

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 9th meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
FULL COUNCIL held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN**
HALL,
on **Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Baldry; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Norris; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter; Cllr Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; three members of the public.

00439. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public addressed the meeting to ask about the proposed increase in the precept, the setting up of an asset transfer committee ahead of the survey results, the ownership of the town forum recording equipment and about Bexhill Together sponsoring 'Bexhill After Dark'.

A member of the public requested a private meeting with the Mayor to discuss the arrangements for the remembrance service last year.

A representative from 18hours spoke about the forthcoming 'Bexhill After Dark' light festival.

00440. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Barfoot for which reasons were given and accepted.

00441. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Winter declared an interest in item concerning the Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr Plim declared an interest in the item regarding the postal service and the item was deferred to the end of the meeting to allow Cllr Plim to leave the meeting whilst discussed.

00442. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th November 2021.

00443. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The following minutes and updates of committees were received:

- a) 01/12/2021 Planning Committee
- b) 08/12/2021 HR Sub Committee
- c) 08/12/2021 Climate, Nature and Environment Committee
- d) 08/12/2021 Community Committee
- e) 12/01/2022 Asset Transfer Committee
- f) 12/01/2022 Planning Committee

It was agreed to resend the Infrastructure Delivery Plan response made by the Planning Committee to all councillors.

00444. WORKING GROUPS

To receive notes from meetings of working groups reporting to full council
The Premises Working Group recommendation were discussed in closed session at the end of the meeting due to commercial sensitivity.

00445. MAYOR'S OFFICE

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

00446. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) External county councillor reports were noted.
- b) Ward reports from District Councillors – there were no further updates.
- c) Ward reports were received from Town Councillors.

00447. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To consider budget and precept for 2022-23.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve a precept of £390,920 and a budget of £392,550. This equates to a rise of 2.84% on a band D property compared to 2021-22.
- b) To receive recommendation from Cllrs Gibson, Brailsford and Taylor-Gee on disbanding the Town Centre Steering Group and the council's existing committee structure managing any outstanding projects.
It was **RESOLVED** that the council might like to take the work on from the steering group but before making the decision it would need to understand how the projects fit into the council's existing committee structure.
It was **RESOLVED** to request a written list of the projects that the steering group is working on and to ask what will happen to those projects should the council not take them on.
It was **RESOLVED** to request that any associated funding allocated to these projects can be passed to the town council. Cllr Thomas advised that this group is allocating £60k towards improving the toilets in the town...the town council would be keen to do this if the funding is passed on.

00448. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

The following reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting)

- a) RALC Meeting 12th January 2022 – Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee
- b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson

00449. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted it was **RESOLVED** that the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of item:

00450. TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATION FROM PREMISES WORKING GROUP REGARDING LEASE AND TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON PREMISES.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the Premises Working Group recommendations.

The meeting was re-opened to the public and Cllr Baldry assumed the position of Chairman of the meeting.

Cllr Plim left the meeting 20:37pm

00451. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Update on E-Scooters from Sussex Police- noted.
- b) Sussex Police Chief Constable Big Data Presentation - Cllr Brailsford to attend.
- c) Launch of Omicron grants for hospitality and leisure industry – noted.
- d) ESALC chairman’s forum invitation - 9th February 2022 – noted.
- e) Bexhill After Dark festival – 29th January 2022 – noted.

A discussion about the sponsorship of the After Dark event took place and Cllr Baldry agreed to report back on the reasons why the Bexhill Together group is named as a financial sponsor of the event with the banner ‘your town, your council’.

- f) NALC Consultation – OFCOM review of postal regulations –the council was unanimously in support of NALC’s recommendations.

00452. 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 Blagrove What position of authority does Cllr Izzard have in advising the council on COVID?	None.
Cllr Harding Can the Standing Order pronouns be updated?	Yes, at the annual review in May 2022.
Cllr Winter Can the council investigate becoming a Dementia Friendly Town?	This is being investigated by the Community Committee through the Dementia event project plan.
Cllr Blagrove Can the council have a group photograph?	Yes, this can be done when all councillors are in attendance and COVID guidance allows.

Cllr Clasby left the meeting at 20:49pm

- a) To receive questions from councillors.

Cllr Izzard asked when the motion that he raised about having a COVID debate would appear on the agenda.

Cllr Izzard asked for an update on the Fairtrade motion.

Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 20:50

Cllr Izzard asked for an update about a motion that he had raised regarding bio-diversity.

Cllr Izzard asked about the requirements for substitutes at committees.

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

Cllr Clasby re-entered the meeting at 20:53pm

- b) To note future agenda items

Cllr Thomas asked if the council can consider purchasing the Methodist church in Sackville Road at the next meeting.

00453. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 16th MARCH 2022

Meeting closed at 20:54pm

Signed.....

Date.....

