

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL** held in the **CARING IN THE COMMUNITY BAGNALL HALL, SACKVILLE ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA** on **Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Baldry (Deputy Mayor); Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Norris; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter; Cllr Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Miller, Clerk, three members of the public; Melanie Powell, Regeneration Officer RDC; Cllr Bayliss (RDC); Cllr Errington (RDC) two representatives of the Town Forum.

00193. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/BEXHILL TOWN FORUM

A member of the Sea Angling Club addressed the meeting to speak about concerns for the Sovereign Lantern Project.

00194. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Barfoot; Carroll; Drayson; Harding; Fenner; Izzard.

00195. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Baldry declared an interest in items concerning Bexhill Heritage and Bexhill Events. Cllr Brailsford, Thomas and Taylor-Gee declared an interest in items concerning Bexhill heritage

It was **RESOLVED** to move the following item up the agenda.

BEXHILL HERITAGE ROYAL SOVERIGN LANTERN TOWER PROJECT

00196. It was **RESOLVED** to write a letter of support and that the project should be mindful of the Angling Club position and their needs in the town.

MINUTES

00197. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th August 2021

00198. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th August 2021

00199. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th August 2021

00200. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st August 2021

00201. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The following minutes and updates of committees were received:

- a) 31/08/2021 Planning Committee – Noted
- b) 08/09/2021 Climate, Nature and Environment Committee – noted
- c) Premises Working Group
Cllr Plim reported that the offer on premises had fallen through and investigations continue.
- d) COVID Recovery Team
It was noted that the group will be meeting soon to review new ideas.

00202. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There are none.

00203. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor.
The Charter Trustees event was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to obtain further information from the Charter Trustees clerk.
- b) To note museum exhibition of regalia in 2022 and plans for council meetings during this period.
It was **RESOLVED** to support the museum exhibition and for the council meetings to take place at the museum from June – September 2022.

The Mayor reported on a meeting with the leader of Rother District Council that day, notes of the meeting shall be circulated. It was noted that it was the District Councils View that the town council does not have any rights of access to the town hall as it was passed to Rother District Council in 1974. Cllr Plim has requested evidence of the legal advice that RDC based this view on.

Further talks are planned, it was noted that a Committee could be formed to oversee the transfer of assets and services from RDC to the town council and this could be made up of the chairman of each committee.

00204. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) It was **RESOLVED** to limit external councillors reporting to 3 minutes, with written reports being received three days before the meeting.
- b) External councillor reports were received from Cllr Geary, Cllr Bayliss and Cllr Errington
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
Cllr Gibson and Cllr Baldry submitted a written report prior to the meeting. It was also noted that there will be a Bexhill Trust meeting on 22nd September 2021.
Cllr Taylor-Gee asked if posters could be produced to remind residents about the survey.

It was noted that there is a media and communications policy in place for PR communications to be published.

00205. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To approve GDPR risk assessment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the GDPR risk assessment.

BoSTC/18.08.2021 – 000052

- b) To approve freeman/freewoman policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Honorary Freedom of Bexhill Awards policy and it was agreed that item 2(a) shall include applications during January and February. Include 'at any time' for councillors to award Freedom Awards. 2 (b) during March. (e) and (f) the Awards may take place during April.

Item 4 (g) and 4 (h) need referring to Bexhill and 'civic' replaced by 'town'

- c) To agree the names of the seven or more required signatories on bank account for the purposes of sending online payments and cheque signing.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Cllrs Gibson; Brailsford; Thomas; Winter; Baldry; Rustem; Clasby as bank signatories.

- d) To note Bexhill Old Town Preservation Society not able to fund transfer of Bexhill Coat of Arms.

It was **RESOLVED** to continue to investigate how the town council can obtain the rights to the Bexhill coat of arms.

- e) To note several chaser emails sent to RDC for election costs information.

It was noted that the election costs have been estimated not in excess of £20,000.

Cllr Gibson left the meeting at 19:48

Cllr Gibson re-entered the meeting at 19:49

00206. TOWN FORUM

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the consideration of contracting the Town Forum to the next meeting. Accounts and Minutes shall be obtained for the council to consider and a specification for future facilitation of public consultation shall be researched.

- 00207.** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend the meeting to allow Melanie Powell, Regeneration Officer of Rother District Council to address the meeting.

00208. TOWN CENTRE STEERING GROUP

To receive report from Rother District Council and to consider how to proceed with the Town Centre Steering Group.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Gibson, Brailsford and Cllr Taylor-Gee to attend future meetings of the Steering Group for members to research what the Group does and to report back to full council.

The meeting was reconvened.

00209. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) **Cllr Izzard**

It was **RESOLVED** that Bexhill-on Sea Town Council, through social media, encourages and helps facilitate local residents and businesses in putting forward requests to East Sussex County Council for changes on restricted parking zones by the 30th September 2021.

b) **Cllr Izzard**

To consider support for the Fairtrade Town Group.

BoSTC/18.08.2021 – 000053

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this motion to the next meeting.

00210. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Invite from Battle Town Council to create a team of 4 councillors for a petanque match with Rye and Battle Town Councils on 15th October at 10:30am.
Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 20:32pm
Cllr Blagrove left the meeting at 20:33pm
It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllrs Clasby; Rustem; Drayson; Carroll.
- b) To agree two nominated judges for the Christmas Window Competition.
It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Gibson and Cllr Winter to judge the Christmas Window Competition.
- c) To note offer of stall at Anglo/Continental Market to promote town council survey – councillors being organised to attend.
Cllr Brailsford re-entered the meeting at 20:34pm
- d) Email from resident asking for the town council to recognise members of the community with an award – noted.
- e) Letter from District Cllr Bayliss requesting view of the town council regarding street trading licenses for Sackville Road.
It was **RESOLVED** to support street trading licences for Sackville Road as the council supports regeneration in the town.

00211. 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.
- b) To receive questions from councillors.
Cllr Thomas asked if the town council could use modern.gov for agendas.
Cllr Gibson left the meeting at 20:42pm
Cllr Gibson re-entered the meeting at 20:43pm
- c) To note any future agenda items.
Cllr Taylor-Gee asked for the full council to receive finance training.
Cllr Gibson asked for an update on the Bexhill Trust on the next agenda.
Cllr Plim asked about the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attendance at the Bexhill Trust meeting.

00212. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 20th OCTOBER 2021

00213. 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, it was **RESOLVED** that the public and the press were asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the next item:

*Cllr Wray left the meeting at 20:46pm
Cllr Wray re-entered the meeting at 20:47pm*

00214. TO REVIEW PROTOCOL POLICIES

A report was circulated and it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy.

Meeting closed at 20:48pm

DRAFT