

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
CLIMATE, NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held at **THE**
ROTHER DISTRICT TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA
on **Wednesday 12th July 2023** at **7pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr Baldry; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Norris; Cllr Plim; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter(ex-oficio); Cllr Brailsford (ex-oficio)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; Cllr Crotty; 5 members of the public

00168. TO ELECT CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Baldry to the position of Chair.

00169. TO ELECT VICE CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Gibson to the position of Vice Chair.

00170. TO APPOINT MEMBERSHIP OF ACCESSIBILITY WORKING GROUP - MINIMUM THREE COUNCILLORS

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Baldry; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Gibson.

00171. TO APPOINT MEMBERSHIP OF BEACH AND SEA WORKING GROUP - THREE COUNCILLORS

It was **RESOLVED** to no longer proceed with the Beach and Sea Working Group.

00172. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public asked that the committee take a strong stance on climate action and environmental matters and asked when the council will publish its scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

Cllr Crotty spoke about the Happy To Chat benches.

A member of the public asked the council to consider a recycled Christmas tree.

A member of the public spoke about the Happy To Chat benches, additional bins, the Domesday project, compostable toilet, the rail link to Polegate, "Grotbusters" and the Neighbourhood Plan.

00173. TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM BEXHILL MARITIME

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of the Royal Sovereign Light Lodge.

Cllr Gibson declared an interests as a volunteer at the foodbank.

Cllr Brailsford left the meeting.

00174. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

00175. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of the Royal Sovereign Light Lodge and a general interest as a Rother District Councillor.

Cllr Gibson declared an interests as a volunteer at the Foodbank.

00176. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00177. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the minutes from the meeting of 15th March 2023.

00178. TO REVIEW ALL PROJECTS AS PER FULL COUNCIL MOTION AND CONSIDER WHETHER TO CONTINUE OR STOP

Project	Status
Domesday Project	In progress – one year contract signed It was RESOLVED to continue.
Operation Radcott	Cllr Plim attending meetings. It was RESOLVED to stop attending.
Graffiti Issues	Invite Wave Arts to a meeting. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Funding Compostable Toilet	Agreed to fund at March Meeting. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Sewage Release	Meeting held with Southern Water. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Bexhill Family Collective CIC Allotment space	Town Clerk organising allotment space. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Happy to Chat	Not yet started organising bench at St Barnabas. It was RESOLVED to continue with the benches , monitor the signage, and to defer the St Barnabas bench.
Emergency Response Plan	Not yet started organising template from ESALC. It was RESOLVED to continue.
East Sussex Highways Liaison	Organising SLR meeting with ESCC. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Community Fridge	Investigations not started yet. It was RESOLVED to stop.
New rail link to Polegate	Invite English Regional Transport Association to a meeting. It was RESOLVED to not to continue but to support the campaign to stop the closure of ticket offices.
Natural England request for Coastal Path maintenance	Investigations not started yet.

	BoSTC/12/07/2023 00051
	It was RESOLVED to wait for Natural England to respond with further information.
“Grot Busting” Team	Investigations not started yet. It was RESOLVED to continue with this investigation.
Grit Bins	It was RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.
Hanging Baskets	It was RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.
Welcome to Bexhill signs	Awaiting confirmation from Highways England. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Neighbourhood Plan	On this agenda. It was RESOLVED to continue.
Verge Cutting – additional cuts	Paid for 2023. It was RESOLVED to continue and look at ways that the Town Council can have more control over the cuts.

00179. TO RECEIVE NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- a) Town Accessibility Working Group – Meeting to be arranged.
- b) Beach and Sea Working Group – this group has been discontinued.

00180. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

- a) Operation Radcott – to receive update from Cllr Plim.
- b) Beach and Sea Working Group – meeting deferred.
 - i. To note ‘Happy to Chat’ signs installed on benches.
 - ii. To note the clerk to organise the supply and installation of a new ‘Happy to Chat’ bench up to the value of £2000.00 at earliest opportunity now deferred.
- Cllr Winter left the meeting.*
- iii. ‘Welcome to Bexhill’ signs – to note awaiting permission to install from National Highways
- c) To note template to be requested from ESALC for emergency response plan.
- d) To note Wave Arts to be invited to a future meeting to discuss ways of dealing with graffiti issues.
- e) Sewage release on Galley Hill – to note community stakeholder meeting held with Southern Water to discuss the evidence and consider next steps.
It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to investigate how the Town Council can work with local groups and Southern Water.
- f) To receive update on the Bexhill Wild Domesday Project.
The project is underway, and a full update will be reported at the next meeting.

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00181. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- a) To note Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting being arranged with East Sussex County Council to raise outstanding highways matters from last agenda and to nominate members to attend.
It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Plim, Cllr Gibson and Cllr Thomas.
- b) To review verge cutting progress – this was covered earlier in the meeting.
- c) “Grot-busters” to note Clerk investigating options.

00182. ALLOTMENT SITES

- a) To note Allotment Status update.
The allotment status was noted, and councillors will be invited to a site visit to see the extent of works required to regularise the sites.
- b) To receive Preston Road boundary report – noted.
- c) To receive Sidley House boundary report – noted.
Both reports were noted, and it was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Clerk to allocate up to £5000 from the projects budget to begin emergency remedial works. Financial Regulations shall be suspended to work with the Pelham Social Enterprise to complete the work.
It was **RESOLVED** to thank the Town Council staff for the in-depth reports provided and all their hard work in identifying the issues.
Grant funding will be investigated for all works on the allotments.
- d) To approve allotment inspection form.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the inspection form.
- e) To approve allotment inspection policy.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the inspection policy.
- f) To approve application for shed/ greenhouse form.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the application for shed/greenhouse form.
An update on the Dragonflies Nursery project was received and the Clerk will continue to work with the organisation to complete the project. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a 10% discount to the allotment tenancy agreement due to the number of plots being taken on.

00183. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- a) To designate Neighbourhood Plan area and to note contact with Rother District Council officer to proceed with Plan.
It was **RESOLVED** to ask Rother District Council to designate the entire area of Bexhill to be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan and to proceed with the project.
It was **RESOLVED** to invite the District Council officer to address the committee to advise on next steps. Other councillors will be invited to come along and observe the presentation.

00184. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To note current budget position year to date:

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Future Projects Budget £20,000 allocated £10,000 to Domesday project.
£5,000. Allotment Rent Income Budget £1365 received £729.
Allotment Expenditure Water Budget £650 spent £0.
Allotment Expenditure Maintenance Budget £4,000 spent £0.

00185. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Baldry.
That the Town Clerk is asked to investigate the cost of funding a limited number of replacement or additional waste bins with the Town Council logo to include regular emptying where the current provision is inadequate. It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the cost of funding a limited number of replacement or additional waste bins with the Town Council logo to include regular emptying where the current provision is inadequate.

00186. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Complaint about graffiti.
- b) Email from Rother District Council regarding shade at Skate Park.
- c) Dog Control in Rother consultation – to consider a response.
It was **RESOLVED** for individuals to respond personally to the consultation.
- d) Email from East Sussex County Council regarding wildflower verges.
- e) Email from Rother District Council regarding Energy Champion Training.
- f) Email from resident – 5G mast meeting flyers.
It was noted that RDC have not yet provided a risk assessment for the 5G masts.
- g) Email from Highways 30mph signs in Cooden Sea Road.
- h) Updates on overgrown verges.
- i) Email from East Sussex County Council regarding major bus service changes.
- j) Transport for the South East Forum - notification of meeting.

00187. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) Questions carried forward from the last meeting.
There were none.
- b) To receive questions and future agenda items.
Cllr Plim asked about the noticeboard suggested for the allotments would be the same template as the Town Council noticeboards.

00188. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 11TH OCTOBER 2023

The meeting closed at 21:00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

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