

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Monday 10 July 2017 at 6:30pm.

Present: Councillors: Mrs M.L. Barnes, (Chairman), Lord Ampthill, A.K. Azad, J. Barnes, R.K. Bird, J.J. Carroll R.C. Carroll, C.A. Clark, G.C. Curtis, P.R. Douart, K.P. Dixon, S.H. Earl, Mrs D.C. Earl-Williams, S.D. Elford, R.V. Elliston, K.M. Field, A.E. Ganly, Mrs B.A. George, Mrs S. Hart, I.R. Hollidge, Mrs J.M. Hughes, I.G.F. Jenkins, G.P. Johnson, J.M. Johnson, B. Kentfield, M.J. Kenward, Mrs E.M. Kirby-Green, C.R. Maynard, M. Mooney, D.B. Oliver, P.N. Osborne, J. Potts, Mrs S.M. Prochak, C.J. Saint, G.F. Stevens and M.R. Watson.

Advisory officers present: Executive Director of Resources, Executive Director of Business Operations, Service Manager – Finance and Welfare and Service Manager – Corporate and Human Resources.

Also present: Stewart Drew, Director and Chief Executive – De La Warr Pavilion, Robin Patten, Independent Chairman of the Community Governance Review Steering Group and 30 members of the public.

C17/20. MINUTES

The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2017 as a correct record of the proceedings.

C17/21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G.S. Browne and T.W. Graham.

C17/22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made by Councillors in the Minutes as indicated below:

Ganly	Agenda Item 8 – Personal Interest in so far as he is the Council's representative on the Joint Waste Committee.
Hart	Agenda Item 11 – Personal Interest in so far as she is a Council appointed representative on the De La Warr Pavilion Board of Trustees.
Kentfield	Agenda Item 11 – Personal Interest in so far as he is a Council appointed representative on the De La Warr Pavilion Board of Trustees.
Kenward	Agenda Item 8 – Personal Interest in so far as he is the

Prochak

Agenda Item 11 – Personal Interest in so far as she is a Patron of the De La Warr Pavilion.

C17/23. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- 1) The Chairman announced that she had represented the Council at the following events:
 - The Bexhill Mayor making on May 17.
 - On May 19, the opening of Otters Field, Brede of 13 houses, 10 for rent and three for shared ownership built by Hastoe Housing Association to a very high standard with the latest insulation that would make their running costs extremely low. The site had been beautifully landscaped with the provision of fruit trees; Members of the Planning Committee would remember the very overgrown site that had been earmarked as an exception site some time ago and the Chairman was glad to report that the finished buildings were most attractive and the new tenants were delighted with their new homes.
 - Bexhill Horse and Dog Show held at the Polegrove on Bank Holiday Monday May 29, was a professionally organised, nationally recognised equestrian event which attracts many riders and their horses from a wide area. The show had been running successfully for many years and included jumping events, carriage driving and dog agility – the Chairman enjoyed it immensely.
 - On June 1, in the Mayors' Parlour in Brighton Town Hall with other Council Chairmen and Mayors from East Sussex for a meeting with the Lord Lieutenant Peter Field. He spoke to us for the need to identify and recognise those who had given selfless voluntary service to others and who should now be recommended for an award or to become guests at Royal Garden Parties. He would like to see opportunities for more Royal visits to our district. We may know of other people in our areas who work tirelessly for good causes without expecting a reward and the Lord Lieutenant would now like to see them being rewarded.
 - On June 7, the Mayor of Hastings invited Council Chairmen and Mayors from East Sussex to a light hearted evening with local instrumentalists and singers to celebrate talent that exists in Hastings in a concert at St Mary in the Castle.
 - On June 18, there was a cyclist exhibition on the lawn in front of the De La Warr Pavilion. All aspects of cycling were included, many stall holders were promoting the health benefits of cycling. There was a special section for physically handicapped riders and there were dare devil stunt riders with international reputations who kept everyone on their toes with their amazing antics. There were folding bikes, mountain bikes and bikes for hire – the message was clear – cycling is good for you, have a go!
 - On Monday 26 June, the Chairman of East Sussex County Council held a reception at Ashburnham Place giving an opportunity to meet the Mayors and Chairman of the district in addition to Members of East Sussex County Council. The evening finished with performance excerpts from "Much Ado About Nothing" performed

by Bowler Crab Productions; this went on to tour locally finishing with a performance at the St Johns' Centre, Bexhill, last Saturday. They were coming back to Bexhill in the Autumn with a performance of Othello, which the Chairman wished to attend.

- Last Sunday, Pestalozzi Village organised their first cavalcade of transport which brought in large numbers of vintage cars and their owners. The Bull Nose Morris Society was well represented and there were scores of commercial and private vehicles in pristine condition. The owners were very pleased to talk about how they restored and in some cases rebuilt their cars from finding them in a near ruined state in the back of barns and old garages. It was an opportunity also to talk to students from the Village who come to this country to get an education at school and university which would be completely unavailable to them at home. They were eager to talk about their aspirations and the benefits that they will bring eventually to their home villages; most wanted to be site engineers or scientists.
 - On Friday, Bexhill Museum opened its new exhibition called People, Object, Place which is about the migration of people to this region and the circumstances which lead to it. The event was attended by families, who because of threat to life, caused by war, found themselves living far from home, often without knowing the language and in strained circumstances. The exhibition shows how towns like Bexhill over the centuries have taken in victims of war and oppression some of whom never return home but who have been shown to have left a cultural benefit by being here. Bexhill Sixth Form College and Sussex Coast College, Hastings had helped to put on the exhibition with the aid of lottery funding and was on for the remainder of the year. Whilst we were in the museum, there were some newly acquired dinosaur bones from the brick field and the bones from an animal were about the length of a family car! The Chairman recommended a visit.
 - The Chairman was invited to Herstmonceux Castle yesterday for the beating of the retreat. After the reception by the Lord Lieutenant we were entertained by the Band of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment which is made up of highly gifted reservists. As the name implies, beating the retreat is dependent on skilled drummers; originally a drummer would tour the battlefield and warn soldiers it was time to return to barracks. Now this is ceremonial and we saw and heard some of the finest examples of synchronised drumming who are experts in their field. The final moment to remember was the playing of the last post by six post horns high up in the towers of the Castle.
- 2) The Chairman's Civic Service would be held in Etchingham Church on Sunday 24 September. The Chairman would be delighted if all Members could attend. It would start at 11am and the service would be conducted by Reverend Iain Morrison with refreshments in the Bistro afterwards. The Chairman thanked Reverend Iain Morrison for agreeing to be her Chaplain for the forthcoming year.
- 3) The Chairman announced that in accordance with paragraph 3.2(a) of the Council Procedure Rules Agenda Item 11, the annual update presentation from the De La Warr Pavilion Charitable Trust, would be taken as the next item.

C17/24. **NON-DECISION MAKING DEBATE**

In accordance with the Constitution, the Chairman of Council had agreed to the Council receiving a presentation on the De La Warr Pavilion Charitable Trust Annual Update from Stewart Drew, Director and Chief Executive of the De La Warr Pavilion (DLWP).

The Chairman of the Council welcomed Stewart Drew to the meeting who gave an annual update to Members and advised of the recent Arts Council England 'regularly funded body' Award until 2022. Following the presentation Members asked a number of questions and congratulated Stewart Drew on the successes of the DLWP. The Chairman thanked Stewart Drew for his informative and interesting presentation.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that Council Procedure Rules 3.2 (a) (varying the order of business), 14.4 (content and length of speeches) and 14.5 (when a member may speak again) be waived for the duration of this item.

C17/25. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

1. Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of the Council Procedure Rules the following question was put by Mr Paul Courtel and answered by Councillor Kenward.

Question – Community Governance Review for Bexhill – stage 2 Consultation: I understand that local Councillors are able to provide additional postcards to residents who require them.

Should D4B, whose objective is to promote the Consultation, be offered a supply of these cards that they can also offer to residents who require them?

Answer: As you will be aware, the Cabinet recommendations concerning the Community Governance Review for Bexhill will be considered by Council this evening and in light of these recommendations, the communications plan is currently being reviewed. I am therefore unable to answer this question at the current time.

Supplementary Question: The Community Governance Review Steering Group sensibly recommended that explanatory literature and a reply card be posted to every household in Bexhill. I understand that the communication plan is being currently reviewed, as the Deputy Leader has just told us, is that the all Conservative Cabinet has overruled the Steering Group by suppressing the printed public information on cost grounds. If Rother District Council is so impoverished will the Deputy Leader recommend to his fellow Councillors that responses on response cards, printed by D4B, at their own expense, be considered valid Stage 2 consultation response so that a truly democratic consultation can prevail?

Answer: No, only Rother District Council produced postcards will be accepted.

C17/26. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

1. Pursuant to Paragraph 11 of the Council Procedure Rules the following question was put by Councillor Mrs Prochak and answered by Councillor Maynard.

Question: I was surprised to see two new large flag poles installed either side of the main entrance to the Town Hall, Bexhill. How much did the poles and installation cost the Council?

Answer: The cost of the new flagpoles and installation was approximately £1,800.

Supplementary Question: My assumption is that it was a management decision and not an executive decision to actually get these two flag poles, not sure why we need two, but there we are. My question is about the process, between management decisions and executive decisions, so for example, I was concerned some time ago that it was a management decision that we did not pursue the Blue Flag and its importance to tourism – what is the process between management decisions and executive decisions? We know there have been reports that have never come to the Executive but they have been quite important.

Answer: I am more than happy to give a written answer to this issue, but I am also happy to say that there was an element of urgency to replace the flag poles, when we understood the Health and Safety issues around the previous flag poles and I think all Members would agree, that to have a member of staff putting themselves at significant risk is not something we would wish to see, which is why these flag poles have been replaced.

C17/27. REPORT OF THE CABINET ON MATTERS FOR DETERMINATION BY COUNCIL

1. It was moved by Councillor Maynard and seconded that, the reports of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 May and 3 July as set out in the Agenda be approved and adopted.
2. The Chairman of the Council having called over the reports, the following Minute was reserved for discussion:

Cabinet 3 July 2017 CB17/02

3. On the Motion of the Chairman of the Council, duly seconded, the Council approved, adopted and received the following reports, with the exception of the minute reserved for discussion:
 - Review of Local Pay Award (CB16/98)
 - Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Services Contract (CB17/03)
 - Community Led Housing Project (CB17/04)

C17/28. RESERVED MATTERS

Cabinet – 3 July

CB17/02 – Community Governance Review for Bexhill

It was moved by Councillor Kenward and seconded by Councillor Hollidge that the recommendation to Minute CB17/02 be amended by the addition of:

“That we convene a further meeting of the Steering Group to formally agree the precise nature of the second Stage of the Bexhill Community Governance Review consultation, at no additional cost to the Council.”

The Amendment on being put was declared **CARRIED**.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Prochak and seconded by Councillor Oliver that Minute CB17/02 be amended by the deletion from the Stage 2 Consultation of Option 4 – the creation of four parish councils within Bexhill (North, East, South and West based on the East Sussex County Council Divisions).

The Amendment on being put was declared **LOST**.

RESOLVED: That Minute CB17/02 be approved and adopted, as amended.

C17/29. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ON DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET AS MATTERS OF URGENCY

It was moved by Councillor Maynard and seconded that it be noted that no urgent decisions had been taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 July 2017 (it was noted that the meeting scheduled for the 5 June was cancelled).

C17/30. REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1. It was moved by Councillor Mooney, Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee, and seconded that the report of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 26 June 2017 be received and approved.

2. The Chairman of the Council having called over the reports, the following Minutes were reserved for discussion:

Audit and Standards AS17/06

3. On the Motion of the Chairman of the Council, duly seconded, the Council received and approved the following reports, with the exception of the minute reserved for discussion:

- Introduction to Standards (AS17/07)
- Review of Arrangements for dealing with Member Complaints,

- Investigation and Hearing Procedures (AS17/08)
- Code of Conduct Complaints Monitoring (AS17/09)
- Ombudsman Complaints Monitoring (AS17/10)
- Local Code of Corporate Governance (AS17/11)
- Fee Letter 2017/18 (AS17/12)
- Internal Audit Report to 31 March 2017 (AS17/13)
- Internal Audit – Peer Review (AS17/14)
- Annual Governance Statement (AS17/15)
- Treasury Management Report – 2016/17 Outturn (AS17/16)
- Draft Statement of Accounts 2016/17 (AS17/17)
- Work Programme (AS17/18)

C17/31. RESERVED MATTERS

Audit and Standards Committee – 26 June 2017

AS17/06 – Independent Persons – Recruitment

It was moved by Councillor Mooney and seconded by Councillor Earl that Mrs Susan Fellows, Mrs Jan Gray and Robert Tye be appointed as this Council's Independent Persons for a term of four years commencing from 11 July 2017 until July 2021.

RESOLVED: That Minute AS17/06 be approved and adopted.

C17/32. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES ON THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Further to the appointments made to outside bodies at the Annual Council meeting held on 15 May 2017 (Minute C17/14 refers) a number of further matters had come to light that required further approval.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) it be noted that an appointment was no longer required to be made to Rye Chamber of Commerce and it be removed from the list of outside bodies to which formal appointments were made;
- 2) Mr R.H. Patten be appointed as the Council's representative on the Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board in place of Councillor Hollidge; and
- 3) Councillor Jenkins be nominated as the Council's substitute representative on East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor John Barnes.

CHAIRMAN

The Council rose at 8:09pm

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