

## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL Climate, Nature and Environment Committee** held at the **Summer Hill Allotment Site** on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Plim; Cllr Baldry; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Wray

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** 3 members of the public; J Miller, Clerk; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Winter

**00111. TO ELECT CHAIRMAN**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Wray as Chairman

**00112. TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Izzard as Vice Chairman

**00113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Norris and Cllr Brailsford.

**00114. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were none.

**00115. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

*The meeting was adjourned to allow members of the public to address the meeting.*

**00116. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

District Councillor Bayliss reported on the better bus initiative.

A member of the public spoke in objection to Cllr Izzard's East Sussex County Council Divest motion.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

**00117. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

To review terms of reference

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the terms of reference to include 'to promote health and well-being.'

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the terms of reference to include 'to address matters that affect climate and nature in the town.'

It was **RESOLVED** to include 'to be responsible for the verges, should the council adopt this function in the future.'

- 00118.** The committee annual budget was noted as the following:  
**Allotment Maintenance Expenditure £2350**  
**Allotment Water Expenditure £630**  
**Allotment Rental Income £1630**  
It was noted that the financial efficiency of the allotments shall be reviewed at a future meeting.
- 00119.** To consider formation of Community, Climate and Nature Emergency Panel. It was **RESOLVED** to form a Working Group ‘Community Climate and Nature Panel.’
- 00120.** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the terms of reference for the working group as follows:
- a) The Panel shall consist of 3 councillor members appointed by the CNE Committee and an unlimited number of non-councillor members (any local community organisations, residents and businesses should be invited to join)
  - b) The Panel shall take full account of the climate and nature experts advice, as appointed by the CNE Committee.
  - c) The Panel will hold a number of sessions (dates and venues to be decided by the panel in conjunction with the town clerk) for members to learn about the climate and nature challenges we face, to research and debate local possible solutions and to form and present a list of priorities and recommendations to Full Council.
  - d) The Panel will produce notes for each meeting, of which are to be circulated to all Panel members and progress updates are to be provided to the CNE Committee regularly.
  - e) This panel is unable to make council decisions however is able to make full representation to each relevant committee/full council in line with the council Standing orders.
- 00121.** It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Izzard; Taylor-Gee and Wray to the Working Group Panel.
- 00122.** It was **RESOLVED** for the committee to form a working group to research be formed to investigate beach and bathing issues and a draft terms of reference will be provided to the next meeting for consideration.
- 00123.** It was noted that each future council decision shall consist of project plan report format prepared by the town clerk, the report shall include an assessment of the impact of each decision on the environment.
- 00124.** It was **RESOLVED** that the Community and Nature Emergency Panel will consider how the council can monitor its progress in carbon neutrality.

**FUTURE MEETING GUESTS**

- 00111.** It was **RESOLVED** to invite the East Sussex County Council Climate Emergency Officer to present to the committee.
- 00112.** It was **RESOLVED** to invite the Rother District Council Senior Environment Officer to present to the committee.
- 00125.** It was **RESOLVED** that any other suitable guests, such as local groups, will be invited to a future meeting.
- 00126. GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK**  
To consider participation 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and agree actions  
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to full council support the Bexhill Fair Trade Town Committee using the social media channels of the town council.
- 00127. LOCAL ISSUES**  
Major sewerage leak at St Leonards beach.  
It was **RESOLVED** to write to Southern Water to note concerns re the leak and impact on tourism on Bexhill-on-Sea, asking them to provide a report on what happened and what measures are being put in place to address it.
- 00128. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
The clerk shall provide more information in report form at a future meeting.
- 00129. ALLOTMENT SITES**  
It was noted that the clerk is liaising with Rother District Council regarding allotment responsibilities and a full report will be received at the next meeting.  
It was asked if the clerk could identify new allotment sites as part of the report.
- 00130. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**  
**Cllr Izzard**  
It was **RESOLVED** that this committee recommends to Full Council that Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council supports the Divest East Sussex Campaign calling on East Sussex County Council to divest the East Sussex Pension fund from its holdings in the damaging Fossil Fuel companies, and that a letter should be sent to the East Sussex Pension Committee from BTC urging them to show real leadership in the climate crisis and make a commitment to urgently divest the remaining investments in fossil fuel companies.
- 00131. CORRESPONDENCE**  
To consider request from East Sussex County Council for Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council to take responsibility of Gubby's Balls in Devonshire Square.  
It was **RESOLVED** to carry out an investigation into the costs and benefits of taking responsibility for the balls and possible inclusion of the square.  
To consider Cllr Bayliss request to promote the use of buses.

It was **RESOLVED** to promote the use of buses  
Cllr Carroll agreed to research further and report back to the committee.

**00132. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Cllr Izzard asked for the chief medical officer's report on coastal community health be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Izzard asked for the NALC meeting for coastal communities to be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Izzard asked for improved disability access to be considered at a future meeting

Cllr Carroll asked councillors to support the Running Space initiative on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Pelham promoting National Suicide Day.

Cllr Thomas asked if the clerk had followed up the funding for disabled toilets that he had emailed about.

*The meeting closed at 20:35pm*

Signed.....

Date.....