

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
on **Wednesday 20th August 2025** at **6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Crotty, Cllr El, Cllr Goss, Cllr Lee, Cllr Plim, Cllr Rustem, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Daeva, Clerk; M Webber; One videographer; 3 members of the public.

00157 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident of St Stephen's Ward asked whether the current devolution process was contributing to difficulties in resolving issues with Rother District Council.

The town council cannot answer on behalf of other authorities, but can signpost residents to raise concerns directly with them.

00158 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin and Cllr Peters.

00159 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

00160 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Wilson thanked the staff for their work on Bexhill Day 2025, held on August 16 and advised items 5e and 9a would be moved into the confidential section of the agenda due to commercial sensitivity.

00161 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

a) To note the draft lease for Pebsham Recreation Ground has been processed and is pending completion of the Land Registry

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application (expected 11 September 2025). The draft lease will be presented for consideration at the Full Council meeting on 24 September 2025. – noted.

- b) To note the Town Hall Chamber cannot currently be used for council meetings, as booking restrictions require the space to be vacated by a fixed time which does not allow sufficient set-up and take-down of the recording equipment. Meetings will therefore continue to be held at the current venue until further notice, with a revised layout to be implemented. – noted.

- c) To note the launch of Rother District Council's Community Grants Fund in September and to consider promoting the scheme online to local community organisations.

It was **RESOLVED** to promote Rother District Council's Community Grants Fund.

- d) To approve public conveniences licenses.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the public conveniences licenses subject to necessary paperwork being received and questions from councillors being answered by solicitors.

00162 TO CONSIDER RE-APPOINTING MULBERRY LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES LTD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM

It was **RESOLVED** to re-appoint Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd for a three-year term.

00163 TO CONSIDER COLLABORATING WITH THE BEXHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO CREATE A MAP OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE TOWN

It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to feed back to the Bexhill Chamber of Commerce regarding discussions had about defibrillator maps in Bexhill-on-Sea.

00164 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Lee.

I would like to propose the installation of a convex mirror at the meeting of Cantelupe road and Sea road, for safety reasons ie crossing the road there is difficult and potentially dangerous, so I'd like to put this before our council for consideration.

An amended motion was carried:

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the installation of a convex mirror at the meeting of Cantelupe Road and Sea Road, for safety reasons ie crossing the road there is difficult and potentially dangerous.

b) Cllr Jacklin.

What, if anything, can the Council do to support the business that are being moved out of the Colonnades.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

c) Cllr Thomas.

To investigate renewal of the bridge over the stream at the end of the Roundacre Way path, and replacing the 3 steps down to this bridge, including provision of a handrail.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate renewal of the bridge over the stream at the end of the Roundacre Way path, and replacing the three steps down to this bridge, including provision of a handrail.

d) Cllr Thomas.

To investigate the possibility of installing a dog waste bin on the footpath between Glenleigh Park Rd and Turkey Rd.

The motion fell.

e) Cllr Thomas.

To investigate the possibility of installing a cigarette bin on the top of Galley Hill.

The motion fell.

f) Cllr Crotty.

Does the Town Council fully support the Colonnade traders in being placed back into their work space, at a reasonable rent with no additional charges when the work has been done.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council has well wishes for the Colonnade traders, and hopes for an amicable result between the Colonnade traders and Rother District Council.

g) Cllr Jacklin.

That the Council asks the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) as well as Hastings and Chief Inspector of Hastings and Rother Division of Sussex Police to confirm that Councillors are not subject to increased risk of prosecution under the CPS Public Interest test which applies to police investigations and that the Clerk seek further clarification on this from NALC if required.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

h) Cllr Wilson.

To consider appointing an external representative to the Bexhill Cultural Network.

This motion was withdrawn.

i) Cllr Wilson.

To agree that the Chair/ deputy chair and the interim Town Clerk makes contact with the Bexhill Museum to consider the operation of the Museum following devolution.

This motion was withdrawn.

00165 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a) Email from Dr Kieran Mullan MP regarding potholes.

It was noted that town councillors will report potholes they come across via the 'Fix My Street' app, and encourage ward residents to do the same.

b) Email update on Combe Valley Hospital. – noted.

00166 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a) To receive questions from councillors and any future agenda items.

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

Cllr Crotty asked why Cllr Wilson has accepted apologies for absence from other councillors, but not his own apologies.

Cllr Winter asked why apologies for absence were not accepted at this meeting.

Cllr Plim asked if the town council was any nearer to knowing which services would be devolved to the town council.

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

There were none.

00167 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2025

All motions for the next meeting of full council on 24th September 2025 must be received by 15th September 2025.

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:

00168 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:08pm

It was **RESOLVED** to continue defending the legal claim and to instruct Surrey Hills to continue the defence.

00169 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive the green list of potential assets from Rother District Council and to authorise the Clerk to progress discussions and negotiations as appropriate, with updates being given to future meetings.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 20:19pm.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Responsible Financial Officer to contact Rother District Council for more information on the green list of potential assets.

00170 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Letter from Bexhill Neighbourhood Board.

It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to begin discussions on collaborative projects with Bexhill Neighbourhood Board and report back to Full Council.

The meeting closed at 20:58pm.

Date.....

Sign.....

Initial.....