

COUNCIL

7 March 2022

Minutes of the Council meeting held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Monday 7 March 2022 at 6:30pm.

Committee Members present: Councillors B.J. Drayson (Chairman), K.M. Harmer (Vice-Chairman), J. Barnes (MBE), Mrs M.L. Barnes, C.A. Bayliss, R.K. Bird (remotely), J.H.F. Brewerton (remotely), G.S. Browne, T.J.C. Byrne, J.J. Carroll, C.A. Clark (remotely), S.J. Coleman, Mrs V. Cook, P.C. Courtel, G.C. Curtis, K.P. Dixon, S.J. Errington, K.M. Field (remotely), A.E. Ganly, P.J. Gray, L. Hacking, A.K. Jeeawon, Mrs E.M. Kirby-Green, L.M. Langlands, C.A. Madeley, C.R. Maynard, A.S. Mier, M. Mooney, Rev. H.J. Norton, P.N. Osborne, S.M. Prochak (MBE), G.F. Stevens and J. Vine-Hall.

Advisory Officers in attendance: Councillors Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Democratic Services Manager.

Also Present: 2 members of the public in the Council Chamber and 1 member of the public via the live webcast.

Before the formal start of the meeting the Chairman paid tribute to the bravery of so many in Ukraine and mourning the tragic loss of life following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The compassion shown by the Governments and citizens of those countries that surrounded Ukraine, in welcoming refugees fleeing the armed attack on their homeland was also to be applauded. Many of the businesses and residents within Rother had already involved themselves in the transport of emergency supplies to those countries and Ukraine itself. Once the Government had decided this country's national response to the refugee crisis, the Chairman was certain that many residents in Rother would step-up and assist any refugees that found themselves coming to this part of the country.

C21/67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs D.C. Earl-Williams, J.M. Johnson, D.B. Oliver, R.B. Thomas and H.L. Timpe.

C21/68. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Oliver was presently unwell and was under medical investigation and on behalf of the Council, wished him a speedy recovery.

C21/69. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

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

- Barnes, J Agenda Item 3 – CB21/86 Personal interest as Company Executive Director for the Council’s Housing Company.
- Drayson Agenda Item 3 – CB21/86 Personal interest as Company Executive Director for the Council’s Housing Company.
- Maynard Agenda Item 6 – Personal Interest as an elected Member of East Sussex County Council.

C21/70. **TRIBUTE TO FORMER COUNCILLOR - PAULINE BULLOCK**

The Chairman announced the sad passing of former Rother District Councillor, Pauline Bullock. Pauline had represented the residents of Bexhill Collington Ward from 1992 to 2003, served on several committees during that time, had been the Mayor of Bexhill in 1996 and Chairman in 1999 and expressed condolences to her family at this sad time. Pauline’s widower was present and personal tributes were made by Group Leaders Councillors Bayliss, Maynard and Prochak on behalf of their respective political groups and Councillors Madeley and Mooney.

C21/71. **REPORT OF THE CABINET ON MATTERS FOR DETERMINATION BY FULL COUNCIL**

1. It was moved by Councillor Prochak and seconded that the reports of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 February 2022, 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:

28 February 2022 CB21/85

3. On the Motion of the Chairman of the Council, duly seconded, the Council approved and adopted the following report, with the exception of the Minute reserved for discussion:

CB21/86 – Housing Company Business Plan

C21/72. **RESERVED MATTER**

Cabinet – 28 February 2022

CB21/85 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That Minute CB21/85 be approved and adopted, as submitted.

C21/73. **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ON DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET AS MATTERS OF URGENCY**

It was moved by Councillor Prochak and seconded that the report of the Chief Executive, detailing the executive decision taken by Cabinet as a matter of urgency at its meeting held on 28 February 2022 be received.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

C21/74. **REPORTS OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1. It was moved by Councillors Jeeawon, Chairman of the Audit and Standards Committee (A&SC) and seconded that the report of the A&SC held on 6 December 2021 be approved and adopted.
2. The Chairman of the Council having called over the report, none of the Minutes were reserved for discussion.
3. On the Motion of the Chairman of the Council, duly seconded, the Council approved and adopted the following reports:

AS21/37 – Financial Procedure Rules Update
OSC21/47 – Financial Procedure Rules Update

C21/75. **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES: EAST SUSSEX ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT LTD HASTINGS (SEACHANGE) AND ROMNEY MARSHES INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

Consideration was given to two vacancies caused by resignations of Council appointed representatives to East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure & Development Ltd and Romney Marshes Internal Drainage Board (RMIDB). With regard to the RMIDB, the outgoing representative had recommended a replacement representative who had the relevant knowledge and experience. Given the proximity to May 2022 and the usual appointment cycle, it was agreed the appointments be made up until May 2023.

It was moved by Councillor Dixon and duly seconded that the Motion in respect of the appointment to East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure and Development Ltd be amended as follows:

“That whilst we retain our membership, Rother District Council does not appoint a Director to the Board of SeaChange Sussex (East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure and Development Ltd) until such time as that person is able to represent the best interests of the company without compromising the values of this Council.”

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

RESOLVED: That

- 1) whilst we retain our membership, Rother District Council does not appoint a Director to the Board of SeaChange Sussex (East Sussex Energy, Infrastructure and Development Ltd) until such time as that person is able to represent the best interests of the company without compromising the values of this Council; and
- 2) Mr David Oliver be appointed as this Council's representative to the Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board with effect from 1 April 2022, expiring in May 2023.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 7:03pm