

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL** held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA**

On **Wednesday 7th February 2024** at **6:30pm**.

PRESENT: Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Byrne; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Drayson; Cllr El; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Norris; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; one member of the public.

00589 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public representing Bexhill Carnival Committee spoke of the benefits of sponsorship of the event.

00590 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Wilson.
Apologies were given by Cllr Crotty but with no reasons.

00591 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council and as Trustee and Director of Citizen's Advice.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Plim declared an interest as a member of the Carnival Committee, an attendee of St Leonards Greening and RAF Air Cadet Squadron.

Cllr Brailsford declared an interest as a member of the RAF Air Cadet Squadron.

Cllr Hampton declared an interest as a member of the Carnival Committee.
The Civic Nominations interests were taken during that item.

00592 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00593 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Full Council:

a) Wednesday 10th January 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

Cllr Timpe asked that it was noted that Cllr Byrne and Cllr Timpe were not asked to re-enter the room at the budget discussion at the last meeting.

00594 COMMITTEES

To note the minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:

- a) Asset Transfer Committee 17/01/24
- b) Community Committee 17/01/24
- c) Planning and Development advisory Committee 24/01/24
- d) Finance and General Purposes Committee 24/01/24
- e) To note current vacancies on committees as per Terms of Reference and appoint members to the following vacancies:
 - i. Planning, Development and Advisory Committee x 1
There were no nominations.
 - ii. Climate, Nature and Environment Committee x 2
There were no nominations.
 - iii. Community Committee x 1
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Timpe to the Community Committee.
 - iv. Finance and General Purposes Committee x 1
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Timpe to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

00595 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Community Committee.
 - i. To consider sponsoring Bexhill Carnival at a cost of £3000.
Cllr Plim and Cllr Hampton left the meeting at 18:44pm
It was **RESOLVED** to sponsor the event at £5000 per year for the next three years from the council's reserve, for the Town Council to become the Carnival's sponsor contingent to the Carnival Committee being asked to submit a satisfactory plan to the Council for review.
The Carnival Committee will be asked to review expansion plans for the future to ensure other areas of Bexhill are included.

Cllr Plim and Cllr Hampton re-entered the meeting at 19:08pm.

00596 MAYOR'S OFFICE

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

00597 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External Councillors may report for three minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.
A written report from East Sussex County Councillors was received along with details of the parking changes. It was agreed to ask who the Town Board is going to be accountable to and how will they be scrutinized.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.
Cllr Timpe noted that the roundabout project at Glyne Gap was progressing.
- c) To receive reports from Town Councillors – there were none.

00598 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.

- a) To note resignation of Cllr Clasby and byelection to be held in Kewhurst Ward on 7th March 2024.
- b) To review Council project list as of December 2023.
The project list was reviewed.
- c) To receive update from Terms of Reference Review working group.
Cllr Brailsford gave a verbal update and the full report will be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

00599 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To note update on the High Street Task Force – Cllr Brailsford.
An update was noted. Cllr Brailsford thanked councillors for their contributions.
- b) To note any updates on leaders' meetings – Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Wilson.
The notes were circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there will be no Special Expenses charged by Rother District Council in 2024/25 for Bus Shelters.

00600 SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note no further update.

00601 NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To receive report on public meeting with MP – 26th January 2024.
A report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the MP is focusing on the Northeys residents now that the site is being proposed as a closed detention site. The Town Council will continue to review the situation before organising a public meeting.

00602 ST LEONARD'S ROAD GREENING PROJECT

- a) To receive update.
It was noted that Community Supporters offered to facilitate the group.

00603 PEBSHAM ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

- a) To note update.

It was noted that Cllr El has attended meetings with contractors to explore ideas for the accessible play park. It was noted that Rother District Council are open to negotiation to lease the area at the Recreation Ground.

00604 CRAZY GOLF COURSE

- a) To receive report and consider next steps.

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

It was agreed to make enquiries to Rother District Council about leasing the land identified in the report.

00605 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting)

- a) RALC – Cllr Wilson and Cllr Jacklin
- b) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor
- c) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Timpe.
- d) Citizen's Advice – Cllr Winter.
- e) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Jacklin.
- f) To appoint two representatives to attend a Parish Council Devolved Services meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Brailsford to attend, along with Cllr Plim.

00606 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Jacklin.

Can we look into the cost and feasibility of establishing a directory or network of local community groups, events and organisations.
The motion fell.

It was suggested to enquire of Rother Voluntary Action if a representative could feedback to the Town Council.

- b) Cllr Jacklin.

Is there a means by which we can provide data on the number of people the office helps through day-to-day enquiries and other help?

The motion was withdrawn.

00607 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) To receive Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog control order.
- b) Email asking for recognition of "Keane".

It was **RESOLVED** to contact the band Keane to investigate a future event in Bexhill and reference to Keane will be added to the website.

00608 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a) To receive answers to questions raised at the last meeting.

Cllr Drayson asked. If the council could hold a councillor surgery on the first Saturday of every month at the hub.	The Finance and General Purposes committee have investigated this previously and this is not currently possible due to the risk assessment.
Cllr Norris asked. What the Town Council could do to raise awareness of the cigarette enforcement officers patrols.	Known information can be added to the council's website and social media channels.

b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.

Cllr Timpe asked what the risk assessment for the Hub states for public access.

Cllr Drayson asked what use if any can the town council make of volunteers.

Cllr Drayson asked if the council is aware that over the last 20 years both the great crested newt and little whirlpool ramshorn snail species have been lost from the Pevensey Levels.

Cllr Plim asked if clarification on these species could be sought from David Dennis.

Cllr Timpe asked if on March 3rd Covid Reflection Day if they are planning to do anything to support the day.

Cllr Goss asked in the minutes of the full council it is noted that F&GP rejected the plan to buy new bins. In accounts a bin has been bought, how did it get bought and who is maintaining it.

Cllr Jacklin asked if councillors can come with suggestions to help the wider community being brought back into the Carnival from 2025 in the next review.

c) To note any future agenda items.

There were none.

d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

There were none.

00609 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6TH MARCH 2024

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 were asked to leave the meeting during consideration of item 00610 – 00612:

00610 METHODIST CHURCH, SACKVILLE ROAD

a) To receive update on Asset of Community Value and other commercial options.

00611 CIVIC AWARD NOMINATIONS

a) To agree award winners for 2023-24

It was **RESOLVED** that the nomination process shall exclude sitting Town Councillors and members of the public that nominated Councillors for a Civic Award will be written to thank them and explain that under the circumstances the Town Council does not think it appropriate to recognise with its own award scheme.

The details of the nominations will be sent to Rother District Council to consider in its own award scheme.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following as award winners:

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 20:32pm

Jimmy Carroll

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 20:33pm

Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 20:34pm

Cllr Winter took the chair

Raymond Konyn

Kaye Collier

Cllr Jacklin and Cllr El left the meeting at 20:36pm

Steve Lucas

Cllr El re-entered the meeting at 20:38pm

and Cllr Hampton left the meeting at 20:38pm

Lindsay White

Cllr Hampton re-entered the meeting at 20:39pm

Frances Rowland

Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 20:39pm

Cllr Brailsford re-entered the meeting at 20:40pm and resumed the Chair.

Emily Ansell

Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 20:41pm

Cllr Winter and Cllr Hampton left the meeting at 20:41pm
Besnik Hexha

Cllr Winter and Cllr Hampton re-entered the meeting at 20:42pm

Cllr Jacklin re-entered the meeting at 20:43pm

Cllr Plim left the meeting at 20:42pm

It was **RESOLVED** for the Heart of Sidley to be awarded the Community Organisation Award

It was **RESOLVED** for Daisy Eagle to be awarded the Youth Award.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 20:55pm

It was **RESOLVED** for Jimmy Carroll to be awarded the Freedom of the Town.

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 20:56pm

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting until 21:15pm

00612 VIDEO RECORDINGS OF MEETINGS

a) To consider procurement and contractual information relating to video recording meetings.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Mike Alan Audio on a one year contract with the condition that all meetings are covered.

The meeting was closed at 21:09pm.