

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

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Notes of the BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Held at **ST PETER'S PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE,
BEXHILL-ON-SEA**

On **Saturday 29th March 2025** at **6:15pm**.

PRESENT: Cllr Byrne; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Goss; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Peters; Cllr Plim; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; One videographer; two photographers; town crier; three members of staff; 17 members of the public.

1. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr Wilson welcomed the Residents of Bexhill to the Annual Town Meeting and gave a speech regarding his role as Mayor and Chair of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Crotty, Cllr El, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Rustem, Cllr Winter.

3. QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC

One member of the public spoke positively about the Civic Award Ceremony. This resident is a member of Bexhill Probus; this week they had Southern Water give a presentation. The resident asks if the Town Council would work with Southern Water to reinstate the fountains.

Answer – *All organisations need to get together and find a solution, watch this space, work is going around this subject.*

A resident of Bexhill recently visited Little Common, noticed the toilets with a for sale sign. Asks the Mayor, are you ashamed of selling off our public conveniences?

Answer - *Most of the toilets are owned by Rother District Council, we have been working hard with Rother District Council to find a solution. Announcement due soon regarding this issue. Potential selling off is all part of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.*

Asked a second question regarding Buckhurst Road - that road is subsiding terribly, does the Town Council and the Mayor have any influence on getting that work sorted?

Answer - *We will take the question away and see what we can do. This is an East Sussex County Council issue, but we will lobby it and see what we can do.*

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A member of the public spoke about the situation with doctors' surgeries. They attended a presentation and saw many drawings. They were told this would come to fruition end of 2024, but realistically 2025. Told it would be built in Rosewood Park. Recently went to visit Rosewood Park to check, and no work has been started, tried to ask at reception at the doctors but they do not know either.

Answer - *Can't give a definite answer as this is not under the Town Council, but we will take this away and come back with an answer.*

NHS England is one of the Quangos that the Government has now gotten rid of. It was all moving slowly; however, it is now being reassessed now that we no longer have NHS England. Be aware that we are all trying to stay as close as we can to this situation to keep the town updated.

A member of the public spoke about the toilets being handed over to the Town Council, which was rejected because they would not do a lease. Rother District Council offered around a sum of money to the Town Council to take them on, believes it was around £218,000, is any of that money going to be pro-rata because you are going to take them on as licenses?

Answer – *Cannot give an official answer, it's part of ongoing negotiations.*

How long will the licenses last? We are going to spend all that money so they be opened and then they can be potentially sold off.

Answer – *Cannot answer but we are working with Rother District Council to break barriers about responsibilities. Some may get sold, but a public toilet will remain open if sold.*

Licenses we're working on is about getting them open.

But the Council will spend a lot of money to get them open because some of them have electrical problems, water problems and the one in West Parade is shocking.

Answer – *We can't comment on this until the work is done.*

Asked another question regarding vacancy in the Town Council, on the website says that there is not a vacancy, when will this be updated?

Answer - *As soon as it can be.*

A member of the public asked two questions regarding the seats at the top of Galley Hill and the state of the pillar boxes. From walking around the town, the state of the pillar boxes is a disgrace. Can the Town Council get onto the Post Office about this?

Answer – *Royal mail owns the letter boxes; there is a set program to renovate them. The Town Council has asked Royal Mail to do something about it. Company itself is in turmoil as its being sold off to a Bulgarian millionaire, and a lot of essential upkeep is winding down. Not a Town Council issue, all we can do is lobby to get that done. Please raise concerns with Royal Mail.*

Answer - *A year ago coastal team advised Rother District Council the benches were a safety issue due to erosion of cliffs which is slow but still a hazard. Benches are being*

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removed and being relocated down the other side of galley hill. Three more are due to be relocated. A lot of dedications on there we can't trace the people to let them know.

A member of the public praised the notice boards but feels that the Town Hall is a disgrace. There is a free petition noticeboard there, the Town Council section is constantly blank. Would like to see advertising for a Councillor. That noticeboard is a disgrace and needs to be tidied up. That area is a pickup point, so when coaches pull outside the Town Hall and see that untidy noticeboard and they will think what type of place is this.

Answer - *Not sure if that is one of our noticeboards. We will take that away and check it out.*

A member of the public shared annoyance about commercial vehicles being parked on residential roads. Counted 12 in Eversley Road – two caravan type things. Know that a permit is required but surely commercial vehicles should be left at their place of work. We never used to see this, unfortunately they can't just keep parking there. Struggle to find parking spaces for the normal car drivers.

Answer – *Very valid, but the world has changed to allow this. Not something that the Town Council can solve. Enforcement of illegal cars is down to Rother and East Sussex Highways. As long as a car is taxed and has a MOT etc they can park there.*

One of these cars had a flat tire – how long is he going to be parked there?

Answer – *If in doubt report it to Rother District Council. Pop into the Town Council office with photographs and they can report it.*

The meeting closed at 18:47pm.