

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

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

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL held in the **PEBSHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, SEABOURNE ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.**

on **Wednesday 19th April 2023 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim (Mayor); Cllr Baldry (Deputy Mayor); Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Harding; Cllr Stanger; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Winter; Cllr Norris; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Rustem.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk. J Lucas; one sound technician.

00775. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

00776. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies with reasons from Cllr Barfoot, Cllr Brailsford Cllr Izzard; Cllr Wray; Cllr Winter will be late.

00777. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of RDC.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest as a member of the following groups; Bexhill Environmental Group, Greenpeace, Sussex Wildlife Trust, RDC, Bexhill Museum.

Cllr Baldry declared an interest in the Bexhill Museum.

00778. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Plim thanked the council for their support during the year, thanked the councillors that will be leaving and thanked to those that have re-stood and will take forward the new council for the next four years.

Cllr Plim announced that the Coronation bunting will go up.

00779. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday the 8th March 2023.

00780. COMMITTEES

To receive the minutes and updates of committees held since the last Full Council meeting –

- a) Planning and Development Advisory Committee – 08/03/23
- b) Community Committee – 15/03/23
- c) Planning and Development Advisory Committee – 15/03/23
- d) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 22/03/23
Website dates incorrect. Minutes.
- e) Asset Transfer Committee – 22/03/23

00781. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Climate, Nature, and Environment Committee
- i. That the contract financial regulations are waived, and the council enters into a one-year contract to provide the first step of the Domesday Project.

It was **RESOLVED** to waive the contract financial regulation and that the council enters into a one-year contract to provide the first step of the Domesday Project.

Cllr Stanger and Cllr Winter entered the meeting at 18:58pm

- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee
- i. To approve revised Grants and Donations Policy
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Grants and Donations Policy.

- ii. To approve the following grants:
 - a. White Label Events £2,250 – Medieval pageant.
 - b. Bexhill Museum £3,000 (from reserves)

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant to White Label Events £2,250 for the Medieval pageant.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant for £3000 to Bexhill Museum £3,000 (from reserves).

00782. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – an update was noted.

00783. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for 3 minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors – this was circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.
Cllr Bayliss gave an update on the levelling up funding, the data from the Egerton Park survey will be shared with the Town Council and criminal damage in the town centre is being raised. Cllr Taylor-Gee was thanked for her support in representing the Central Ward.
It was **RESOLVED** to write to Rother District Council to ask that the Town Council is involved in the Levelling Up Fund.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors – there were none.

00784. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To review the effectiveness of the Asset Transfer Committee (Cllr Gibson).
It was noted that Councillors can bring forward ideas for a new committee structure at the next meeting in May.

00785. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive any updates on liaison meetings.
It was noted that the during this meeting the Northeye proposal had only just been disclosed to Rother District Council and joint communications was suggested. At present, no further updates have been made. Cllr Winter advised that he had been invited to attend the meeting.
- b) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim and Cllr Taylor-Gee.
It was noted that there had not been a meeting since the last report.

00786. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note next Police liaison meeting being organised in April.
It was noted that the once the new Inspector is in role a meeting will be arranged.
- b) To note Clerk to investigate CCTV improvement opportunities when more time available – noted.

00787. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford; Taylor-Gee; Thomas on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support'.
It was noted that refugees are now seeking permanent housing. Activities are being arranged.

00788. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee – there were none.
- b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson
Cllr Gibson attended the AGM and is meeting bi-weekly with local groups.
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor
The Mayor reported that there are continued issues with use of the drill hall.
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Izzard – there were none.
- e) Old and Bold – Cllr Barfoot
Cllr Taylor-Gee reported that three people have already completed the course and one is close to completion. There will be more in the pipeline.
- f) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson
The teams are working well together and more details will be available soon.
- g) To agree representative for Little Gate Farm and agree representatives to attend a tour of the facility.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Gibson as the external representative for Little Gate Farm.

00789. CORONATION BUNTING

- a) To note licence application for bunting to be hung on street furniture has been submitted – noted.

00790. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Thomas
 - i. That this Council supports the recruitment and employment of a part time Planning Officer to assist the Planning Advisory Committee and advise the Council in relation to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.
The motion fell.
 - ii. This Council believes the Town Council should launch the process of consultation in relation to a Neighbourhood Plan as soon as practicable but, in any case, not later than one year after the passage of this motion.

It was **RESOLVED** that this Council believes the Town Council should launch the process of consultation in relation to a Neighbourhood Plan as soon as practicable but, in any case, not later than one year after the passage of this motion.

- b) Cllr Drayson
 - i. That the Bexhill on Sea Town Council Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation be amended to remove the voting rights of Ex Officio Members of all committees.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove the voting rights of Ex Officio Members of all committees.

- ii. That Section 5.2 of The Bexhill on Sea Town Council Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation in relation to meetings of the Planning and Development Advisory Committee be amended to ensure that meeting take place throughout the year.

This motion was withdrawn.

- iii. That Section 8.1 of The Bexhill on Sea Town Council Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation in relation to membership of The Accessibility Working Group (Advisory Committee) be amended to extend membership to any 3 Councillors rather than members of The Climate, Nature and Environment Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the membership of the Accessibility Working Group (Advisory Committee) to include any 3 members of the Climate Nature and Environment Committee and an unlimited number of councillors and non-councillors.

00791. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) Email from resident concerning council tax increase for 2023/24 for noting.
- b) Email from resident concerning Rother District Council meeting for noting.

- c) Email from resident concerning council tax increase for 2023/24 for noting.
- d) Communication from Huw Merriman MP concerning Government announcement of Asylum Seeker site in Bexhill.

00792. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) To receive answers to questions raised at the last meeting.

<p>Cllr Gibson Can the council review the effectiveness of the Asset Transfer Committee?</p>	<p>This item is on the agenda of this meeting.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson Can an update on allotment management be received at the next meeting</p>	<p>The Town Council is now managing the allotment sites at All Saints and Preston Road. The Climate, Nature, and Environment Committee is overseeing this. Allotments will be inspected on a regular basis and a waiting list operated to fill vacant plots as they become available. The Committee will review policies and procedures at a future meeting.</p>

- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Cllr Harding asked if the incoming councillors would consider issuing more information on what is said at meetings.
- c) To note any future agenda items.
There are none.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
Security at meetings and vacant councillor positions will be added to the risk register.

00793. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24TH MAY 2023

Cllr Drayson asked if the council meeting date could be amended as it clashed with his attendance at the Rother District Council meeting, if successful at election. No motion was made.
Cllr Plim asked for councillors with DBS checks outstanding to complete the paperwork.

Meeting closed at 20:17pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....