

**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**  
**BEXHILL-ON-SEA**  
on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025** at **6:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Goss, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Daeva, Clerk; M Webber; One Videographer; Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council); 11 members of the public.

**00132 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident of Normans Bay raised concerns regarding the placement of the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council sign, noting that residents had expressed concern about its location and suggesting Sluice Lane as a more appropriate position. They requested the removal of the current sign, further dialogue with residents, and consideration of alternatives. The resident also announced the Normans Bay Love Fest on 16 August, thanking Cllr Winter for directing them to apply for funding and Cllr Stanger (RDC) for providing a bouncy castle, and invited all to attend. Finally, they asked the Council to address graffiti on the public toilet building.

A member of the public asked whether the Town Council had a strategy for retaining assets as part of the devolution process, how this could be progressed, and how residents could support the Council in achieving it. They also asked about progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, noting that responsibility had passed to the Town Council, and highlighted the importance of protecting green spaces. They commented that opportunities for exercising dogs were limited and suggested that the Town Plan should give consideration to green spaces.

*The Council does not yet have a formally adopted strategy for asset retention within the devolution process. Work is ongoing to explore the options available and to identify how best to manage and protect*

*community assets in the long term. This will inform the development of a clear strategy in due course.*

*An update on the Neighbourhood Plan was provided at the meeting, with further information to be shared as the process progresses.*

A member of the public raised several matters. They began by commenting on the lack of updates on the Council's website, noting that draft minutes had not been uploaded.

They then reported concerns regarding the condition of public conveniences at West Parade and Channel View, describing them as in poor condition with graffiti, damage, and odours. They asked how much the Town Council pays for this service, whether the conveniences are regularly checked, and what progress has been made on the review of Channel View and the transfer of freehold from Rother District Council. They also noted that the Devonshire Square public convenience had been listed as a freehold in the July 25 assets list and sought clarification, as they understood this had only ever been an informal arrangement.

The member of the public asked for an update on the A259 roundabout project, noting that submissions closed on 30 June, and requested information on the number of submissions received, the outcome of the shortlist evaluation due on 30 July, and whether National Highways had been kept informed about the proposed sculpture.

They further referred to Item 7 on the agenda regarding the Audit Committee's recommendation to recruit up to two part-time workers, expressing the view that, in light of devolution, it might be more cost-effective to employ a fully qualified Town Clerk on a part-time basis. Finally, they questioned the need for an additional vehicle for the Operations Manager, asking where such vehicles would be stored, whether they would be used privately, and how mileage, time, and distance would be recorded.

*The West Parade conveniences are visited, checked, and cleaned three times per day during the summer season, and twice per day during the winter, at a cost of £1,132 per month. The Channel View East conveniences are visited, checked, and cleaned twice per day at a cost*

*of £1,972 per month. These costs include all cleaning materials and toilet supplies.*

*Minor maintenance is carried out as required to ensure safety, though larger-scale graffiti removal is not currently undertaken, as future plans for these facilities are still under consideration.*

*With regard to the transfer of the Channel View freehold from Rother District Council, this matter is scheduled for discussion by the Amenities Committee on 1 October 2025.*

*Two submissions were received for the A259 Roundabout sculpture, with a proposed design being put to National Highways for their consideration.*

*The vehicle for the Operations Manager will be for Council business only, with no private use permitted. It will be parked in a Rother District Council car park when not in use. Usage, including mileage, is monitored through the Council's internal procedures, with oversight provided by the Town Clerk to ensure accountability and proper management.*

A member of the public, speaking as a volunteer for Parkinson's UK and a member of the local Parkinson's group, thanked the Council and the community of Bexhill for their support in petitioning for a government debate on Parkinson's disease. They noted that over 500 local residents had voted in support, which was among the highest in the UK. They announced that Paul Mayhew-Archer would be performing a charity show at the Hastings Centre in recognition of this achievement. The resident further thanked the Council for agreeing to promote the event digitally on its website, following an earlier request which had initially been declined due to the location being outside Bexhill.

**00133 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr El, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Lee and Cllr Rustem.

**00134 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST**

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

Initial.....

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

**00135 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Wilson asked councillors to be mindful of the long agenda when speaking.

**00136 MINUTES**

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

a) Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

b) Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

**00137 COMMITTEES**

a) To nominate members to the Town Accessibility Working Group, feeding back to the Amenities Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Blagrove and Cllr Lee to the Town Accessibility Working Group.

**00138 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

a) Amenities Committee:

i. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the lease to Full Council with pending questions.

*Answers to questions raised by the Amenities Committee are yet to be received.*

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Devonshire Square public convenience lease subject to receiving suitable answers to questions raised by the Amenities Committee.

a) Finance and Audit Committee:

i. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the recruitment of up to two part-time Committee Administrators to Full Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to recruit up to two part-time Committee Administrators.

**00139 MAYOR'S OFFICE**

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor.  
A report was circulated.

**00140 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 thanked the Council for the improvements to the Devonshire Square public toilets and reminded members that the informal parking consultation closes on 8 August, noting the introduction of Zone F in the Richmond area of West Bexhill. He reported no detrimental comments received to date. National Highways will be closing King Offa Way from 5–8 September, with diversions agreed via Ravenside roundabout. An update was given on devolution, with Cllr Hollidge chairing a scrutiny group reviewing the proposals. Cllr Hollidge noted that the recent consultation received a 1% response rate, which was in line with expectations, and explained the current and proposed models of local representation. Finally, members were reminded of Bexhill Day taking place on 16 August.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.  
There were none.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.  
Cllr Crotty reported on recent issues involving young people and thefts, noting that Sussex Police are carrying out "Summer Safer Hotspots" patrols. Although there are currently no PCSOs, police officers are actively on duty and early feedback suggests the initiative is working well, with potential for future funding. Praise was given to Sussex Police for their efforts. Cllr Crotty also commended the success of the Carnival, which was well attended, and announced that Bexhill Fire Station will hold an open day on 30

August from 10am, with a quiet session at 9:15am for children with sensory needs.

Cllr Jacklin reported that Sir Keir Starmer had recently stayed at the Cooden Beach Hotel for a wedding and noted that his security vehicles had been parked on double yellow lines. He advised that he had met with David Dennis and would report back in due course. He also noted resident concerns about security at Northeye, spoke about his experiences of being a town councillor in Brighton, and commented on local toilet provision, which received a positive response.

Cllr Thomas reported that the 1066 Country Walk is now fully open, with the exception of Roundacre Way.

**00141 PLANNING MATTERS**

a) To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan.

An update was given on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. Two recent meetings, one with members and one with Rother District Council, were described as very helpful in developing understanding of the process. It was noted that this is a major piece of work and that the small working group may need additional support to take it forward. Cllr Winter will circulate meeting notes. Reference was made to other neighbourhood plans for comparison and to the role of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, with flexibility required given future uncertainties. It was noted that most town councils take around four years to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.

**00142 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

a) To note the categorised devolution list from Rother District Council and to progress with the submission of Expressions of Interest.

The Council considered whether to move this item into closed session. A recorded vote was called.

**FOR:**

Initial.....

Cllr Byrne  
Cllr Timpe  
Cllr Wilson

**AGAINST:**

Cllr Blagrove  
Cllr Carroll  
Cllr Crotty  
Cllr Goss  
Cllr Hunt  
Cllr Huseyin  
Cllr Jacklin  
Cllr Peters  
Cllr Plim  
Cllr Thomas  
Cllr Winter

It was **RESOLVED** to discuss item 11(a) in the public section of the meeting.

*Cllr Hunt left the meeting at 19:31pm.*

*Cllr Hunt re-entered the meeting at 19:32pm.*

It was **RESOLVED** to begin submitting categorised expressions of interest in priority order, starting with higher priority items and ending with lowest priority items:

1. Toilets – including all public conveniences in Bexhill-on-Sea.
2. Parks and Recreation – including Egerton Park, Bexhill Cemetery and the Forshaw Promenade and gardens.
3. Sports.
4. Community – excluding the De La Warr Pavilion and including the colonnade.
5. Historical – including the Town Hall.
6. Open Spaces – including buildings on the promenade.

- a) To receive verbal update on leader's meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025.  
It was noted that Cllr Crotty's question will receive a written answer.
- b) To receive verbal update on Pebsham Play Park.  
It was noted that an extra-ordinary meeting to review the lease will be held and that the first stage of the grant funding application is complete.

*Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:37pm.*

*Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 20:39pm.*

- c) To consider booking the Rother District Council Town Hall Chamber for future meetings for the cost of £35 per hour.  
It was **RESOLVED** to book the Rother District Council Town Hall Chamber for future Full Council meetings.

*The Responsible Financial Officer left the meeting at 20:40pm.*

*The Responsible Financial Officer re-entered the meeting at 20:42pm.*

#### **00144 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

- a) RALC – Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Jacklin.  
b) Citizen's Advice – Cllr Byrne.  
c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor/ Deputy Mayor.  
d) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Timpe.  
e) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Winter.  
f) Neighbourhood Board – Cllr Wilson.  
g) Combe Valley CIC – Cllr Jacklin.  
h) Chamber of Commerce Centenary Fund Assessment Panel – Cllr Wilson.  
i) Bathing Water Community Group – Cllr Byrne, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Plim.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**00145 PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE CHAIR, WITH A DEADLINE SET AHEAD OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Drayson**

a) To note this project has not yet started.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**00146 CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES – Cllr Plim**

a) To note this project has not yet started.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**00147 TO RECEIVE REPORT ON ADDITIONAL COUNCIL VEHICLE**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of a Vauxhall Combo for the cost of £216.85 + VAT.

**00148 TO CONSIDER RE-APPOINTING MULBERRY LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES LTD FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**00149 TO CONSIDER COLLABORATING WITH THE BEXHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO CREATE A MAP OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE TOWN**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**00150 TO CONSIDER INVESTIGATING MOVING THE NORMANS BAY 'WELCOME TO' SIGN – Cllr Winter**

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to investigate moving the Norman's Bay 'Welcome To' sign and investigate the removal of the graffiti on the toilet block.

**00151 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

a) Cllr Winter.

This Council resolves to introduce a structured framework of "Lead Councillor" roles, aligned with best practice in local governance, to strengthen thematic oversight, enhance community engagement, and prepare for asset devolution. These roles shall be advisory and representative only, without individual decision-making powers.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to investigate potential benefits of having lead councillors for Bexhill-on-Sea.

b) Cllr Lee.

I would like to propose the installation of a convex mirror at the meeting of Canteloupe 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.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

c) 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.

d) 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.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

e) Cllr Thomas.

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

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

f) Cllr Thomas.

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

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

g) 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.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

h) 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.

i) Cllr Wilson.

To consider appointing an external representative to the Bexhill Cultural Network

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**00152 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

a) To consider providing a letter of support or comment to assist Action Against Abuse with their application for a Rother District Council grant, following the grant previously awarded to them by this council earlier in the year.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a letter of support or comment to assist Action Against Abuse with their application for a Rother District Council grant, following the grant previously awarded to them by this council earlier in the year.

b) To consider advertising Paul Mayhew-Archer's 'Incurable Optimist' comedy show organised by Parkinson's UK Bexhill Working Age Group.

It was **RESOLVED** to advertise Paul Mayhew-Archer's 'incurable Optimist' comedy show organised by Parkinson's UK Bexhill Working Age Group.

c) To consider providing customer feedback to be used on TGTM Ltd's website.

*Cllr Plim declared an interest as a member of the Carnival Committee, who has used this company for road closures.*

It was **RESOLVED** to provide customer feedback to be used on TGTM Ltd's website.

d) Email from Normans Bay Residents' Association.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to investigate moving the Norman's Bay 'Welcome To' sign and investigate the removal of the graffiti on the toilet block.

**00153 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Cllr Winter asked if the clerk could investigate moving the Normans Bay 'Welcome To' sign.   | This item is on the agenda.                                   |
| Cllr Goss asked if the Old Town speedwatch survey had been carried out.  | Due to safety regulations, this was not possible to complete. |
| Cllr El asked that the Clerk ask Rother District Council whether the Pebsham Play Park project can proceed while the land registry application is still pending. | This has been asked.  |

b) To receive questions from councillors and any future agenda items. *Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting.*

There were none.

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

There were none.

**00154 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

*All motions for the next meeting of full council on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 must be received by 15<sup>th</sup> 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:*

**00155 TO RECEIVE STAFFING UPDATE**

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate work experience placements in 2026.

**00156 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM**

Initial.....

*Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 21:08pm.*

An update was received.

*Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 21:08pm.*

*The meeting was closed at 21:13pm.*

*Date.....*

*Signed.....*

Initial.....