

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL Climate, Nature and Environment Committee** held at the **Town Hall Committee Room** on **Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Norris; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Thomas;

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public; J Miller, Clerk; Cllr Winter, District Councillor Courtel.

00193. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

00194. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Thomas declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Neighbourhood Plan item.

00195. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

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

00196. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke on their experience of Electric Vehicle Charging Points.

Cllr Courtel spoke on a proposal for town centre litter collections.

The meeting was reconvened.

00197. It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to allow Mr Andy Dinsdale to address the meeting.

00198. GUEST: ANDY DINSDALE – 'CLEAN SEAS PLEASE'

Mr Dinsdale spoke about the work of Strandliners, the Rother based marine environmental community group and the continuing work of the Rother Voluntary Action's Clean Seas Please project in Bexhill and demonstrated how pollution is affecting the seas.

00199. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 11th August 2021 with a minor amendment to 000131 'it was **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendations of the Better Buses report.'

WORKING GROUPS

It was noted that the Community, Climate and Nature Panel are arranging a meeting.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE BEACH AND BATHING WORKING GROUP

00200. It was **RESOLVED** to change the working group name to the 'beach and sea working group' and to adopt the following terms of reference:

- a) The Working Group shall consist of 3 Councillor members appointed by the CNE Committee and an unlimited number of non-councillor members with an interest in beach and bathing quality.
- b) The Working Group shall research the existing and future issues that affect the quality of the beaches and bathing in Bexhill-on-Sea and present a list of recommendations to Climate, Nature and Environment Committee of actions that can be taken to improve the quality of the coastal environment.
- c) The Working Group will research disabled access to the beach and recommend to the CNE committee what is possible.
- d) The Working Group will produce notes for each meeting, of which are to be circulated to all Working Group members and progress updates are to be provided to the CNE Committee regularly.

00201. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint councillors Carroll; Brailsford and Taylor-Gee to the Beach and Sea Working Group.

FUTURE MEETING GUESTS

00202. It was noted that East Sussex County Council Climate Emergency Officer Janette Ackroyd has been invited to present to the committee.

00203. It was noted that Ben Hook, of Rother District Council, shall be invited to present to the committee on environmental issues within the district.

00204. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the town council investigates possible sites for EVC points, pending the 2021 survey results, and to investigate possible grant funding.

It was **RESOLVED** to request Rother District Council share future plans and timescales for EVC points in Bexhill-on-Sea and to furthermore investigate transferring ownership of the car parks to the town council.

00205. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS ANNUAL REPORT 2021 COASTAL COMMUNITIES

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the November agenda. Cllr Thomas agreed to research the subject and report back at the November meeting on behalf of Rother District Council.

00206. NALC BIODIVERSITY EVENT

It was noted that the event was sold out. It was noted that delegation of authority for booking of events/courses is being investigated by the clerk.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 20:07pm

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 20:08pm

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

00207. It was **RESOLVED** to prepare a terms of reference for a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The group will consist of two members from each committee and include Liaise with other town or parish councils who have prepared Neighbourhood Plans,

00208. It was noted that once the steering group has identified a suitable parish council to speak at a future meeting they will report back to the CNE committee for next steps.

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

00209. To note request for assistance with pavement bollards on Sackville Road opposite Parkhurst Road.

It was **RESOLVED** for the town council to write to East Sussex County Council to escalate the need for traffic calming measures, including bollards on Sackville Road, to East Sussex County Council.

00210. Request from wheelchair user for the town council to support a survey monkey consultation regarding improving pavements.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the resident to carry out an online survey on pavements.

00211. To consider Cllr Courtel's report on litter on the footways.
It was **RESOLVED** to request a formal update on the progress of household waste collections in Central Ward from Rother District Council.

00212. To receive update from Cllr Carroll on bus meeting with Cllr Bayliss.
Cllr Carroll reported the buses do not run to suitable times for shift workers and some buses do not run into Sidley.

00213. To discuss improving disability access.
It was **RESOLVED** for committee members to consider ideas for a vision on disability access in Bexhill to report back in November.

ALLOTMENT SITES

00214. It was noted that the allotment legal report being investigated – awaiting documentation from Rother District Council

00215. To consider amending the lease of the Summerhill Allotments from the requirement of trustees to a co-operative association.

00216. It was **RESOLVED** to amend the lease to a co-operative and for the Summerhill Allotment association to cover the legal costs involved.
00217. To consider request from allotment association at Barrack Hall to allow a plot holder to house a bee hive.

Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 21:25pm

Cllr Brailsford re-entered the meeting at 21:27pm

00218. It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing order 3(x) to continue with the meeting beyond three hours.

Request for a beehive at Barrack Hall Allotments

00219. It was **RESOLVED** to request a risk assessment from Barrack Hall Allotment Association to be approved by the town council. It was also requested that the association provide evidence that the majority of allotment holders are in agreement

DEVONSHIRE SQUARE BALLS

00220. It was **RESOLVED** to support W.Ave arts to take on the maintenance of the balls and to thank them for a positive community project.

CORRESPONDENCE

00221. To consider response to East Sussex County Council Bus Consultation. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation support the recommendations of the Better Bexhill Buses Report for ESCC to consider electric buses for the future. The deadline of 14TH SEPTEMBER was noted.
00222. To consider Facebook message from resident requesting litter enforcement similar to Hove/Brighton. It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to seek further information on the policy in Hove/Brighton.
00223. To consider comments on Public Spaces Protection Order to Rother District Council. It was **RESOLVED** to support PSPO for alcohol and aggressive begging but not the sleeping in a public place. It was **RESOLVED** not to support at PSPO for wanton cycling/scooters/skating.
00224. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
Cllr Taylor-Gee asked for the consideration of opposing chemical weed spraying to be placed on the next agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 10th NOVEMBER 2021

The meeting closed at 22:02pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....