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 June 2026** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Drayson, Cllr El, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Adam Chugg, Town Clerk; M Webber, RFO; L Muhilathithan, Civic Admin; One Videographer; 3 members of public.

00059 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

00060 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Goss, Cllr Lee, Cllr Rustem and Cllr Winter.

00061 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Bryne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council, Board Member of Combe Valley Country Park and Trustee of the Men's Shed.
Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council, specifically item 17 as Chair of the Planning Committee, will leave during the discussion.
Cllr Jacklin declared an interest as Director of Combe Valley Country Park.
Cllr Wilson declared an interest in item 12, will leave during this discussion and an interest in item 17 b but will join this discussion.

00062 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Huseyin spoke about the events that he is due to attend; Homecall Gardens in Cranston Avenue at 1:30pm and the Sidley Hub opening at 12:00pm on Sunday - If anyone would like to attend.

00063 MINUTES

To approve the following minutes:

a) Wednesday the 20th May 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday the 20th May 2026.

b) Wednesday the 3rd June 2026

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday the 3rd June 2026.

00064 MAYORS OFFICE

a) To receive an update on the work of Town Mayor.

Cllr Huseyin circulated report prior to the meeting on the recent work of the Town Mayor.

00065 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were none.

00066 TO CONSIDER APPOINTING NINTH MEMBER OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Cllr Drayson nominated himself to be appointed as the ninth member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Drayson as the ninth member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

00067 TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE DOCUMENT AND EX OFFICIO VOTING RIGHTS

Discussion ensued.

Cllr Wilson proposed motion to remove section 8.1 b from the Terms of Reference.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove section 8.1 b from the Terms of Reference.

00068 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 Pete Morely: aware of issue of Barnhorn Road being poorly sign posted. Each month will bring an update on the roadworks to the Council. Has managed to get signs cleaned on William Road. Been contacted regarding verges, which have now been dealt with. Complaints from people on Rosewood, however, cannot deal with this as it is an anti-social matter, has pointed them in the right direction. Looking at the commerce side of the area. Plan to bring work hubs into Bexhill and for re-generation work.

Cllr Thomas entered the meeting at 18:14pm.

Councillors exercised their right to ask questions.
Cllr Victoria Carson, Bexhill south - planned a meeting with Cllr Plim about potential road closures/issues around Bexhill Carnival and with Cllr Wilson regarding parking. Very aware about Buckhurst Road issues. Been meeting with St Leonards group about beautifying the area. I am Vice Chair of East Sussex County Council. Please email if there is anything we can help with.

b) To receive reports form Ward District Councillors.
There were none.

c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
Cllr Crotty - Good news, The Works are coming into Bexhill.

Cllr Timpe entered the meeting at 18:28pm.

00069 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW

a) To review system of internal control.
The Council reviewed the system of internal control.

b) To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control.
This Council is asked to consider the attached statement of internal control in support of the Annual Governance Statement.
The Chair of the meeting and the Clerk to sign.
It was **RESOLVED** for the Chair and Clerk to sign the statement of internal control in support of the Annual Governance Statement.

c) To approve the internal audit report 2025-2026
The Internal Audit Report for 2025-2026 was approved.

d) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025-2026, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2026.
The Clerk to present the assertations and the Council to answer. The Chair and Clerk to sign and date.
It was **RESOLVED** for the Chair and Clerk to sign and date the annual governance Statement for 2025-2026, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2026.

e) To approve the Accounting Statements for 2025-2026, Section 2 of the Agar for the year ending 31st March 2026, the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31st March 2026 and the explanation of the significant variances from the last year (2024-2025) to this year (2025-2026).
The Chair and Clerk to sign and date.
It was **RESOLVED** for the Chair and Clerk to sign and date the Accounting Statements for 2025-2026, Section 2 of the Agar for the year ending 31st March 2026, the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31st March 2026 and the explanation of the significant variances from the last year (2024-2025) to this year (2025-2026).

00070 TO CONSIDER 36 MONTH CONTRACT FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS FOR THE HUB

Cllr Wilson left the meeting at 18:36pm.

a) To note quotes circulated prior to the meeting. – noted.
Cllr Plim proposed delegating this to the Town Clerk to decide as it is an operational decision.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate this decision to the Town Clerk.

Cllr Wilson re-entered the meeting at 18:38pm.

00071 TO REVIEW THE POLICY FOR CIL GRANTS

Discussion ensued.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised retaining 50% of the Total Community Infrastructure Levy balance due to acquiring assets from Rother District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate 50% of the Total Community Infrastructure Levy balance for CIL Community Fund.

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

00072 TO REVIEW THE FIRE SAFETY POLICY

Cllr Wilson proposed amendment to the Fire Safety Policy; change director to Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Fire Safety Policy, including the amendment from director to Chair.

00073 TOWN CLERK UPDATE

a) To receive update from Town Clerk. – update received.
   Discussion ensued.
b) To consider a report from the Clerk on forward planning for possible asset transfer. – noted.

00074 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

00075 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan.
   Agreed for the Town Clerk to investigate if having a Neighbourhood Plan would be beneficial to the Town Council.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 19:42pm.

b) To review and consider submitting comments on the following planning application for Chestnut Meadow Camping & Caravan Park.
   Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 262670

   Cllr Drayson re-declared his interest and left the meeting at 19:43pm.

   Cllr Wilson re-declared an interest as a local resident.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 19:43pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the planning application for Chestnut Meadow Camping & Caravan Park under material planning considerations, previous appeal decisions, over shadowing, loss of outlook, loss of privacy, highways issues, impact on wildlife and habitat, infrastructure and potential anti-social behaviour.

c) To review and consider submitting comments on the following planning application for Bexhill Enterprise Park.
Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 262678

Cllr Plim proposed motion for the Council to fully support this planning application.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Council to fully support this planning application for Bexhill Enterprise Park.

Cllr Drayson re-entered the meeting at 19:49pm.

00076 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

a) To consider and sign the License for the Public Toilets as per the 28th January 2026 Full Council resolution for delegated authority to the Deputy Clerk regarding documentation and licences for the Public Conveniences.

Discussion ensued.

Cllr Wilson proposed motion to sign the License for the Public Toilets.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign the License for the Public Toilets.

00077 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

a) To receive updates from external representatives.
There were none.

00078 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Cllr Peters

Motion: Preserving Local Decision-Making and Community Representation

This Council recognises that Town and Parish Councils have traditionally operated differently from national and larger principal authorities, with members often working collectively on local issues that directly affect residents regardless of political affiliation.

This Council further recognises that local government reforms, devolution and wider political changes may increasingly encourage party-political structures at the Town Council level.

While members are fully entitled to hold and declare political affiliations where they choose, this Council believes decisions affecting local communities should continue to be driven primarily by local evidence, residential needs and community benefit rather than national party-political positions.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

i. Reaffirm its commitment to local decision-making and community-led priorities
ii. Encourage members, when acting as Town Councillors, to place the interests of residents and the Town at the centre of decision-making.
iii. Support a culture of collaborative working across all members regardless of political affiliation.

This motion was deferred till the September Full Council meeting.

b) Cllr Plim

To consider the report 'Hidden in Plain Sight' and whether to raise concerns about these issues.

Link to the report:

hidden-in-plain-sight-tackling-crime-on-the-uks-high-streets.pdf

Discussion ensued.

The Town Clerk proposed motion for the Council to express its concerns on the conclusions of the report and welcome the opportunity to work with other agencies on these matters.

Cllr Wilson proposed including the Chamber of Commerce.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Council to express its concerns on the conclusions of the report and welcome the opportunity to work with other agencies and the Chamber of Commerce on these matters

00079 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a) Bexhill Roaming Speed Watch Group:
"It has been a real asset, in that it can identify speeders at a considerable distance, and best of all can select individual vehicles in a line of cars. We, the Bexhill Roaming Speed Watch group, are very grateful to Bexhill Town Council for purchasing this device and allowing us to use it to identify those who create a danger to others by their selfish acts. We will continue to monitor those roads where speeding is an issue and help to keep the residents of Bexhill safe."

Please see appendix N for the figures showing vehicles recorded over the last year using the Unipar SL700 Speed Detection Device.

Feedback from Bexhill Roaming Speed Watch Group was noted.

b) Bexhill Youth and Community Centre
Please see appendix N for report on project funded by the Town Council.
The Centre Manager Commented:
"Thank you once again for the support provided by Bexhill Town Council. We are delighted with the outcomes that have been achieved and wanted to share an update on the project and the benefits it continues to deliver for both the community and local wildlife."

Feedback from Bexhill Youth and Community Centre was noted.

00080 RISK REGISTER

a) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
Discussion ensued.
There were no new risks to be added to the risk register.

00081 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 29TH JULY 2026

All motions for the meeting of the Full Council on the 29th July 2026 must be received by the 17th July 2026.

The Meeting closed to public at 20:11pm.

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:

00082 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR DOMESDAY PROJECT 2026-MAY 2027

a) To receive updated version of proposal for Domesday Project 2026-May 2027.
   It was **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal for the Domesday Project June 2026 – May 2027, with one amendment: Section 10 – delete '5-year'.
b) To note three-year project report. – noted.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting.

00083 TO RECEIVE UPDATED LEGAL ADVICE RELATING TO MINUTE 00426 FROM JANUARY 2026

At 20:30pm it was **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting beyond two and a half hours.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Town Clerk to seek additional expert advice and report to Council on possible next steps.

The meeting closed at 20:51pm.

Date...

Signed...