

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
FULL COUNCIL held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN**
HALL,
on **Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter; Cllr Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; District Councillor Harmer.

00324. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

00325. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Izzard; Brailsford; Norris; Baldry for which reasons were given and accepted

Cllr Taylor-Gee entered the meeting at 18:31pm

00326. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in items relating to RDC as chair of Rother Alliance Homes and the Rother cycling champion
Cllr Drayson declared an interest in the Light up Bexhill item

00327. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 2021 and Wednesday 10th November 2021.

00328. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The following minutes and updates of committees were received:

- a) 27/10/2021 Finance and General Purposes Committee
- b) 03/11/2021 Community Committee
- c) 03/11/2021 Planning Committee
- d) 10/11/2021 Climate, Nature and Environment Committee

00329. WORKING GROUPS

To receive notes from meetings of working groups reporting to full council
There were none.

00330. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Climate Nature and Environment Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the council fund 3 councillors/staff members to attend the Zero Carbon Britain: Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities course at the cost of £140 per person (£420 total). Attendees will be accredited with Climate literate status.

The members to attend shall be approved at the next Climate, Nature and Environment Committee in January

b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to update terms of reference to include:

Receive and review a financial risk assessment from each committee for any new council initiative.

00331. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) An update on the work of the Town Mayor was noted.
Remembrance Events were discussed. Cllr Harmer was thanked for attending and the clerk was thanked for organising at short notice.

00332. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) External councillor reports were noted.
Apologies were received from County Councillors and District Councillor Errington.
Cllr Harmer gave an update report.
- b) Ward reports were received from Town Councillors.

00333. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To consider budget and precept for 2022-23.
Cllr Wray left the meeting at 19:18pm
Cllr Wray re-entered the meeting at 19:19pm
Cllr Drayson left the meeting at 19:35pm
Cllr Drayson re-entered the meeting at 19:36pm
It was **RESOLVED** for the Climate, Nature and Environment Committee to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting in order to prepare a detailed breakdown of the budget proposals and bring back to full council for consideration.
- b) To receive recommendation from Cllrs Gibson, Brailsford and Taylor-Gee on the future of the Town Centre Steering Group.
It was noted that this item will be discussed at the next meeting.
- c) To approve terms of reference for Asset Transfer Committee.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the terms of reference
- i. The Chairman of the council shall be included
 - ii. The Vice chairman will attend in the place of the chairman if the chairman is attending the same meeting in another role.
 - iii. add in 'and report its impact on the precept'
- d) To note update from Rother District Council regarding renewal on the Fair Trade status
It was noted that advice from Rother District Council is being sought.
- e) To receive breakdown of election costs from Rother District Council
The breakdown was noted.
Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 20:34pm
Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 20:36pm

00334. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) **Cllr Blagrove**

For each councillor to plant a cherry tree in their ward (two trees per ward) accompanied by a plaque with the name of the councillor, to commemorate the formation of the town council at a cost of £1650.

Cllr Wray left and re-entered the meeting at 20:38pm

There was no seconder for the motion, the motion fell.

b) **Cllr Blagrove**

To arrange for a local garment maker to design and make new Mayoral robes using funds from the Mayoral budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Charter Trustees fund is used to replace the Mayoral robes and hats.

c) **Cllr Baldry**

To delegate approval of activities proposed by the Covid Recovery Working Group and breakdown of remaining costings for the Covid Recovery fund to the Community Committee

Cllr Taylor- Gee proposed this motion in the absence of Cllr Baldry. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the activities proposed by the COVID Working Group. The working group present a final report to the Community Committee who will take up the activities. The COVID working group shall then dissolve.

d) **Cllr Taylor-Gee**

That the Community Committee proceed with a well-being event in Devonshire Square as discussed by the COVID Recovery Working Group.

This motion fell due to the previous motion endorsing this action.

Cllr Drayson left the meeting at 21:08pm

00335. CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Plim reported that he had received correspondence regarding the inclusion of a celebrant at the Remembrance service.

00336. It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing order 3(x) to allow the meeting to continue to conclusion.

00337. Request from Light Up Bexhill for donation of £2000

It was **RESOLVED** not to donate £2000 to Light Up Bexhill.

It was **RESOLVED** to ring fence £5000 in the grants and donations budget for Christmas lights and encourage applications.

00338. 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 Barfoot asked if he could hand over his position on the Community Committee to Cllr Thomas.	A councillor wishing to step down from a committee must inform the clerk. The full council will then vote on the replacement member at the next meeting.
Cllr Brailsford asked if councillors could use the town council name on their election nomination forms, rather than independent group names to avoid confusion in the forthcoming elections.	Political references on nomination forms are the responsibility of the individual councillor. More advice can be sought from the Electoral Commission. Home Page Electoral Commission
Cllr Blagrove asked if councillors could consider disbanding their equivalent independent parties and stand as truly independent councillors and work as one corporate body.	Political party membership is the personal choice of the individual councillor.
Cllr Drayson asked if a clear description of what each authority does could be produced, possibly at a shared cost.	This will be added to the Community Committee agenda for consideration
Cllr Thomas asked that personal attacks against councillors on social media platforms should stop.	Councillors have committed to follow the Code of Conduct, this applies to all forms of communication, including online. Councillors must treat all persons fairly and with respect. The Monitoring Officer at Rother District Council has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct and councillors are encourage to seek advise on any matters relating to behavioural conduct.
Cllr Drayson asked about email etiquette and asked councillors not 'reply to all'.	The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall consider an email policy in its audit review.
Cllr Gibson asked about what the town council can do to protect councillors concerning the murder of MP David Amess.	Town Council organised events are risk-assessed, this risk assessment shall include member safety. Any councillor arranging private meetings should seek guidance from the clerk on risk assessment.
Cllr Thomas asked that councillors be more respectful to each other on social media.	Councillors have committed to follow the Code of Conduct, this applies to all forms of communication, including social media.
Cllr Harding asked what happens with the requests made by members of the public when they address the meeting.	Requests made by members of the public that are not already on an agenda are added to the next relevant committee agenda for discussion

- b) To receive questions from councillors.
Cllr Blagrove asked what position of authority Cllr Izzard has in advising the council on COVID.
- c) To note future agenda items
Cllr Winter asked that the council investigates becoming a Dementia Friendly Town.
Cllr Harding asked that pronouns be reviewed in council documents.
Cllr Blagrove asked for councillors to have a group photograph.

00339. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19TH JANUARY 2022

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, the public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of item:

00340. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL ADVICE REGARDING LEASE

It was noted that a lease is awaited from the landlord to be reviewed by the council’s solicitor.

Meeting closed at 21:48pm

Signed.....

Date.....