

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
FULL COUNCIL held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN**
HALL,
on **Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Baldry (Deputy Mayor);
Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Clasby;
Cllr Carroll; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding;
Cllr Norris; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter; Cllr Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Miller, Clerk, two members of the public

00262. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/BEXHILL TOWN FORUM

A member of the Fairtrade Committee requested that the town council support the Fairtrade motion from Cllr Izzard and renew the town's status that had been delayed due to COVID19.

A member of the Sidley Cricket Club spoke about the work of the club and requested that the town council consider taking ownership of St Mary's Recreation Ground from RDC to assist the Cricket Club in establishing a home ground.

00263. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Rustem; Izzard; Taylor-Gee; Cllr Fenner.

00264. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Winter declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Citizens Advice Bureau item.

00265. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021.

00266. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The following minutes and updates of committees were received:

- a) 20/09/2021 Community Committee
- b) 06/10/2021 Planning Committee
- c) 13/10/2021 Community Committee
- d) 13/10/2021 Premises Working Group
- e) 08/10/2021 COVID Recovery Team

00267. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Community Committee
 - i. To adopt Sponsorship Policy
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Sponsorship Policy.
 - ii. To adopt Noticeboard Policy
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Noticeboard Policy.
 - iii. To adopt Town Crier job description and for the Community Committee to appoint a Town Crier through an audition and selection process.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Town Crier policy and for the Community Committee to organise an audition process and appoint a Town Crier. An amendment to the policy was made 'the maximum expenses that will be refunded in any one financial year in addition to cleaning is £300'

- iv. To transfer the responsibilities of noticeboards from the Climate, Nature & Environment Committee to the Community Committee terms of reference.

It was **RESOLVED** to transfer the responsibilities of the Noticeboards to the Community Committee.

- v. To transfer the responsibilities of Grants and Donations from the Community Committee to the Finance and General Purposes Committee terms of reference.

It was **RESOLVED** to transfer the responsibilities of Grants and Donations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

- b) Premises Working Group

- i. It was **RESOLVED** that the town council rent the office at the town hall for £3000.00 per annum and arranges for telephone, PC hardware, printer and broadband services.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** to operate a mix of using The Pelham and working from home until the end of December 2021, whilst the office is prepared and technology set up.
- iii. It was noted that another shop front had become available and can be viewed by the Premises Working Group.

00268. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) An update on the work of the Town Mayor was noted.

00269. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) External councillor reports were noted.
- b) Ward reports were received from Town Councillors.

Following attendance at the Parish Council Conference it was noted that RDC officer Jeff Pyah offered to speak to the Planning Committee about the Local Plan.

00270. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To receive update from the Bexhill Trust.
It was reported that the town clerk is not the clerk of the Bexhill Trust and the Trust operate independently of the Town Council.
- b) To note approximate election costs at £62,045.
It was **RESOLVED** to request a breakdown of the election costs from Rother District Council as it was noted that the election day was shared with the Police and County elections.
- c) To note Charter Trustees accounts awaiting independent review of accounts before funds transferred to the town council – noted.
- d) To note Town Forum awaiting results of town council survey before considering future membership or activities – noted.

- e) To note Cllrs Gibson, Brailsford and Taylor-Gee attending future Town Centre Steering Group Meetings to feedback on possible transfer of the group to the town council.
- f) To appoint a councillor to the Community Committee following the resignation from the committee of Cllr Clasby.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Blagrove to the Community Committee.

A recorded vote was called.

VOTES FOR CLLR BLAGROVE

Cllr Norris
Cllr Brailsford
Cllr Carroll
Cllr Barfoot
Cllr Wray
Cllr Winter
Cllr Drayson
Cllr Clasby
Cllr Blagrove

VOTES FOR CLLR THOMAS

Cllr Baldry
Cllr Gibson
Cllr Harding
Cllr Thomas

ABSTENTION

Cllr Plim

- g) To appoint an external representative to Rother Voluntary Action.
There were no nominees for the Rother Voluntary Action Group.
- h) To appoint an external representative to Citizen's Advice Bureau.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Gibson as the external representative on the Citizens Advice Bureau.
- i) To note training policy being prepared - noted
- j) To note equality policy being prepared - noted
- k) To note training / review session on governance and terms of reference for all councillors being arranged by the Community Committee – noted

00271. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Cllr Izzard

To enable Bexhill to maintain the town's Fairtrade status, Bexhill on Sea Town Council adopts the suggested 'Bexhill on Sea Town Council's Statement of Commitment to Fairtrade' and publishes it on the Town Council Website. Furthermore, the council will officially provide the Bexhill Fairtrade Town Steering Group with a signed copy of the statement enabling them to submit the renewal of the town's Fairtrade Town status.

It was **RESOLVED** that the town council defers the decision on this motion until they have legal guidance from Rother District Council on the appropriate support for a renewal of the Fairtrade Town Status for Bexhill.

00272. CORRESPONDENCE

The Mayor confirmed that correspondence had been received from the town clerk concerning exceeding normal working hours and it was noted that the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall consider appointing an assistant clerk to share the workload.

00273. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive answers to questions raised at last meeting – these were circulated prior to the meeting – noted.

Cllr Thomas asked if the town council could use modern.gov the agendas and minute software.	This would incur a cost, the town council has not budgeted for this system in the current financial year. If a councillor would like the council to explore costs and budgets this can be done by submitting a motion to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.
Cllr Taylor-Gee asked if the full council could receive finance training	The clerk is investigating a training programme for all councillors including GDPR, finance, Code of Conduct, Elections in the coming months. If councillors would like an additional finance training session with the clerk this can be arranged.
Cllr Gibson asked for an update on the Bexhill Trust to be added to the next agenda.	This item is on the agenda.
Cllr Plim asked about the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attending Bexhill Trust meetings	According to the trust deed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio Trustees and can attend meetings.

- b) To receive questions from councillors.

Cllr Barfoot asked if he could hand over his position on the Community Committee to Cllr Thomas.

Cllr Brailsford asked if councillors could use the town council name on their election nomination forms, rather than independent group names to avoid confusion in the forthcoming elections.

Cllr Blagrove asked if councillors could consider disbanding their equivalent independent parties and stand as truly independent councillors and work as one corporate body.

Cllr Drayson asked if a clear description of what each authority does could be produced, possibly at a shared cost.

Cllr Thomas asked that personal attacks against councillors on social media platforms should stop.

Cllr Drayson asked about email etiquette and asked councillors not to 'reply to all'.

Cllr Gibson asked about what the town council can do to protect councillors concerning the murder of MP David Amess.

Cllr Thomas asked that councillors be more respectful to each other on social media.

Cllr Harding asked what happens with the requests made by members of the public when they address the meeting.

c) To note future agenda items

It was noted that budget discussions will be on the next agenda.

00274. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17th NOVEMBER 2021

Meeting closed at 20:25pm

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT