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 30th September 2026** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Beeney, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Goss, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: A Chugg, Town Clerk; L Muhilathithan, Council Administrator; One Videographer; 9 members of public.

00160 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of public referred to item 15C. 49 Southcliffe previously received planning permission for demolition of previous bungalow and rebuilt as a two-story house with a standalone green roof out-building, with no balustrades shown. Therefore, neighbours did not object to it. Instead, the ground level was raised throughout, no green roof, tiled terrace built on top of the garden room, wrap around balustrades installed. People stand on its roof at a height substantially above the boundary fences; effectively becoming a lookout with views directly into surrounding homes and gardens. This breaches the right to private family life enshrined in the Human Rights Act. There is precedent to object this application. If the same type of construction continued across the clifftop it would collapse under the excavation and heavy weight. The tiles are often power washed, combined with rainwater, cliff erosion will be accelerated. Finally, the transparent elevated screen is directly in the flight path of nesting birds, they will die if they fly into them and their young will starve. We hope you refuse the application due to the wildlife and environmental concerns as well as privacy.

A resident spoke regarding item 11, the proposed sculpture for Glyne Gap Roundabout. All the signs approaching Bexhill-on-Sea refer to Bexhill as the birthplace of British motor racing. The roundabout is the closest place to the where the Serpollet car won the race in 1902. I consider that it makes sense that this is the appropriate place for the statue as it would highlight

the heritage to both residents and visitors. May I ask Cllrs what a more suitable representation of Bexhill heritage would be; a statue of the winning car or a roundabout full of weeds.

A resident spoke regarding the safety aspect of the Serpollet sculpture on the roundabout. On Thursday the 17th April 2025, Bexhill MP called a meeting on safety of the A259. Sussex Police and National Highways explained 20,000 vehicles have used the road each day over the last 10 years. There have been 29 collisions on the stretch between Little Common and Pevensey Roundabout which resulted in serious injury or deaths. Speeding was identified as the cause of one of those accidents, other causes were medical incidents, drink driving and driver error. At this meeting National Highways confirmed they were about to commence a whole route study on the A27 in East Sussex to obtain more data on road safety and driver behaviour. The MP was encouraged that a whole route study was being carried out in the financial year of 2025, is there any more information on this study?

Answer *– An update regarding the whole route study of the A259 and A27 will be provided at the October Full Council meeting.*

Cllrs will be aware that we have been trying to get funding for this project privately but feel one hand is tied behind our backs in the process because without Highways England's approval, the whole project is dead in the water. This project has been ongoing for 2 years; the idea was that it would be in place for May 2027 at this would be the 125th anniversary of the first motor race in the UK. Is there any news or updates from Highways England?

Answer *– The Officers are in the process of seeking an expert risk assessment which is required before the application can be considered by National Highway's and Rother District Council.*

00161 UPDATE FROM HOMES ENGLAND – LAND AT NORTHEYE

a) To receive an update on the proposed development.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend the Standing Orders at 18:08pm to allow representatives from Homes England to provide a verbal update on the proposed development on the land at Northeye.

Councillors were given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed development on the land at Northeye.

The Homes England representatives left the meeting at 18:24pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders at 18:24pm.

00162 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Carroll, Cllr El, Cllr Hunt and Cllr Lee.

00163 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council, specifically item 15 as Chairman of the Planning Committee.
Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

00164 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00165 MINUTES

a) To approve the following minutes:

I. Wednesday the 29th July 2026.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 29th July 2026.

II. Wednesday the 26th August 2026.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday the 26th August 2026.

00166 MAYORS OFFICE

a) To receive an update on the work of Town Mayor. – update to be circulated this week.

00167 TO NOTE CONCLUSION OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE AGAR 2025-2026

a) To note there were no issues or matters of concern raised. – **Noted**.

00168 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 Morley, West Bexhill – Gave an update on his recent work as a County Councillor. For example, traffic survey to be carried out on A259, Belle Hill, Little Common Road and London Road; Cooden Sea Road sink hole repairs completed; major infrastructure being planned for A259 and A27. Case work relating to premises in Sutherland Avenue. £400,000 has been released for business support, for training and upskilling of workforce. If aware of local businesses who need financial aid get in touch.
b) To receive reports form Ward District Councillors.
   There were none.
c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
   There were none.

00169 TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM BEXHILL HERITAGE AND BEXHILL OLD TOWN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders at 18:34pm to allow a representative from Bexhill Heritage to speak on behalf of the Commemorative Plaques scheme.

a) Cllrs are asked to consider:
   I. Endorse and support the 'commemorative plaques' scheme
   II. Agree to be one of the four premisses featuring in the **'shops and premises'** pilot project.
   III. Join Bexhill Heritage and Bexhill Old Town Preservation Society in sponsoring the scheme. To note a grant application is being submitted asking the Town Council to contribute up to £3,000 to fund the plaques. – **Noted**.

   It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders at 18.38pm.

   Discussion ensued.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Commemorative Plaques scheme and agree to be one of the four premises featuring in the 'Shops and Premises' pilot project.

00170 PROPOSAL FOR SCULPTURE ON GLYNE GAP ROUNDABOUT

a) To receive the report on the Glyne Gap Roundabout Project and note the progress of the work undertaken. – **Noted**.

b) Cllr Thomas

Preamble - The project to install a Serpollet car on Glyne Gap Roundabout has been in existence for several years with little progress during that time but with mounting cost. I have spoken with many Residents and found none who support the project, but many who oppose the scheme, one suggesting that Bexhill Town Council may be blamed if there is an increase in the number of accidents at this location.

Therefore, Bexhill Town Council has 3 options

1 Continue on our present course.

2 Abandon the project, writing off all the time and money expended.

3 Choose a more suitable site.

The motions are as follows:

I. To abandon the Glyne Gap Roundabout scheme to place a Serpollet car at this location.

II. Amenities Committee be asked to investigate the possibility of an alternative site for the Serpollet car.

Discussion ensued.

It was **RESOLVED** not to abandon the Glyne Gap Roundabout scheme to place a Serpollet car at this location.

It was **RESOLVED** not to investigate the possibility of an alternative site for the Serpollet car.

00171 TO REVIEW GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY

a) To consider approving updated Grants and Donations Policy.

Cllr Drayson requested the document be reviewed grammatically.

Cllr Plim declared an interest as Chair of the Carnival Committee.

Cllr Wilson suggested the RFO review this document and bring back the Policy for discussion.

This item was deferred.

00172 TO CONSIDER APPOINTING FOURTH MEMBER OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE

a) Please note that there are currently 3 members. A meeting of a Council Sub-Committee must have a minimum quorum of 3. So, this can risk meetings of the Sub-Committee not proceeding due to not being quorate – this has happened on 2 occasions since May.

Cllr Plim nominated himself to be the fourth member of the HR Sub-Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Plim to join the HR Sub-Committee.

00173 TOWN CLERK UPDATE

a) To receive Town Clerk report. – **Report received**.

00174 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To receive update from Cllr Drayson as Chair of Rother District Council Planning Committee. – **Update received**.

b) To review and consider submitting comments on the following planning application: RR/2026/0632/FULL. - The redevelopment of a former Presbytery to unrestricted residential units and the erection of a new detached dwelling.

Cllr Plim proposed to fully support this application.

It was **RESOLVED** for Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council to fully support this planning application.

Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 263004

c) To review and consider submitting comments on the following planning application: RR/2026/0998/RVC. - Variation of conditions 2, 3, and 4 imposed on RR/2024/143/P (Proposed demolition of existing building to replace with a 2-storey residential dwelling, garage and single storey outbuilding) to change garden room design and add new boundary treatment.

Discussion ensued.

Cllr Plim proposed that due to the apparent beaches of conditions this Council should strongly recommend that Rother District Council treat this as a retrospective planning application and that the Council strongly object to the application.

It was **RESOLVED** that due to the apparent breaches of conditions this Council should strongly recommend that Rother District Council treat this as a retrospective planning application and that the Council strongly object to the application.

Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 263092

d) To review and consider submitting comments on the following planning application RR/2026/0468/OUT. - Outline planning application for demolition of existing buildings and construction of up to 77 affordable dwellings with all matters reserved except access.

Cllr Winter noted that he is pre-determined and therefore cannot vote on this application but will be participating in the discussion.

Cllr Drayson will not be voting on this planning application.

Cllr Wilson proposed to support this application on the condition that these proposed homes should be affordable for local people, and the

site should include a community structure to support the local environment.

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application on the condition that these proposed homes should be affordable for local people, and the site should include a community structure to support the local environment.

Rother | Rother Council Online | Application | 262996

00175 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

a) To note report. – **Noted**.

00176 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

a) To note report. – **Noted**.

00177 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

b) To consider appointing an external representative to attend the bi-monthly meetings of the Bexhill Cultural Network and get involved in helping identify opportunities, and collaborative projects that benefit residents and visitors.

Cllr Winter proposed that Cllr Wilson be appointed as the external representative for Bexhill Cultural Network.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Wilson be appointed as the external representative for Bexhill Cultural Network.

00178 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Cllr Drayson
Following the success of the very well attended Return to the 80's event on Saturday 11th July and the hiccough over this Council's grant towards it, the Engagement Committee is asked to investigate the feasibility of identifying up to four events a year where the council would

commission professional organisers to deliver free events for our community, rather than organisers seeking grants to run such events. This motion was withdrawn.

b) Cllr Plim

This council believes that the Events Budget associated with the Finance committee's grants, would be more appropriately managed if the Engagement and Communication committee would be able to award grants for events instead of the Finance committee.
Therefore, the events proportion of these years and any forthcoming years grants should be relocated to the Communication and Engagement committee with immediate effect.

Cllr Plim proposed amendment to his motion that this council believe that the 'proposed' events budget associated with the Finance committee's grants, would be more appropriately managed if the Engagement and Communication committee would be able to award grants for events instead of the Finance committee.
Therefore, the events proportion of these years and any forthcoming years grants should be relocated to the Communication and Engagement committee with immediate effect.

Discussion ensued.

Cllr Plim proposed that considering comments from fellow Councillors, he would like to defer this motion until the Grants and Donations Policy has been reviewed.

c) Cllr Wilson

That the Corporate body of BTC request our Clerk to contact the RDC planning officer to present to us an overview of the upcoming planning changes as part of the NPPF.

Discussion ensued.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to contact the RDC planning officer to present to us an overview of the upcoming planning changes as part of the NPPF.

00179 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There were none.

00180 RISK REGISTER

a) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
There were none.

00181 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2026

All motions for the meeting of the Full Council on the 28th October 2026 must be received by the 16th October 2026.

The meeting was closed to the public at 20:07pm.

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:

00182 TO CONSIDER VENUE OPTIONS FOR 2027 MAYOR'S BALL

a) To receive report from Events Manager. – **Report received**.

It was **RESOLVED** to host the 2027 Mayor's Ball at The Relais Cooden Beach Hotel.

00183 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) To consider proposal for expert consultation on next steps of Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Winter proposed to go ahead with the expert consultation on the next steps of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the expert consultation on the next steps of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Clerk and Council Administrator left the meeting at 20:19pm.

00184 STAFFING MATTERS

a) The Town Clerk's 6-month probation period runs to the 6th of October 2026. Cllrs are asked to provide feedback to the Chair of the HR Sub-Cttee at the meeting.

   Discussion ensued.

   A motion was proposed to extend the meeting so that the discussion could continue.

   It was **RESOLVED** to extend the meeting.

   It was agreed that the Chair of the HR Sub-Committee will notify the Town Clerk of the decision of the Full Council at their next scheduled meeting.

The meeting was closed at 20:39pm.

Date.....

Signed.....