeting during this vote. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
David Lockwood, Beulah Baptist Church	Cllr Taylor-Gee, Cllr Harding and Cllr Gibson left the meeting during this vote. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.

Ruth Frais	<i>Cllr Taylor-Gee, Cllr Harding and Cllr Gibson left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
The whole squad of Bexhill girl's U11 football team	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
Bexhill 100 Motoring Club	<i>Cllr Brailsford left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
Graham Oliver	<i>Cllr Carroll and Cllr Thomas left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
Dave Dickinson-Smith, Chair of the Bexhill Taxi Drivers Association	<i>Cllr Stanger and Cllr Brailsford left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
Lynn and Jim Langlands, Bexhill Foodbank	<i>Cllr Fenner, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Taylor-Gee, Cllr Clasby; Cllr Norris, Cllr Baldry; Cllr Thomas, Cllr Winter, Cllr Brailsford left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination.
Rotary Club of Bexhill x 2	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination and present them with the Mullins Cup as they had received two nominations.
Bexhill Skatepark Action Group	<i>Cllr Gibson and Cllr Norris left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination
Trudy Hampton, Warming up the homeless	<i>Cllr Thomas left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination
Susan Gedge	<i>Cllr Gibson and Cllr Taylor-Gee left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination
Valeria Dvornyk	<i>Cllr Gibson and Cllr Taylor-Gee left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination
Keith Rhodes	<i>Cllr Baldry and Cllr Clasby left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination
Jacqueline Youldon, Running Space	<i>Cllr Gibson left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination
Nim Whitmash, Bexhill Carnival	<i>Cllr Stanger, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Thomas, and Cllr Brailsford left the meeting during this vote.</i> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the nomination

*Cllr Winter and Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Baldry left the meeting during this vote.*

It was **RESOLVED** to award the Freedom of the Town to Chris Speck, a formal legislative meeting will be arranged.

Initial.....

**00614. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

*Meeting closed at 21:00pm*

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT

Initial.....