

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the
BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL held in the **ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL TOWN HALL,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
on **Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Baldry; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Crotty; Cllr Drayson; Cllr El; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; 7 members of the public; Cllr Bayliss (Rother District Council)

00221. 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 member of the public reported that the "No to Northeye" Group petition had been accepted By Rother District Council and will be discussed at the next Rother Full Council meeting.

A member of the public thanked the Town Council for assisting with the Carnival. They also spoke in opposition to the Northeye proposal and complained about the fees being charged by Rother District Council on open spaces events.

A member of the public asked if the Town Council has any powers to influence Rother District Council.

The Town Council can lobby the District Council on behalf of residents.

A member of the public spoke about the legal action that is being taken against the government concerning the Northeye proposal.

00222. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Gibson and Cllr Norris.

00223. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a Rother District Councillor.

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

00224. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that the order of business on the agenda would be amended, and External Reports and Governance and Administration would be brought forward.

The Mayor asked that councillors address each other personally rather than on social media and that the risk register is purely an administrative tool and must not be used in any other way.

00225. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 5th July 2023.

00226. COMMITTEES

- a) The minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting were noted:
- i. Planning and Development Advisory Committee 5/07/2023
 - ii. Asset Transfer Committee 12/07/2023
 - iii. Climate, Nature and Environment Committee 12/07/2023
 - iv. Planning Committee 26/07/2023
 - v. Planning and Development Advisory Committee 26/07/2023
 - vi. Finance and General Purposes Committee 26/07/2023

00227. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were none.

00228. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – a report was circulated.

00229. 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.
b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.
A report was received from Cllr Bayliss on Central Ward.
c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

00230. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) It was noted that DBS checks are due to be completed for:
- i. Tony Carroll
 - ii. Alan Thomas
- b) Streaming of meetings
- i. To receive report and consider next steps.

It was **RESOLVED** that audio recording of meetings will be organised immediately and the equipment listed in the report will be purchased. Meetings will be uploaded as soon as possible after the event. Bexhill Radio will be

contracted at £20 per hour to facilitate the audio recording whilst the council seeks a contractor to film meetings as of 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to draw up a specification for a contractor to film each meeting with one camera and to present quotes to the next meeting.

- c) To note vacancy on Planning Committee and approve new member.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Winter to the Planning Committee.
- e) To note Rother District Town Hall booked for future meetings with exception of 10th, 17th and 24th April, and 8th May 2024 due to Police Crime Commissioner Elections. Alternative venues will be sought for these dates.
- f) To note Business Cards available for collection by councillors.

00231. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim
It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Brailsford, Cllr Baldry, Cllr Plim, Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Crotty.
- b) To note Leaders' Meeting being arranged for October – noted.

00232. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note Police Focus Group postponed, dates in November being investigated.

00233. NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To note response from Rother District Council concerning request for the Mayor to attend the Home Office Statutory Body Group.
It was noted that once more the Town Council has been advised that as it is not a statutory body with services affected by the proposal therefore it will not be included in this group.
- b) To receive update from Cllr Jacklin.
It was reported that the MP has suggested that he will call a public meeting to discuss the Home Office proposal to use the site as a detention centre. The Council will wait for further information before calling a public meeting.
- c) To note no response received from the Home Office regarding Bexhill Residents' Northeye comments, continuing to chase – noted.

00234. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford and Cllr Plim on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support'. – a report was circulated.

00235. KITES NEST WOOD

- a) To note owner's intention to sell Asset of Community Value Kites Nest Wood and Wet Wood under s.95 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 and to consider the Town Council being treated as a potential bidder under the Community Right to Bid.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 19:48pm

BoSTC/26.07.2023 – 000074

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 19:49pm

It was **RESOLVED** to declare that the Town Council would like to be treated as a potential bidder under the Community Right To Bid for Kites Nest Wood.

00236. ACCESSIBLE PLAYPARK FOR PEBSHAM

- a) To note initial investigations will begin in October.

It was noted that this will be looked at once the filming of meetings project is completed.

00237. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

This item was covered earlier in the meeting, reports were circulated.

- a) RALC – Cllr Wilson and Cllr Crotty
- b) Citizen’s Advice – Cllr Gibson
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Baldry
- e) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – 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)

00238. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Motions carried forward from last meeting:

- i. Cllr Baldry

That the Council asks the Town Clerk to compile some guidance on different models of co-option for discussion at the next meeting of the Full Council.

This motion was withdrawn.

Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 19:59pm.

Cllr Baldry re-entered the meeting at 20:00pm.

- ii. Cllr Crotty

For the Council to investigate fining companies and businesses that fly poster all over town.

The motion fell.

- iii. Cllr Huseyin

That the Town Council investigate the installation of a putting green and or crazy golf in the town.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Council investigate the installation of a putting green and/or crazy golf in the town.

Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 20:13pm.

Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 20:15pm

Initial.....

iv. Cllr Crotty

That the Town Council sets up a sub-committee to see what can be done to fix/replace the Fountains on the seafront.

The motion was withdrawn.

v. Cllr Crotty

That the council creates a policy for Councillors surgeries to be held in the Hub, in the meeting room.

It was **RESOLVED** that the council creates a policy for Councillors surgeries to be held in the Hub in the meeting room.

b) Motions from Councillors:

i. Cllr Brailsford

That (subject to a retention of £1,000 for unforeseen contingencies) the residue of this year's Mayors Budget is donated towards the funding of Bexhill's Christmas lights for 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that (subject to a retention of £1,000 for unforeseen contingencies) the residue of this year's Mayors Budget is donated towards the funding of Bexhill's Christmas lights for 2023.

ii. Cllr Brailsford

That Bexhill Town Council writes to Rother District Council to register their objections and concerns regarding the charges which have been imposed on volunteer event organisers in Bexhill. This will result in a potential reduction on events, which will unavoidably cause a negative impact on our local businesses, as well as on our residents and visitors to our town, together with a reduction in donations to local charities.

It was **RESOLVED** that Bexhill Town Council writes to Rother District Council to register their objections and concerns regarding the charges which have been imposed on volunteer event organisers in Bexhill. This will result in a potential reduction on events, which will unavoidably cause a negative impact on our local businesses, as well as on our residents and visitors to our town, together with a reduction in donations to local charities and furthermore can Rother District Council provide the Town Council provide a list of all previous chargeable and non-chargeable events for this financial year.

iii. Cllr El

That the council has a short update every Full Council meeting regarding the progress of current projects.

It was **RESOLVED** for a list of all projects to be presented to Full Council every meeting.

iii. Cllr El

That motions from Councillors are discussed earlier on the Full Council agenda.
The motion was withdrawn.

Cllr Clasby left the meeting at 20:51pm

Cllr Clasby re-entered the meeting at 20:52pm

v. Cllr Gibson and Cllr Hampton

We propose that this council sets up an advisory group - made up of councillors and local residents and stakeholders - to reach under-represented groups and support residents during the cost-of-living crisis.

Cllr Huseyin left the meeting at 20:56pm

Cllr Huseyin re-entered the meeting at 20:57pm

The motion was deferred to allow Councillors to attend the Accessibility Working Group.

Cllr Carroll withdrew his motion regarding Bexhill Day.

The meeting closed at 21:00 due to it reaching its 2.5-hour limit. All outstanding items will be added to the next Full Council agenda.

00050. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 4TH OCTOBER 2023

The meeting closed at 21:00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....