

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
on **Wednesday 9th April 2025 at 6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Drayson; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; One videographer; two members of the public.

00711 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public, representing the Bexhill Senior Citizens Club, spoke in support of the club's grant application for cladding and responded to previous queries. They confirmed that they feel that there is no conflict of interest, as the hall is rented out to various organisations, not just the Town Council. In response to a question about whether an engineer would guarantee the effectiveness of the cladding, it was explained that no contractor can provide such a guarantee. However, the cladding has been specifically designed to address and resolve the current issue. It was also noted that, although the club has funds in reserve, the building dates back to 1890 and requires several upgrades, including heating and plumbing replacements. These reserves are intended to cover such future improvements.

00712 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Huseyin, Cllr El and Cllr Winter.

00713 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

00714 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Plim announced the further updates on the Local Government Reorganisation and explained how the council needs to be prepared. He advised that the future resourcing and impact on staffing will be discussed in a closed session at the end of this meeting

00715 MINUTES

- a) To approve the minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2025.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2025.

00716 GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- a) To note year end accounts to follow at the next meeting. – noted.
- b) To note annual internal audit being conducted on 28th April 2025. – noted.
- c) To receive payment listing as of 31st March 2025.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve payment listing as of 31st March 2025.

00717 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

- a) To consider grants as per Appendix C.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following grants:
Action Against Abuse £496.25.
- b) To re-consider Bexhill Senior Citizens Club grant following supply of requested information £10,000.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Bexhill Senior Citizens Club grant following the requested information for the cost of £10,000.
- c) To re-consider By The Coast grant following supply of requested information £6,494.
It was **RESOLVED** that the By The Coast grant could not be approved as the bank statement provided is a private limited company and the grants and donations policy only applies to community organisations and charities.
- d) To consider funding the continuation of Bexhill Festival of Music for a five-year period for the cost of £2,500.
It was **RESOLVED** to fund the continuation of Bexhill Festival of Music for a three-year period for the cost of £2,500 per year from the general reserves.
- e) To approve the allocation of £8,000 to complete essential infrastructure works at the Polegrove.
Cllr Drayson declared an interest in this item with regard to the football club and bowls club.
It was **RESOLVED** to ringfence £15,000 of the 2024/25 CIL funds towards Polegrove repairs and approve the essential infrastructure repairs of £8,000.
- f) To receive draft policy for allocating CIL funds to community groups.
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the draft policy for allocating CIL funds to community groups for approval.
The policy will be further developed to include a calendar for applications.

00718 TOWN COUNCIL HUB

- a) To receive March hub report.
The March hub report was received.

00719 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There are none.

00720 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There are none.

00721 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There is none.

00722 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To note answers to questions from last meeting.
Cllr Wilson asked when the reserves will be reviewed and if it will be on the next agenda.
- 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 or before.
- c) To consider any new risks for future mitigation.
There may be risks around resourcing for Local Government Reorganisation.

00723 OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL INTERNAL CONTROL TASKS OF THE COUNCIL

January	Submit Precept to Rother District Council
February	Review Standing Orders/Financial Regs and policies for Full Council AGM, obtain three quotes for insurance policy renewal
March	Review annual financial risk assessment
April	Complete year end accounts and AGAR, produce annual report, insurance policy renews,
May	AGM – adoption of policies, internal audit, review asset register
June	Approval of AGAR, review internal controls, complete internal audit
July	Electors rights period, Annual VAT return
August	RFO to begin budget drafting
September	Committees prepare budget forecasts, F&A review salary budgets
October	Committees prepare budget forecasts
November	F&A review committee forecasts and prepare budget for full council review
December	Full council approve annual budget

00724 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 14TH MAY 2025**00725 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The impact of Local Government Reorganisation on current resourcing at the council was discussed.

The meeting was closed at 19:30pm.