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 28th October 2026** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Beeney, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Goss, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Lee, 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; 4 members of public.

00222 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of public thanked the Town Clerk for previously meeting with them. Would like to make the War Memorial a way to celebrate people who have served in the council, banks or civilians that died during the last 100 years, including the fire and police service. Additionally, would like to have a noticeboard which explains the history of the War Memorial, working with the Heritage Group and Bexhill Musuem, and on the other side displaying information about the Police and Fire service such as fire blanket tests and include information about military events. Thank you.

00223 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Drayson, Cllr El, Cllr Jacklin and Cllr Lee.

00224 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Plim declared an interest in item 11 as Chair of the Carnival Committee and item 12 as a postal worker for Royal Mail.
Cllr Huseyin declared an interest in item 11 as a member of the Carnival Committee.
Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20.
Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

00225 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that the Council is aware of a certain social media post; the Clerk will be contacting the organisation.

00226 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meeting:

a) Wednesday the 30th September 2026.
Cllr Wilson proposed amendment on page 64, "beaches" to "breaches".

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amended minutes of the meeting on Wednesday the 30th September 2026.

00227 MAYORS OFFICE

a) To receive an update on the work of the Town Mayor. – **Report circulated**.

Cllr Huseyin thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Peters, who has been to many events while he has been busy with work commitments. The Play Park shows what the collaboration between Rother and the Town Council can do, the unanimous vote of the Councillors to get this done has been amazing.

Cllr Peters thanked Cllr Husyein for acknowledging his busy month and thanked the Council Administrator for keeping the diary running swiftly.

00228 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External Councillors may report for three minutes.

a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.
Cllr Donald Walmsley – addressed motion to get rid of the booking system for household waste recycling centres. "I am on the sub-committee that is looking into this, if anyone has any comments, I welcome those via my email address."
Councillors asked questions.
Cllr Victoria Carson – gave an update on Buckhurst Road zebra crossing. "There is no further information required, want to let you know that I am pushing really hard with communities and transport to get this, I will let you know if any more information is required. In regard to,

Cllr Lee and the parking situation, I don't know if you are aware of a planning meeting that happened in September about Zone F, in that meeting I put forward the fact I wanted this to be deferred, Rother needs to do a proper review of parking. I don't think it is fair that prices are judged on emissions, certainly doesn't work for people living in flats. This is something that I am looking into if Cllr Lee would like to get in touch."

b) To receive reports form Ward District Councillors.
Cllr Timpe – Manor Barn Gardens have had a lovely group of volunteers caring for the gardens as the Idverde contract was ended and the Garden was not being cared for. A 6-metre circle of the lower lawn has been dug up by Idverde as the Rotary are planting Crocuses, which need to be planted deep enough, or they will be ripped out by the mower. The lawn won't be put back until the following day.
Cllr Byrne – congratulated Cllr Thomas for having a dead tree removed in their Ward, he lobbied hard on everyone's behalf to have it taken away.

c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
Cllr Plim – attended a meeting with Saint Leonards Road traders, they would like to host an event at the same time as the Christmas Lights Switch On, Chair of that association will be in contact with the Clerk.
Cllr Carroll – Has visited Pebsham a few times to see the park open and full of joy and happiness. Welldone to everyone that has been involved.

00229 TO CONSIDER APPOINTING AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER TO THE ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

a) To note there are currently 6 members of the Engagement and Communications Committee, the Terms of Reference state the Committee shall consist of 7 Cllrs. – **Noted**.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Byrne to become the seventh member of the Engagement and Communications Committee.

00230 TO CONSIDER APPOINTING AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER TO THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

a) To note there are currently 8 members of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Terms of Reference state the Committee shall consist of 9 members. - **Noted**.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Thomas to become the ninth member of the Finance and Audit Committee.

00231 TO APPROVE WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Discussion ensued.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Website Accessibility Statement.

00232 TO RECEIVE UPDATED GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY AS AGREED BY THE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The updated Policy was **received**.

00233 ROAD SAFETY AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) To consider any further submissions to the consultations on the A259 and specifically A259 Belle Hill/Little Common Road at the junction with Combe Valley Way/London Road at Bexhill, East Sussex.

All comments were **noted** and will be submitted.

00234 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON INVESTIGATIONS INTO SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL OFFICERS

a) To note responses from other Town and Parish Councils on how they dealt with the issue of School Crossing Patrol Officers. – **Noted**.

Discussion ensued.

00235 TO CONSIDER APPOINTING AN ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

a) To consider appointing an Armed Forces Champion of Bexhill-on-Sea.

Discussion ensued.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint an Armed Forces Champion.

Cllr Plim proposed that Cllr Peters should become the Armed Forces Champion.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Peters to become the Armed Forces Champion.

00236 TO RECEIVE FRIENDSHIP ACCORD FROM BAYENCOURT

a) To receive friendship accord with Bayencourt as agreed by the Engagement and Communications Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the friendship accord with Bayencourt.

00237 TOWN CLERK UPDATE

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

All comments were **noted**.

00238 TO INVESTIGATE TAKING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWN'S MAIN WAR MEMORIAL AND RELEVANT ADJACENT LAND

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

Cllr Winter proposed that the Town Clerk investigate taking on the responsibility for the maintenance of the Town's main War Memorial and relevant adjacent land.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to investigate taking on the responsibility for the maintenance of the Town's main War Memorial and relevant adjacent land.

00239 PLANNING MATTERS

There were none.

00240 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

a) To receive report on potential transfer of Manor Barn Gardens Public Conveniences and Lower Galley Hill Car Park. – **Report received**.

Discussion ensued.

00241 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL

a) To feed back any initial comments or responses to the Rother District Council formal consultation on the new Draft Local Plan, and to confirm arrangements for agreeing and submitting a formal response from the Town Council.
Draft Local Plan 2025-2042 – Rother District Council

Cllr Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Cllr Wilson suggested sending David Dennis's Report to Rother District Council in response to the Draft Local Plan.

Cllr Lee entered the meeting at 19:11pm.

All comments were **noted**; any additional comments to be emailed to the Town Clerk.

00242 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

a) To receive updates from external representatives.
Cllr Wilson produced report as external representative for RALC, this was circulated prior to the meeting.

b) To consider appointing external representative for Polegrove Climate & Community Working Group to share ideas and help shape practical projects that benefit the Polegrove and wider Bexhill community. The working group's focus is on making the Polegrove and its facilities more resilient to climate change to ensure that it can continue to be enjoyed by the community.

Cllr Wilson proposed Cllr Winter become the external representative for the Polegrove Climate and Community Working Group.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Winter as the external representative for the Polegrove Climate and Community Working Group.

00243 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) 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.

Discussion ensued.

The motion fell.

b) Cllr Lee
To resolve to write formally to East Sussex County Council to raise serious concerns about extremely significant increases in prices for vehicle permits and flawed emissions-based logic for charges to stationary vehicles.

I. **Disproportionate Financial Impact on Residents**
The recent restructuring of permit fees has seen some residential parking permits rise drastically. Forcing local residents to pay up to £115.00 for a first vehicle, or £154.00 for a second vehicle, represents an unfair tax on simply living in central Bexhill. Residents are effectively being asked to pay a premium to park outside their own homes, yet they are given no guarantee of a physical parking space in return.

II. **Flawed "Emissions-Based" Logic for Stationary Vehicles**
While ESCC justifies these aggressive hikes as a tool to improve air quality and manage demand, linking stationary residential parking permit prices to tailpipe emissions is logically flawed. A car parked safely on a residential street emits precisely zero emissions. This pricing structure unfairly penalises lower-income households who cannot afford to transition to newer electric or low-emission vehicles, effectively pricing working-class residents out of their own neighbourhoods.
Also Under the *Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*, local authorities generally cannot use parking permit schemes as a mechanism to generate general surplus revenue.

Discussion ensued.

The motion fell.

c) Cllr Winter
That Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council resolves to reinstate its Planning and Development Committee.

Cllr Wilson proposed amendment that the Committee should be called the Planning, Development and Highways Committee.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 19:52pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate the Planning and development Committee, with the new title of Planning, Development and Highways Committee.

00244 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a) To note Bexhill in Bloom have won the gold award again in the South and South East Competition. – **Noted**.

The Council acknowledged this achievement with a round of applause.

00245 RISK REGISTER

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

00246 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 25th NOVEMBER 2026

All motions for the meeting of the Full Council on the 25th November 2026 must be received by the 13th November 2026.

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:

It was **RESOLVED** to close the meeting to the public at 19:57pm.

00247 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE FOLLOWING CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

a) To receive report on the following matters - **Report received.**

I. Legal Claim
It was **RESOLVED** to release a statement using wording provided by the Solicitors.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with obtaining the suggested additional advice.

II. Protection of the Mayoral Role
It was **RESOLVED** to follow the Solicitors' advice.

The meeting was closed at 20:12pm.

Date.....

Signed.....