

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 24th September 2025** at **6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Drayson, Cllr El, Cllr Goss, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Lee, Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Daeva, Clerk; L Muhilathithan; One videographer; Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council); 3 members of the public.

00205. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked if the council's decision on the A259 roundabout sculpture would be announced soon.

The Council has submitted a chosen design for approval by National Highways. Further updates will be given once a response has been received.

00206. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Drayson, Cllr Timpe and Cllr Rustem. Cllr Byrne advised he may be late.

00207. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

00208. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Wilson informed the council that a meeting would take place on Saturday to discuss devolution and local government reorganisation. The session is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the De La Warr Pavilion, with doors opening at 9:30 a.m.

Initial.....

MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meetings of the Full Council:

- a) Wednesday 30th July 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 30th July 2025.

- b) Wednesday 20th August 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 20th August.

00209. MAYOR'S OFFICE

To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor.

An update was received.

00210. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

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

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Cllr Hollidge thanked Cllr Crotty for highlighting issues on Buckhurst Road and confirmed that new drainage channels would be installed from 20th to 22nd October, weather permitting. Despite investigations, the source of ongoing water problems remains unclear, but the matter continues to receive attention.

He noted further disruption caused by an oil spill on Coombe Valley Way and acknowledged the ongoing challenges of potholes, roadworks, and highways maintenance.

The two footbridges on King Offa Way have been removed, with replacements planned for the weekend of 28th November.

Cllr Hollidge added that street works, particularly around Queensway Gateway, remain a major concern. A Scrutiny Committee and lane rental scheme are in place to improve management and reduce disruption in future.

- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

There were none.

Initial.....

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Crotty reported that a business on Parkhurst Road is closing due to difficulties in securing suitable parking. The only available spaces are located in Wainwright Road, which staff must access via two alleyways where there have been safety concerns. As a result, the business has chosen to relocate. It was also noted that some shopkeepers in the local area have been facing disturbances.

Cllr Crotty advised that potholes on Western Road were recently filled and that some traders in Devonshire Road were not happy with the weekend market. Additionally, the public managed to raise £280 from the recent Wings Walk fundraising event.

Cllr Peters updated the Full Council on the ongoing campaign in Collington on potholes, reporting that he has delivered over 1200 leaflets and received over 10 emails on the matter.

Cllr Lee reported that he attended a meeting with the Highway Steward to discuss the overgrown vegetation on the pathway down the side of the Leisure Centre that's been going on for years. The bushes have overgrown to an extent that those in wheelchairs and pushchair users struggle to get past. The Highways steward assured that this issue is being dealt with.

Cllr Jacklin reported that a public meeting was held with Bexhill Nature Club to discuss proposals for the vegetative shingle project in Normans Bay, aimed at enhancing and restoring the area. Following the meeting, approval was received from the Environment Agency to proceed, and plans are now being developed, which may take some time.

He also advised that, at the end of July, he wrote to the Home Office regarding issues at the Northeye site, including reported harassment of residents by the security staff, poor site maintenance, and outdated information on their public site. The Home Office responded the following week, explaining that restrictions were in place due to safety concerns in the car park and confirming that negotiations to transfer the site to Homes England were nearing completion.

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Cllr Thomas offered his thanks for the prompt repair of the collapsed drain opposite the glades, which had created a large hole in the road causing chaos and bringing Bexhill-On-Sea to a complete standstill.

00211. PLANNING MATTERS

a) To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Winter noted he has been appointed as the chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and circulated a report prior to the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council, as the qualifying body, submits an application to Rother District Council for the designation of the whole parish of Bexhill-on-Sea as the Neighbourhood Plan Area, pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council formally requests Rother District Council to nominate a standing Officer representative to attend Steering Group meetings in an advisory capacity.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Carroll and Cllr Goss to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council authorises the Town Clerk to investigate the tendering and procurement process for the appointment of a suitably qualified planning consultant/contractor to provide technical support to the Steering Group, and that the Steering Group budget be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

It was **RESOLVED** that invitations be extended to Mr. Alexis Markwick and Mr. David Dennis to join the Steering Group in an advisory capacity, in order to utilise their respective expertise in data analysis and evidence gathering.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 18:57pm.

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Cllr Lee re-entered the meeting at 18:58pm.

Cllr Carroll noted he had received a petition for the refusal of an additional floor extension on Camperdown street and Lawrence House and it was **RESOLVED** to object to planning application RR/2025/1458/PN3 due to the layout and density of the building and road and highways issues.

00212. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

- a) To note staff have finished submitting expressions of interest and will submit business plans pending a meeting with Rother District Council to finalise details of submission – noted.
- b) To consider potential transfer of car parks from Rother District Council – Approval for officer investigation.
It was **RESOLVED** to express an interest in all the car parks within Bexhill-On-Sea.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 19:35pm.

Cllr Lee re-entered the meeting at 19:38pm.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to investigate whether any planning applications were in place for car parks in Bexhill-on-Sea.

00213. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To note leader's meeting held on 19th September postponed. – noted.
- b) To approve draft lease on Pebsham Recreation Ground.
It was noted that councillors will submit questions for the solicitor and the lease will be deferred pending answers.
- c) To note answers to questions from draft Devonshire Square Public Conveniences Lease yet to be received. – noted.
- d) To consider taking on Town Centre Planters from Rother District Council.
It was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to request costings and information on the condition of the Town Centre Planters and bring findings to the next meeting.

Initial.....

*Cllr Byrne and Cllr Drayson entered the meeting at 19:44pm.
Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 20:03pm.*

00214. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) RALC – Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Jacklin.

Cllr Jacklin reported that the new Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) subgroup met at the end of August and will meet every six weeks. Rural parishes expressed concern about being overlooked, while Bexhill residents may wish to retain their local identity. A public consultation is expected in winter, and the Town Council may be asked to provide a response.

- b) Citizen’s Advice – Cllr Byrne.

Cllr Byrne noted he has not received an update.

- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor/ Deputy Mayor.

There were no updates.

- d) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Timpe.

There were no updates.

- e) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Winter.

There were no updates.

- f) Neighbourhood Board – Cllr Wilson.

There were no updates.

- g) Combe Valley CIC – Cllr Jacklin.

There were no updates.

- h) Chamber of Commerce Centenary Fund Assessment Panel – Cllr Wilson.

There were no updates.

- i) Bathing Water Community Group – Cllr Byrne, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Plim.

Cllr Jacklin reported on the first meeting of the Bathing Water Community Group, established with Southern Water and local clubs to improve communication on water quality issues. The group plans to meet three times a year. Two types of pollution warnings were discussed: rainwater runoff and sewage discharges, and the need for clearer public communication was noted. Requests were made for more data on pollution alerts and for checks on drainage capacity in new developments.

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It was **RESOLVED** for the Town clerk to organise a councillor visit to the water plant.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:08pm.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 20:10pm.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 20:11pm.

Cllr Lee re-entered the meeting at 20:12pm.

- j) To note Cllr Wilson has been invited to join Bexhill Rail Action Group in a mayoral capacity. – noted.
- k) To note Cllr Plim has been invited to attend a Bexhill Councillors and Business Crime meeting on 15th October 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Plim to attend a Bexhill Councillors and Business Crime meeting on the 15th October 2025.

00215. PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE CHAIR, WITH A DEADLINE SET AHEAD OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

- a) To note this project will begin when workload allows. – noted.

00216. CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES

- a) To note this project will begin when workload allows. – noted.

00217. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Jacklin.

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

The motion was withdrawn.

- b) Cllr Lee

To put a motion forward for the acquisition of rubber kerb ramps for wheelchair access and a scarifier for the Town Rangers.

An amended motion was accepted, and it was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to contact East Sussex Highways and request they install rubber curb ramps in Bexhill-on-sea in consultation with Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.

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Cllr Lee withdrew the motion on a scarifier for the Town Rangers.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 20:26pm.

c) Cllr Jacklin

That the Full Council asks the 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.

The motion was withdrawn.

d) Cllr El

That the Clerk investigate, the potential development of a multi-functional outdoor sports facility, that can be used all year round, in Pebsham or elsewhere in Bexhill—such as a caged or uncaged court suitable for activities including basketball, football, tennis, pickleball, and hockey.

An amended motion was accepted, and it was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to investigate the potential development of a multi-functional outdoor sports facility, that can be used all year round, in Pebsham such as a caged or uncaged court suitable for activities including basketball, football, tennis, pickleball, and hockey when workload allows.

e) Cllr El

With numerous new builds in the Pebsham vicinity and the growing population I would like to put forward a motion to locate a suitable area for a recreational site in Pebsham (or close) similar to little common, sidley and the polegrove that would benefit the youth in the area and would facilitate a location for new or existing sports teams such as football, cricket, rugby and many others.

An amended motion was accepted, and it was **RESOLVED** that, in response to the proposal to explore opportunities for a recreational site in the Pebsham area to serve the growing population and support local sports activities, the Clerk would contact Rother District

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Council to confirm whether suitable recreational or open space provision has been included within nearby developments, seek comments from the Section 106 Officer regarding any related obligations, and investigate planning application RR/2022/2477/P to identify any relevant Section 106 agreements or contributions.

00218. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a) There was none.

00219. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Cllr Crotty asked why Cllr Wilson has accepted apologies for absence from other councillors, but not his own apologies.	As this matter related to the decision taken by Cllr Wilson in his role as a councillor at the time, the question was noted as one for Cllr Wilson to address directly, rather than for the Clerk to answer.
Cllr Winter asked why apologies for absence were not accepted at this meeting.	The matter of voting on apologies for absence is a procedural point for the Chair to manage during the meeting. The question has been noted but it is not for the Clerk to answer.
Cllr Plim asked if the town council was any nearer to knowing which services would be devolved to the town council.	All updates on devolution and local government reorganisation are reported to Council as they are received. At present, no further information has been provided regarding which services may be devolved to the Town Council. The Council will continue to provide updates as soon as more detail becomes available.

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

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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.

00220. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 29TH OCTOBER 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:

00221. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

00222. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) To receive staffing update from the Finance and Audit Committee.

Cllr Drayson was nominated to take the minutes.

The Interim Town Clerk and Civic Administrator left the meeting at 20:51pm.

Cllr Blagrove left the meeting at 20:57pm.

Cllr Winter left the meeting at 20:57pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Joey Daeva to the position of Town Clerk of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council from 1st October 2025.

00223. PREMISES OPTIONS

- a) To consider negotiating with Rother District Council for the town council to occupy the villas as an office space.

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Initial.....

The meeting was closed at 21:12pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

Initial.....