

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA

On **Wednesday 30th April 2025** at **6:00pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Byrne; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Drayson; Cllr El; Cllr Goss; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Peters; Cllr Plim; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; One videographer; Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council); Cllr Jimmy Stanger (Rother District Council); nine members of the public.

00726 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke in objection to planning application RR/2024/2052/P (81 Cooden Drive, Bexhill – Collington Ward). They raised concerns about noise, inadequate site protection, and perceived issues related to the biodiversity report. They also noted that a previous application for five flats on the same site had been dismissed at appeal, and that the current application is again for five flats.

The Director of Come As You Are CIC, a newly established community interest company supporting families with neurodiverse children and those with physical and learning disabilities, addressed the Town Council. They requested the Council's support in their proposal to lease the bowls pavilion in Egerton Park and to list it as an Asset of Community Value. They also reported having raised formal concerns regarding the devolution process and asked the Town Council to consider approaching Rother District Council to acquire the building for lease to the CIC.

The council has made an expression of interest to Rother District Council for the devolvement of Egerton Park.

A member of the public asked when the Marina Gardens planting project will be finished, and what it will look like. They asked if any information on devolution will be published for residents, and what the timescale is for all licensed toilets to be opened.

Rother District Council is installing signage at Marina Gardens to explain the planting scheme and provide a visual representation of the completed project. The end date for the works remains subject to weather conditions. Further updates regarding the devolution process will be provided when available and all licensed toilets have now been opened.

Initial.....

00727 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Crotty, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Rustem.

Councillors extended their best wishes to Cllr Crotty for a speedy recovery following his recent operation.

00728 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council, and an interest in the planning items on the agenda as the chair of the Rother District Council Planning Committee.

Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council, an interest as a trustee of the De La Warr pavilion, and director of Old Town Occasions.

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

00729 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Paul Wilson reported that his personal fundraising event took place Saturday 26th April 2025 and raised approximately £4,000 for Sidley Cricket Club.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Local Government Reorganisation item to move to the closed session at the end of the meeting due to commercial sensitivity.

00730 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meetings of the full council:

a) Extra-ordinary meeting of Wednesday 26th March 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Wednesday 26th March 2025.

b) Wednesday 26th March 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 26th March 2025.

00731 COMMITTEES

- a) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:
- i. Engagement and Communications Committee 02/04/25 - noted.
 - ii. Finance and Audit Committee 09/04/25 – noted.

00732 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES – there are none.

00733 MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor.
An update was circulated prior to the meeting.

00734 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for 3 minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Cllr Hollidge attended the meeting to provide an update on East Sussex County Council's involvement in the devolution process. He advised that papers would be issued for the Lead Member meeting on 3rd May, covering the potential transition to a Strategic Mayoral Authority. He noted that further details from central government were expected and that he is currently serving on committees examining aspects of a possible unitary authority, including planning, housing, and transport.

- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

Cllr Stanger (St Marks Ward) provided an update on local matters, including ongoing concerns regarding the A259, noting that a petition calling for safety improvements had reached 1,110 signatures following a number of fatalities. He reported that Community Safety is implementing a new DISC system to address issues in the hospitality sector and the night-time economy. Cllr Stanger conducted visits with Inspector Hart to encourage local sign-ups.

He also met with Simon Yates to discuss recent incidents in the town, noting that while some reports may have been exaggerated, work is ongoing to address anti-social behaviour.

The retail DISC system has logged 1,050 reports, with evidence from the system contributing to the successful prosecution of a shoplifter.

Cllr Stanger noted that Herbrand Walk could become a concern over the summer and said it is being proactively managed in line with the approach used at Camber.

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors. – There were none.

00735 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) To consider response to the following applications:

- i. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015 - Firetank and Pumphouse with BNG Mitigation Areas. Pebsham Waste Transfer Station and Hastings Household Waste Recycling Site, Freshfields, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN38 8AY

- It was **RESOLVED** to fully support the application.
- ii. RR/2024/2052/P BEXHILL (Collington Ward) 81 Cooden Drive, Bexhill Demolition of existing bungalow and garage, replacement with five flats and a dwelling, parking for nine cars, stopping up of an existing driveway and construction of new access and highway crossover. (Alternative to planning permission RR/2021/1519/P (allowed on appeal))

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this planning application.

It was noted that an additional flat to be constructed in the roof space was previously dismissed at appeal. This constitutes a clear breach of planning control. The Town Council expects Rother District Council (RDC) to enforce existing planning restrictions and not to support any retrospective variations that legitimise unauthorised development. The Town Council requests that this application be referred to the Planning Committee for determination.

- b) To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Plim and Cllr Winter)
It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Wilson and Thomas would join the Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

00736 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive notes from leaders meeting held on 4th April 2025. – Notes were circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) To note Rother District Council ownership of war memorial and this added to the devolution list. The Little Common war memorial ownership still under investigation. – noted.
- c) To note heads of terms for Pebsham Play Park delayed due to requirement for Rother District Council officer to sign statutory declaration. – noted.
- d) To note Cllr Hampton resignation. Deadline for request for election has passed without the requisite number of signatures, therefore the town council can co-opt the vacancy at a future meeting. – noted.

00737 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To consider addition to Standing Orders formalising strike-out voting.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve addition to Standing Orders formalising strike-out voting.

00738 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- a) RALC – Cllr Jacklin and Cllr Thomas.
Cllr Jacklin was thanked for an excellent report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk is authorised to support the organisation of a meeting of the Rother parishes where necessary.

- b) Citizen’s Advice – Cllr Byrne.
There were no updates.
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor.
Cllr Plim reported that the drill hall is still not open, and it was **RESOLVED** for the town council to make a representation to the Ministry of Defence to enquire about the future of the drill hall as the cadets are travelling to Battle.
- d) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Timpe.
Cllr Timpe reported that projects were progressing.
- e) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Jacklin.
There were no updates.
- f) Town Board – Cllr Wilson.
A report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that this has been changed from Town Board to Plan For Neighbourhoods.
- g) Combe Valley CIC – Cllr Jacklin.
- h) Chamber of Commerce Centenary Fund Assessment Panel – Cllr Wilson.

00739 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Wilson
To consider the balance of the Mayor’s budget (£2,765) to be paid to the Mayor’s chosen charity i.e. Sidley Cricket Club.
It was **RESOLVED** that the balance of the Mayor’s budget (£2,765) will be paid to the Mayor’s chosen charity i.e. Sidley Cricket Club.

00740 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION – there are none.

00741 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Cllr Peters asked if ID cards could be provided for councillors.	This suggestion will be added to the Engagement and Communications Committee Agenda
Cllr Peters asked can the town council do something for Armed Forces Day this year, as there is a grant available to Town Councils.	This suggestion will be added to the Engagement and Communications Committee Agenda
Cllr Hunt reported that there was a fire at Gullivers land and asked if the town council can do anything to ensure that the land is made safe.	This is privately owned land. The matter has been reported to Rother District Council.

<p>Cllr Blagrove asked if one of the flyers for the Rother Forum could be included in the parish council noticeboards.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>BoSTC/30.04.25-00181</u></p> <p>As the group description is that it has been set up for political discussion, this does not meet the criteria of the current Noticeboard Policy.</p>
<p>Cllr Plim asked if the Marketing and Communications officer would be able to reply to social media comments.</p>	<p>Replying to all comments could risk engaging in unproductive or negative discussions, which may not align with the council's communication strategy.</p>
<p>Cllr Blagrove asked why the Facebook is not monitored and why were there links to a Facebook group on posts for three days.</p>	<p>Council officers can't monitor social media 24/7 because staffing and resources are limited, and officers work standard office hours.</p>

- b) To receive questions from councillors.
 Cllr Drayson asked where did asking questions of Cllrs addressing the committees come from.
 Cllr Drayson asked why vote on changing the standing orders when two motions have been passed without written submission.
 Cllr Jacklin asked to begin the preparation and promotion of the September Town Meeting.

Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting or before.

- c) Any future agenda items.
 There were none.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

00742 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 21st MAY 2025 ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING

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 will not be permitted to attend during the following items:

00743 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

- a) To review asset lists for devolution and agree Expression of Interest items to be submitted.
 Formal thanks were noted to the team of officers involved in writing this report.

*Cllr Peters left the meeting at 19:27pm
 Cllr Peters re-entered the meeting at 19:29pm*

Initial.....

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 19:41pm

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 19:41pm

A report was received, and it was **RESOLVED** to express an interest in the devolution of the East Sussex County Council assets listed as follows:

It was **RESOLVED** to express an interest in the devolution of footpaths and twittens.

It was **RESOLVED** to express an interest in the devolution of the Rother District Council assets listed as follows:

It was **RESOLVED** to express an interest in the devolution of the Rother District Council assets listed as follows:

A recorded vote was called:

It was **RESOLVED** to express an interest in the devolution of the Rother District Council assets listed as follows:

FOR:

Cllr Blagrove
Cllr Byrne
Cllr Carroll
Cllr Drayson
Cllr El
Cllr Goss
Cllr Huseyin
Cllr Jacklin
Cllr Peters
Cllr Plim
Cllr Thomas
Cllr Wilson
Cllr Winter

AGAINST:

Cllr Timpe

It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to ask Rother District Council for a comprehensive list of their assets within Bexhill-on-Sea.

00744 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

Initial.....

There were none.

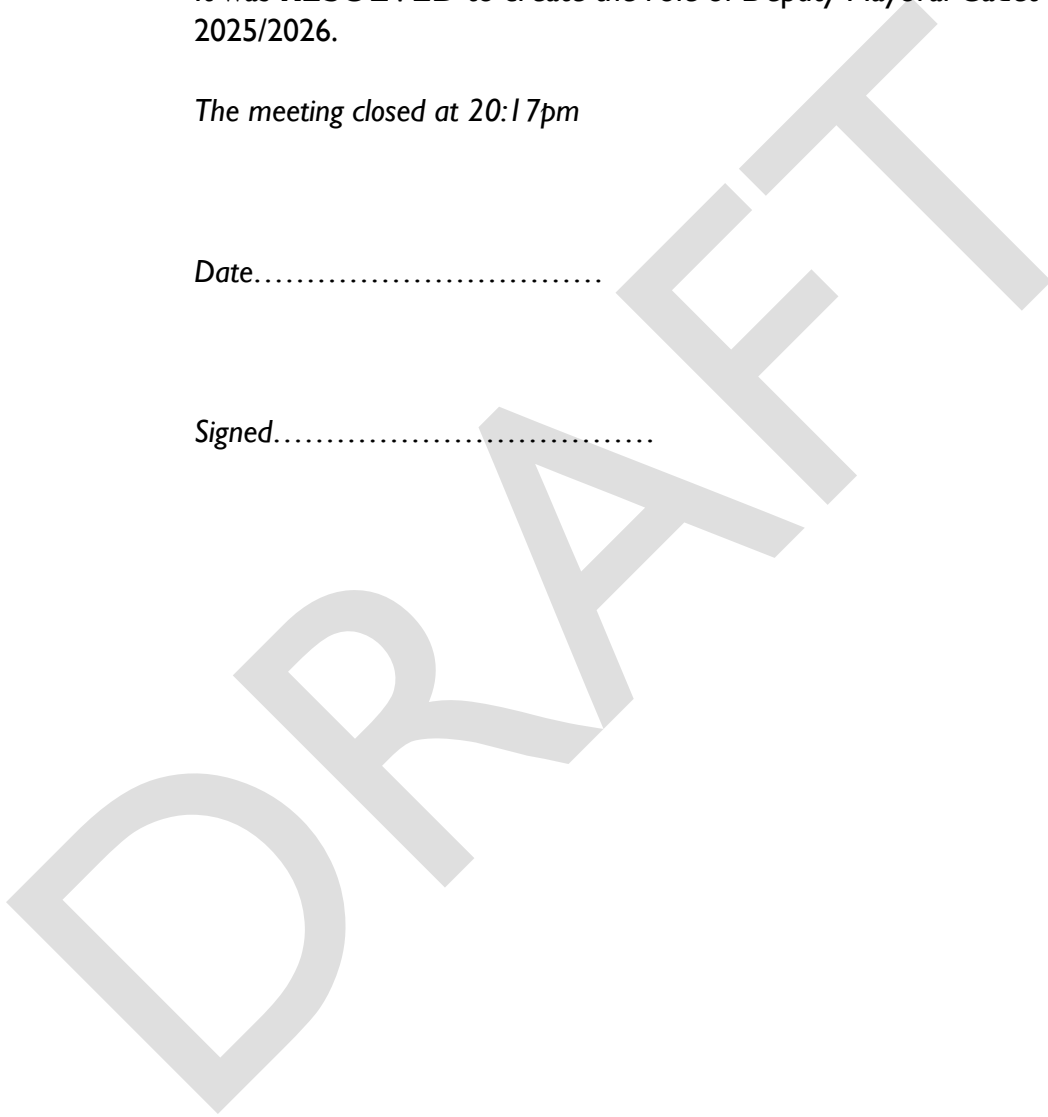
00745 MAYORAL CADET

- a) To receive update and approve Mayoral Cadet selection for 2025/2026.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve Mayoral Cadet selection for 2025/2026.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve Standard Bearer for 2025/2026.
It was **RESOLVED** to create the role of Deputy Mayoral Cadet for 2025/2026.

The meeting closed at 20:17pm

Date.....

Signed.....



Initial.....