

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL held in the **PEBSHAM COMMUNITY HUB, SEABOURNE ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA**

on **Wednesday 5th July 2023 at 6.30pm**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; seven members of the public; Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council); Cllr Hazel Timpe (Rother District Council).

00135. 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) A member of the public spoke about behaviour of councillors at meetings. *Councillor conduct matters are dealt with by Rother District Council, the Town Council is not permitted to investigate member conduct complaints.*

b) A member of the public asked how comments made during this session are minuted, and how will they be published.

A summary of questions is recorded in the minutes of the meeting, with the answers, and uploaded to the Town Council website as soon as possible after the meeting, usually by the Friday of that week.

c) A member of the public asked what preparations the Town Council has made to cope with the 1200 male refugees that may be housed at the Northeye site.

The Town Council is not the statutory body in relation to public services affected by Northeye. The Town Council is lobbying the Home Office for it to be included in the statutory body group that is considering impacts on public services in the town.

d) A member of the public asked what the Town Council is proposing to do to cope with the demands on the police of the Northeye proposal.

The Town Council does not have any statutory powers to manage police resourcing. The Home Office is consulting directly with Sussex Police.

e) A member of the public handed the Chair a document with the details of the demographic of Bexhill.

f) A member of the public raised concerns about potential dangers to women of male refugees being housed in Bexhill, and asked that the Town Council ensure that women, children, and families are safe.

The Town Council is lobbying the Home Office to be included in the statutory body group that is responsible for managing the impacts of the Northeye proposal.

g) A member of the public spoke about the grass verge cutting and remarked that verges are so overgrown that they appear dangerous, and the cuttings are left which go into the gutters and will cause issues with the drainage system. It was asked which verges the Town Council control.

The Town Council does not control any verges in Bexhill. The Town Council pays for additional cuts to the urban grass cutting service provided by East Sussex County Council. The schedule and methods of cutting are detailed on our website:

[Verge Cutting In Bexhill - Bexhill-on-Sea - Bexhill-on-Sea, Bexhill-On-Sea \(bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk\)](http://bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk)

00136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Carroll.

00137. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Winter declared an interest in Citizens Advice as a director and trustee.
Cllr Winter declared a general interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Drayson declared a general interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Jacklin declared an interest as a member of the “No to Northeys group” and his work with the Democratic Network.

00138. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00139. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7th June 2023.

00140. COMMITTEES

a) To note Cllr Winter’s resignation from the Asset Transfer Committee and consider appointing replacement member.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Plim to the Asset Transfer Committee.

b) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:

- i. Planning Committee 14/06/2023
- ii. Community Committee 14/06/2023
- iii. Asset Transfer Committee 21/06/2023
- iv. Finance and General Purposes Committee 21/06/2023

00141. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Finance and General Purposes Committee

i. To adopt Neurodiversity Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Neurodiversity Policy.

ii. To amend the Terms of Reference of committees that moves the following responsibility from the Climate, Nature, and Environment Committee to the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

To liaise with residents to identify projects that can be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The recommendation was not approved.

00142. MAYOR’S OFFICE

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

An update report on the work of the Mayor was circulated and noted.

- b) To approve Mayoral Visit Form for use by the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Mayoral Visit Form with an addition to item 4, to add in “expected finishing time”.

00143. 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 Ian Hollidge reminded residents to respond to the parking permit review.

- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

Cllr Hazel Timpe advised that there are delays to the skate park refurbishment on Galley Hill and that the Lawn Tennis Association is funding the resurfacing of the MUGA and five tennis courts at Egerton Park. The new Garden of Remembrance planting scheme at Bexhill Cemetery was also discussed.

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Rustem advised members that Pebsham Community Hub has secured £50,000 to install a new Changing Places accessible toilet facility.

Cllr Crotty reported that cooking fat in drains is being investigated on Western Road and bins that have not been replaced have been reported.

Cllr Goss reported that Old Town Councillors have reported highways issues to Cllr Hollidge, and these have been followed up.

Cllrs Gibson and Baldry circulated a detailed report prior to the meeting.

00144. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW 2022-23

- a) To approve the internal audit report 2022-2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report 2022-23.

It was **RESOLVED** to record a vote of thanks to the Clerk and staff for all their successful work conducted during the year.

00145. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To note DBS checks completed for:

- i. Elly Gibson
- ii. Julie Norris
- iii. Paul Plim
- iv. Connor Winter
- v. Lynn Brailsford
- vi. Andrew Crotty
- vii. Paul Wilson
- viii. Charlie Rustem
- ix. Bryan Clasby
- x. Memish Huseyin
- xi. Huseyin El

- b) To note DBS checks due to be completed for:

- i. Brian Drayson
 - ii. Claire Baldry
 - iii. Tony Carroll
 - iv. Nigel Jacklin
 - v. Alan Thomas
 - vi. Trudy Hampton
 - vii. Alan Goss
- c) To note awaiting response from NALC/LGA about equality training – noted.
- d) To review streaming options previously investigated by the council and consider next steps.
It was **RESOLVED** to maintain the two options of either the staff or an external provider recording and uploading meetings.
It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to further scope these two options. A non-specialist provider will be considered.
A motion to request that Rother District Council allow the Town Council to use the recording system in the Town Hall fell. It was noted that recording meetings is a priority over other projects.
- e) To note difficulties in obtaining ad-hoc Wednesday evening bookings at the venues suggested by Councillors and agree next steps for a meeting room venue.
It was **RESOLVED** to book meetings in the Town Hall for the rest of the municipal year and consider other venues in the future.

00146. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To note liaison being organised – none.
- b) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim.
Cllr Plim will investigate if this initiative is still active, as no contact has been received.

00147. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To report next police focus group to take place in July.
It was noted that the meeting has been moved to September.
- b) To note Clerk meeting with Rother District Council to ascertain CCTV.
It was noted that a new system is being sought at RDC and that the Town Council has been recommended to wait until this is decided before scoping further enhancement opportunities.

00148. NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To review categorised Northeye feedback and consider next steps.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair should call an extra-ordinary meeting when a decision on the Northeye proposal is announced.

It was **RESOLVED** to move the Northeye motion forward on the agenda for consideration at this item.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Council to ask that it has a representative on the Home Office liaison group and for the Mayor to be the approved representative.

00149. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

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

It was noted that the Hub continues its excellent work.

00150. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- a) RALC – Cllr Wilson
- i. To consider appointing a second representative
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Crotty as a representative on RALC.
- b) Citizen's Advice – Cllr Gibson – there were no further updates.
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor – there are events coming up.
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Baldry – there was no further update.
- e) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson – the group will present to the council at a future meeting.
- f) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Gibson – there will be a visit on 8th August.
- g) Support for Ukraine – Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Plim (reported earlier in the meeting under a standing agenda item)

00151. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Jacklin
That the Town Council discusses how it can encourage more female councillors.
It was noted that this is being covered by the previous motion for NALC and the LGA to advise the Council at a future meeting.
- b) Cllr Jacklin
That the Town Clerk records the number of males and females who attend the initial session of the meeting.
The motion fell.
Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:48pm
- c) Cllr Jacklin
At their 12th June Cabinet meeting Rother District Council discussed and agreed a 'Net Zero Pledge for UK 100 membership.' Can the relevant committee investigate what this means and report back to the Full Council?
It was agreed to add this motion to the Climate, Nature, and Environment Committee.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 20:49pm

d) Cllr El

That the Town Clerk investigates the installation of a fully accessible play park in Pebsham.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to investigate the installation of a fully accessible play park in Pebsham.

The following items were brought forward on the agenda:

00152. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) Open letter from Chamber of Commerce concerning District Council charges for open spaces.
- b) NALC Newsletters
- c) Invitation to all Councillors to Bexhill In Bloom event.
- d) Rother District Council Members Bulletin.
- e) Emails from resident concerning councillor social media posts.

00153. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Cllr Jacklin asked: How the Council can encourage more females to become councillors.	This item is on the agenda.
Cllr Jacklin asked: That a quote for video streaming/ recording either all the Council meetings or just Full Council meetings	This item is on the agenda.
Cllr Jacklin asked: Has Rother District Council been in touch with the Town Council about its plans if Northeye goes ahead?	No.
Cllr Wilson asked: if when councillors have DBS checks done could they have their photograph taken.	Photographs have been organised separately.
Cllr Crotty asked: If the Council could promote the Mayor and Deputy in Bexhill News.	Due to the publication deadlines, this will be available in the July edition.
Cllr Crotty asked: if the Town Council would be willing to support a future event for D-Day.	This is already being investigated by the Community Committee.

- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting or before.

- c) To note any future agenda items.
There were none.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
There were none.

00154. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

The meeting reached the 2.5-hour limit, and the outstanding items will be added to the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 21:00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

