

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

Held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**

BEXHILL-ON-SEA

On **Wednesday 29th October 2025 at 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Wilson, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Winter, Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Lee, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Daeva, Clerk; M Webber; One videographer; two members of the public.

00243 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public recently attended the devolution event held at the De La Warr and was disappointed by the choice of venue and timing of the event. They shared that details shared could have been published rather than requiring an expensive in person event. The member of the public has contacted the Town Clerk and suggested smaller venues such as St Augustine's. Noting the Council discussing toilet attendants, the money that was spent hiring the De La Warr Pavillion could have been used to fund 160 hours work of attendants. An events system issuing free tickets would've spared expenses. In the future they would like the Council to use better suited venues that are better for residents.

00244 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Carroll, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Drayson, Cllr El, Cllr Goss, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Rustem.

00245 TO RECIEVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council and a trustee of the Men's Shed.

Cllr Plim declared an interested in item 15A as a Postal Officer.

Cllr winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

00246 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that he will not be available to attend the ESALC meeting on the 6th November, presenting the opportunity for one of the Councillors to attend.

00247 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Full Council:

a) Wednesday 24th September 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 24th September 2025.

00248 MAYOR'S OFFICE

a) To receive an update on the work of the Town Mayor.

A verbal update was received.

00249 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.

It was noted that Cllr Hollidge was unable to attend and sends apologies.

b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

There were none.

c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Peters gave update on his pothole campaign. Pages Lane and Collington Avenue have been resurfaced, and dips have been filled. 109 potholes in one road alone have been reported.

Cllr Timpe reported a member of the public had given praise for the work of the Town Rangers.

00250 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

There was no update.

b) To note Rother District Council approached for standing officer representative. – noted.

c) To note Neighbourhood Plan consultant investigations underway. – noted.

d) To note 2026-2027 budget being prepared with updated costings for Neighbourhood Plan. – noted.

- e) To note Mr David Dennis and Mr Alexis Markwick have accepted invitations to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in an advisory capacity. – noted.
- f) To note application for the designation of the whole parish of Bexhill-on-Sea submitted. – noted.

00251 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGNISATION

- a) To note further planning information on car parks being sought. – noted.

00252 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIASON

- a) To note solicitors' advice on the 25-year lease for Pebsham Recreation Ground yet to be received. – noted.
- b) To note answers to questions from the draft Devonshire Square Public Conveniences Lease yet to be received. – noted.
- c) To note costings and conditions of town centre planters yet to be received.

It was **RESOLVED** to take on town centre planters.

- d) To receive update from leader's meeting.
A verbal update was received.

00253 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) RALC – Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Jacklin.
There were no updates.
- b) Citizen's Advice – Cllr Byrne.
There were no updates.
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor/ Deputy Mayor.
There were no updates.
- d) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Winter.
There were no updates.
- e) Neighbourhood Board – Town Clerk.
It was noted that the clerk had attended her first board meeting and, in a meeting with a representative from MHCLG, the Neighbourhood Board received positive feedback on its progress.
- f) To consider allocating £4,000 from general reserves to fund 1/3rd of hotel feasibility study in collaboration with Bexhill Neighbourhood Board and Rother District Council.
Cllr Jacklin declared an interest as a member of Bexhill Chamber of Commerce.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £4,000 from general reserves to fund 1/3rd of the feasibility study.

g) Combe Valley CIC – Cllr Jacklin.

A document of what has been achieved in the last five years was presented at the previous Combe Valley CIC meeting. The CIC are now discussing next steps, encouraging other Councillors to discuss with residents and put forward suggestions.

h) Bexhill Rail Action Group – Mayor.

There were no updates.

i) Chamber of Commerce Centenary Fund Assessment Panel – Cllr Wilson.

There were no updates.

j) Bathing Water Community Group – Cllr Byrne, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Plim.

There were no updates.

00254 MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SPORT COURT IN PEBSHAM

- a) To note this will be further investigated by the Town Clerk when the workload allows. – noted.

00255 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORT ON EMPLOYING TOILET ATTENDANTS

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 19:03pm.

Cllr Lee re-entered the meeting at 19:05pm.

The report was received, and the discussion will be deferred until the next Full Council meeting.

00256 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Cllr Lee.

To consider the purchase and installation of rubber grass matting along the A259 Little Common Road to link two pathways and crossing points together.

An amended motion was accepted, and it was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to investigate the possibility of the installation of rubber grass when workload allows.

a) Cllr Wilson.

To consider establishing a regular meeting of all Committee Chairs and the Council Chair to review outstanding motions and plan strategic priorities.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 19:43pm.

Cllr Lee re-entered the meeting at 19:45pm.

This item was moved into closed session due to discussions about staffing taking place.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

b) Cllr Jacklin.

To consider the promotion of business use of the DISC system as the central platform to combat shoplifting and encourage Rother District Council to make sure it is run effectively.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 20:02pm.

Cllr Thomas re-entered the meeting at 20:04pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to promote business use of the DISC system as the central platform to combat shoplifting and encourage Rother District Council to make sure it is run effectively.

c) Cllr Jacklin.

For the Town Council to support Rother District Council's proposal for one East Sussex.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Council to support Rother District Council's proposal for one East Sussex.

d) Cllr Jacklin.

The Town Council to oppose any proposals whereby Bexhill-on-Sea would be in the same Unitary Authority as Brighton and Hove. This motion was withdrawn.

e) Cllr Winter.

That the Town Clerk contact East Sussex County Council's School and Crossing Patrol Supervisor to begin discussions about the potential for Bexhill-On-Sea Town Council to provide full or partial

funding for School Crossing Patrol Officer to cover the crossing point used by pupils attending Little Common Primary School. An amended motion was accepted, and it was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to investigate the devolution of School Crossing Patrol Officers for all Bexhill-On-Sea schools with priority being given to Little Common primary school and Birkdale nursery. If this won't be devolved, Bexhill-On-Sea Town Council will fund Crossing Patrol Officers. Findings will be reported to a future meeting.

00257 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- a) To consider request for the registration of new road names for submission to Rother District Council.

*The Responsible Financial Officer left the meeting at 20:20pm.
The Responsible Financial Officer re-entered the meeting at 20:22pm.*

It was **RESOLVED** to request for the following new road names to be submitted to Rother District Council: Foundry Road, Style Close, Merchants Way and Waddingham way.

00258 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive answers to questions raised at the last meeting.
There were none.
- b) To receive questions from councillors and any future agenda items.

Cllr Jacklin asked to clarify an estimated number of people who attended the De La Warr meeting on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

Cllr Blagrove asked if the Town Rangers will be removing graffiti.

Cllr Blagrove asked if the Town Rangers will be maintaining and cleaning the notice boards.

Cllr Blagrove requested information on the current CCTV in Bexhill-On-Sea, including locations, how many are operational and if the police have reviewed them since the Town Council has had them.

Cllr Blagrove asked if the Chair could keep in mind Councillors can have their say and to not interject.

Cllr Lee requested the Clerk to give feedback on a previous motion.

- c) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
There were none.

00259 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 26TH NOVEMBER 2025

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 will not be permitted to attend during the following items:

00260 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

There were none.

The Responsible Financial Officer left the meeting at 20:32pm.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 20:33pm.

00261 STAFFING UPDATE

It was noted that the Interim Deputy Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer was appointed permanently following a successful probation period.

00262 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Wilson.

To consider establishing a regular meeting of all Committee Chairs and the Council Chair to review outstanding motions and plan strategic priorities.

A conversation regarding staffing took place. It was noted the clerk is creating an internal workload strategy.

The meeting was closed at 21:00pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

Initial.....