

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLY ROAD,**

BEXHILL-ON-SEA

on **Wednesday 5th November at 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Daeva, Clerk; M Webber, One videographer; Cllr Wilson (ex officio), three members of public.

00263 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A representative from the Bexhill Carnival Committee raised concerns about the 2025 carnival road-closure arrangements. Previously, the Committee handled closures themselves, but this year the Town Council funded a contractor. The contractor reportedly underestimated the number of junctions needing closure, provided too few operatives, and may not have shared enough public information. Due to changes in the law, the Committee cannot legally carry out road closures, they depend on contractors and stressed the need for better liaison between Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and the Carnival Committee. The Carnival, which dates to before WWII, is one of the country's longest running and has donated around £50,000 to local causes. After a successful recruitment drive, the Committee has nearly doubled in size and is confident about delivering a strong carnival in 2026.

A representative of the Bexhill Lions Club spoke about challenges with road closures for their weekend markets. Due to changes in the law, the Club can no longer manage closures themselves and is grateful that the Town Council handled them this year. They hope the Council will continue to provide this support, as the markets attract around 800 visitors and benefits both the community and local shops. On average the Lions Club makes about £10,000 a year, which they mainly donate. The Club has around 36 members, and

both traders and the public value the traffic-free environment on Devonshire Road during these events.

00264 RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Winter.

00265 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Plim declared an interest in item 6a Carnival Road closure, as chair of Bexhill Carnival.

Cllr Huseyin declared an interest as Councillor representative for Bexhill Carnival and declared a personal interest as an owner of a business within the town.

00266 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that the discussion of item 7b will not be taking place due to insufficient information. This will be deferred until the next meeting of the Engagement and Communications Committee.

00267 MINUTES

- a) To approve and sign the minutes for the meeting of the 3rd September 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

00268 BUDGET PREDICTIONS 2026-2027

- a) To consider funding Bexhill Carnival Road closure for 2026-2027.

Cllr Plim left the meeting at 18:39pm

Cllr Huseyin left the meeting at 18:39pm.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

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A representative from the Bexhill Carnival Committee clarified that East Sussex County Council would not grant a road closure on Turkey Road, meaning the Carnival cannot go into Sidley.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council not to fund carnival road closure for 2026-2027.

- b) To consider funding Bexhill Street Market Road closures for 2026-2027.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council not to fund Bexhill Street Market Road closure for 2026-2027.

- c) To allocate funding for Mayor's Ball 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to fund the Mayor's Ball using the Mayor's Budget.

- d) To receive predicted budget report for 2026-2027.

It was **RESOLVED** to Allocate £2000 for a VE Day commemoration

It was **RESOLVED** to Remove noticeboards from budget as this can be done in house.

00269 REGALIA

- a) To note St Peter's kneeling cushions to be blessed Sunday 2nd November 2025, to be attended by the Deputy Mayor. – noted.
- b) To consider taking ownership of Alderman Gray's badge.
This item was deferred.

00270 BEXHILL-ON-SEA CIVIC HISTORY BOOKLET

- a) To note feedback from Councillors received at the previous meeting, with further updates now being added to the book. – noted.

00271 COUNCILLOR ID TAGS

- a) To note sample ID tags have been ordered. – noted.

00272 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a) To note further questions have been asked by National Highways about the serpollet sculpture, which the clerk has answered. – noted.

00273 TOWN MEETING (27TH SEPTMEBER 2025)

- a) To receive feedback.

It was noted a general lack of information on Devolution and Local Government reorganisation may have impacted the low attendance. In future, events of this nature will be held in a smaller venue.

00274 COUNCILLOR TRAINING EVENTS

- a) To note autism awareness training outstanding for Cllr Byrne; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe. – noted.

00275 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LIASON

- a) To note Remembrance Day service taking place on Sunday 9th November. – noted.

00276 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2025 (29TH NOVEMBER 2025)

- a) To receive update on plans.

An update was given: the entertainment schedule is being finalised, businesses have received event information packs, and the market will be run by the Bexhill Lions in partnership with Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.

00277 PAST DEPUTY MAYOR BADGES (CLLR WINTER)

It was **RESOLVED** to add past Deputy Mayor's badges into the budget for next year along with past Mayor's badges.

00278 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

00279 CORRESPONDENCE

There were none.

00280 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) To note answers to questions from the last meeting.

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| Cllr Winter asked about the possibility of investigating past deputy mayor badges. | This item is on the agenda. |
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b) To receive questions from councillors and any future agenda items.

Cllr Crotty asked if there could be space on the noticeboards for Police resources.

Cllr Blagrove requested that when provided with posters by local organisations and businesses that they are A5 in order to improve appearance of the noticeboards.

Cllr Crotty informed the Committee that the map board behind the noticeboard is outdated.

Cllr Wilson requested that the Engagement and Communications Committee develop a strategy on how to engage with residents.

Cllr Wilson asked whether the noticeboards are under warranty and if maintenance by the Rangers would affect that warranty.

Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting or before.

00281 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7TH JANUARY 2026

All motions for the next meeting of the Engagement and Communications Committee on 7th January 2026 must be received by 27th December 2025.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press will not be permitted to attend during the following items:

00282 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

a) To consider appointing a new website provider.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Zonkey as the new website provider.

The meeting was closed at 20:21pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

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