

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL held in the **COMMITTEE ROOM, ROTHER DISTRICT TOWN HALL**

on **Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 6pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr Baldry; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Crotty; Cllr El; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Norris; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Wilson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; one sound technician, five members of the public.

00031. CHAIR OF THE MEETING

In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair, it was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Plim to chair the meeting.

00032. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Questions asked at the meeting shall be responded to in the minutes in italics below.

- a) A member of the public thanked Cllr Baldry for submitting a motion to object to the Northeye proposal.
- b) A member of the public raised concerns about the Northeye proposal affecting the availability of the bus services to residents.
- c) A member of the public asked how many of the councillors were in agreement with the “No to Northeye” campaign and reminded all that the “No to Northeye” summer stroll is taking place on 10th June.
- d) A representative of the Carnival Committee gave a history of the Carnival and asked for the council to support the Grant Application to sustain the future of the Carnival.
- e) A member of the public asked the following:
 - Who agreed the cleaning contract at £767 per month?
The Finance and General Purposes Committee.
 - Why there has been no announcement of the newly elected Mayor and Deputy on social media?
*The Town Council has an agreed press and media policy which it follows. This can be found on the council’s website:
[Policies and Procedures - Bexhill-on-Sea - Bexhill-on-Sea, Bexhill-On-Sea \(bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk)*
 - Why has the Town Council spent £125k on staff costs when they are still only in charge of allotments?
In addition to managing several allotment sites, the Town Council has an extensive number of projects being undertaken by several committees that requires resourcing. Aside from this, the Council has a significant number of statutory tasks to perform, that must be carried out by officers as dictated in law.

Initial.....

- Will a councillor put through a motion that when a resident asks a question at a meeting that an answer should be got within a week.
Questions asked in meetings are responded to in the draft minutes of the meeting. The Council's current policy is that the draft minutes of the meeting held on a Wednesday are uploaded to the Council's website on the Friday of that week, workload permitting.

00033. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Brailsford, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Goss, and Cllr Winter.

- 00034.** It was **RESOLVED** for the motion concerning female representation on committees be brought forward in order to be considered before the committee memberships are finalised.

00035. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Plim declared an interest in the Carnival Committee item, due to attending meetings.

Cllr Hampton declared an interest in the Carnival Committee, as a committee member.

Cllr Carroll declared an interest in his motion about schools, as a governor at All Saints School.

Cllr Jacklin declared an interest in the Northeye proposal as a member of the “No to Northeye” group.

Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the Ukraine Hub due to previously hosting a Ukrainian refugee.

00036. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00037. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 24th May 2023.

00038. MOTION FROM CLLR GIBSON

In the interests of transparency, equality, and equity, that the committees are made up of at least a third women.

That this council approach NALC women's committee to come and talk to us about how to address the issues we have with gender representation on our council.

Cllr Clasby entered the meeting at 18:32pm

An amendment was proposed, and it was **RESOLVED** to invite NALC and/or the Local Government Association to a future council meeting, for standing orders to be suspended to allow them to address the meeting about equality.

A recorded vote was called for.

FOR

Cllr Norris
Cllr Plim
Cllr Hampton
Cllr Thomas
Cllr Baldry
Cllr Gibson

AGAINST

Cllr Huseyin
Cllr Rustem
Cllr El
Cllr Wilson
Cllr Clasby
Cllr Carroll

ABSTAIN

Cllr Jacklin
Cllr Crotty

The Chair used the casting vote, and the motion was passed as follows:

It was **RESOLVED** In the interests of transparency, equality, and equity, that the committees are made up of at least a third women.
That this council approach NALC women's committee to come and talk to us about how to address the issues we have with gender representation on our council.

00039. COMMITTEES

To consider Committee membership.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following members to the committee:

- a) Finance and General Purposes Committee
Cllr Clasby and Cllr Huseyin
- b) Climate, Nature, and Environment Committee
Cllr Gibson
- c) Community Committee
Cllr Hampton and Cllr El
- d) Planning Committee
Cllr Huseyin
- e) Asset Transfer Committee
Cllr El, Cllr Goss, and Cllr Huseyin

00040. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were none.

00041. MAYOR'S OFFICE

There was no update.

00042. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for 3 minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting – there were none.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.
- a) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.
- b) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

00043. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW 2022-23

- a) To review the system of internal control.
The Council **REVIEWED** the system of internal control.
- b) To review the effectiveness of the system of internal control.
The effectiveness of the system of internal control was **REVIEWED**.
- c) To approve the internal audit report 2022-23
This will be provided at the next meeting.
- d) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2023.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23.
- e) To approve the Accounting Statements for 2022-23, Section 2 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2023, the supporting Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2023 and the explanation of significant variances from last year (2021-22) to this year (2022-23).
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements for 2022-23, the supporting bank reconciliation and the explanation of variances.

00044. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To note DBS checks completed for:
 - i. Elly Gibson
 - ii. Julie Norris
 - iii. Paul Plim
 - iv. Connor Winter
 - v. Lynn Brailsford

- b) To note DBS checks due to be completed for:
 - i. Andrew Crotty
 - ii. Paul Wilson
 - iii. Brian Drayson
 - iv. Charlie Rustem
 - v. Claire Baldry
 - vi. Tony Carroll
 - vii. Nigel Jacklin
 - viii. Alan Thomas
 - ix. Bryan Clasby

- x. Memish Huseyin
- xi. Huseyin El
- xii. Trudy Hampton
- xiii. Alan Goss

Cllr Hampton left the meeting at 18:55pm

- 00045.** To consider Carnival Committee Grant Application
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Carnival Grant Application.

Cllr Hampton re-entered the meeting at 19:05pm

00046. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive any updates on liaison meetings – there was no further update.
- b) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim – there was no further update.

00047. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To report next police focus group to take place in July.
- b) To note Clerk to investigate CCTV improvement opportunities.
It was noted that the Clerk is seeking a meeting with the officer at Rother District Council.

00048. NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To receive update.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 19:12pm

Cllr Jacklin asked that the Town Council collate the feedback received at the Town Council meeting and categorise into themes.

Cllr Jacklin offered to share advice that he had received from barristers and legal advisers. a meeting is planned with Sussex Police to discuss resources.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 19:13pm

It was **RESOLVED** to move the following motion up the agenda for consideration:

00049. MOTION FROM CLLR BALDRY

Having consulted with residents and local interest groups, that Bexhill on Sea Town Council opposes the use of the Northeys ex-military training site to house 1200 male asylum seekers.

It was **RESOLVED** to oppose the use of the Northeye ex-military training site to house 1200 male asylum seekers.

Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 19:26pm

00050. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford and Cllr Plim on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support'.
Events continue to be held for the refugees to help with settlement in the community.

Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 19:28pm

00051. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting)

- a) RALC – Cllr Wilson – next meeting in July.
b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson – update circulated.
c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor – no update.
d) Fairtrade – Cllr Baldry - no update.
e) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson – update circulated.
f) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Gibson – Councillors were invited to visit the Farm.
g) Support for Ukraine – Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Plim (reported earlier in the meeting under a standing agenda item)
h) To consider request from Bexhill Maritime for Cllr Gibson as an external representative - it was noted that this is the same group as the Sea Angling Club Design Group and Cllr Gibson is already a representative for the Council.

00052. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) **Cllr Crotty.**

That this council formulates a neuro-diversity policy.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council formulates a neuro-diversity policy.

- b) **Cllr Carroll.**

That this council works with every school and nursery in Bexhill to have a Kitt Medical Anaphylaxis Emergency Kits + CPD Accredited Training Service (kittmedical.com).

This motion was withdrawn, to allow further research by Cllr Carroll.

- c) **Cllr Norris.**

That this council promotes the free testing kits supplied by Southern Water that identify lead being present and the dangers of too much lead in water.

It was **RESOLVED** to liaise with Southern Water to provide information to local residents about dangers of lead in water.

- d) **Charlie Rustem.**

That the Clerk provides a list of all current projects to the committees they fall under, so these can be reviewed, and a decision be made whether to continue/stop them.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk provides a list of all current projects to the committees they fall under, so these can be reviewed, and a decision be made whether to continue/stop them.

Cllr Wilson suggested an “Away Day” be held for the council to discuss its projects. This motion fell.

e) **Cllr Baldry.**

That the Town Clerk consults with Rother District Council about future options for transfer of all or some toilets to Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and to report back to the Asset Transfer Committee as soon as possible.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk consults with Rother District Council about future options for transfer of all or some toilets to Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and to report back to the Asset Transfer Committee as soon as possible.

f) **Cllr Wilson.**

For this council to review the recording of council meetings and for Cllr Wilson to understand why it was agreed to record audio only.

It was **RESOLVED** to review the document of June 2022 and to review the decision of the F&GP to have audio stream only and re-investigate live streaming via video.

00053. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) Rother District Council – Sidley Levelling Up Funding 24/05/2023

00054. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive answers to questions raised at the last meeting. There were none.

<p>Cllr Jacklin asked: How much money does the council have? Where does it come from? How do the council decide what to do with it?</p>	<p>The Council has a balance of £367,429 as of 31st March 2023. The Council receives income from the ‘Precept’ which is the total money collected through the council tax system. The Council agrees a budget in December each year and allocates unspent funds in June/July each year.</p>
<p>Cllr Wilson asked: For a future agenda item about audio recording.</p>	<p>This is on the agenda.</p>

<p>Cllr Drayson (in writing) asked: How was the schedule of meetings for 2023/4 decided upon and which councillors were involved in the process?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>BoSTC/07.06.2023 – 000014</u></p> <p>The schedule was agreed by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting on 24th May, the councillors present at this meeting are listed in the minutes.</p>
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- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting or before.
Cllr Jacklin asked how the Council can encourage more females to become councillors.
Cllr Jacklin asked for a quote for video streaming/recording either all of the Council meetings or just Full Council meeting.
Cllr Jacklin asked has Rother District Council been in touch with the Town Council about its plans if Northeye goes ahead.
Cllr Wilson asked if when councillors have DBS checks done could they have their photograph taken.
Cllr Crotty asked if the Council could promote the Mayor and Deputy in Bexhill News.
Cllr Crotty asked if the Town Council would be willing to support a future event for D-Day.
- c) To note any future agenda items.
There were none.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
There were none.

00055. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5th July 2023.

All motions for the next meeting of full council on 5th July 2023 must be received by 26th June 2023.

The meeting closed at 20:19pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....